

Dear ISO FAR - Members,

Worldwide the prices for agricultural crude materials are rising. The stocks recede because of the globally high demand and the competition of the four F's (food, feed, fibre, fuel) for the limited agriculturally used area. A slogan previously coined in Germany, 'Klasse statt Masse' (quality over quantity) undergoes to see its metamorphosis to 'quantity and quality'.

This applies to the products of Organic Agriculture as well. To Central Europe, the biggest market worldwide, more and more products of Organic Agriculture are sent across longer distances, all legal resources are used to increase productivity. The structures of production, processing and distribution alter resulting in a stronger professionalisation and a development that (as conventionalisation) threatens to strongly change the image of Organic Agriculture. A German-speaking group of ISO FAR scientists has dealt with this development intensively and a memorandum is going to be published in German language in due time. A corresponding document written in English will follow that highlights the advantages and disadvantages of this development regarding global aspects. All this requires sufficient research funds. Cutbacks like those that are being planned in Germany would curtail the further scientifically based development of Organic Agriculture significantly. See also the Open Letter to the German Federal Minister Horst Seehofer, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (<http://www.iol.uni-bonn.de/indexneu.htm> and http://www.iol.uni-bonn.de/index2_e.htm).

As you all know, one overall objective of ISO FAR is arousing interest in Organic Agriculture in an increasing number of scientists of the so-called mainstream. I am deeply grateful to our board member Edith Lammerts van Bueren for organising together with the renowned European Association for Research on Plant Breeding, EUCARPIA 'The first EUCARPIA symposium on Organic Plant Breeding - Plant breeding for organic and sustainable, low-input agriculture: dealing with genotype-environment interactions' at Wageningen from 8 November to 11 November 2007 that you can still register for at: www.eucarpia.org.

Some interesting aspects regarding winter wheat ideotypes: Selection for weed competitiveness in organic and low-input cropping systems can be found on the websites <http://www.wecof.uni-bonn.de/> and www.iol.uni-bonn.de.

ISO FAR is planning to hold a joint regional ISO FAR-IFOAM conference entitled 'Organic Agriculture in Asia: Soil fertility and efficient crop production' in South Korea, GyeongGi province, on 13 - 14 March 2008. We plan to have of two symposia

- ISO FAR International Symposium on Soil Fertility
- IFOAM International Symposium on Organic Agriculture

A Pre-Conference tour is scheduled for 11 - 12 March 2008.

Details of the programme will be published on ISO FAR's website as soon as the contents are fixed.

As earlier announced the first volume of the future **ISO FAR Scientific Series on Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture** is foreseen to be published and released at the Scientific Conference of ISO FAR bound into the 16th Organic Congress of IFOAM, Modena, 18 to 20 June 2008. The following volumes are planned as theme books.

Currently, the staff at ISO FAR's headquarters prepares in collaboration with DARCOF and FiBL the procedures for the review process of the Modena 2008 papers. Please recognise the extended deadline 31 OCT 2007 for submitting your contribution.

May we also again take the opportunity to remind all ISO FAR members to deliver their keywords concerning their expertise and research topics? I have already stressed this need in my last newsletter editorial and would like to underline this necessity again. It is necessary to gain this extended information to fulfil our aim to cluster our members for future joined research activities and for specifically inviting specialists to workshops, lectures for instance as recently experienced again with ambassador Makmur Widodo, Indonesia, who has shown a strong interest in developing Organic and low input systems in Indonesia based on further science.

With warm personal regards,

Ulrich Köpke

(President ISO FAR)

2nd ISO FAR Scientific Conference in the frame of the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress "Cultivate the Future based on Science" in Modena, Italy in June 2008

This event will be embedded in the various activities of stakeholders of the organic movement gathered in Italy (see: www.ifoam/modena2008.org) and offers to scientists involved in organic agricultural research an excellent platform for presentation and discussion of research results supported by the inspiring atmosphere of the organic world congress. The call for papers has been released in the end of June 2007 and is available on our conference website at: www.isofar.org/modena2008/call. Deadline for paper submission is 31 October 2007.

Currently the organizing committee consisting of staff members from DARCOF (Danish Research Centre for Organic Food and Farming, Thele, Denmark), FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Frick, Switzerland) and IOL (Institute of Organic Agriculture, ISO FAR Head Office, Bonn, Germany) are preparing the paper evaluation based on a peer review system. This procedure again is expected to help scientists to get travel funding after acceptance of their papers.

Apart from oral and poster presentations both considered to be equivalent with respect to scientific value, an important part of the conference will consist of workshops.

All ISOFAR members are invited to use the opportunity of creating networks by organising workshops on their specific areas of interest. More information on workshops will be available on our website, or contact the Head Office.

We look forward to a hopefully fruitful and inspiring Conference next year in Modena.

Contact: Dr. Daniel Neuhoff, ISOFAR Head Office, d.neuhoff@uni-bonn.de

A visitor at ISOFAR's Head Office:

On 25 September 2007 the ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in Germany, Makmur Widodo and his staff visited the head office of ISOFAR. The future cooperation with Indonesian scientists and the scientifically based development of Organic Agriculture were discussed. ISOFAR members interested in contributing to develop OA in Indonesia are invited to contact the Head Office.



Left to right: Yosep Trianugra Tutu, Third Secretary, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke, President ISOFAR, Ambassador Makmur Widodo, Dr. Daniel Neuhoff, managing duties ISOFAR, Dr. Argus Rubiyanto, Assistant to the Education Attaché.

Events

- **8 – 10 November 2007: 14th Technical Conference on Research and Experimentation in Organic Agriculture, Plasencia (Cáceres), Spain**

The SEAE (Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica) holds a conference on the research and experimentation in the field of Organic Agriculture in Spain.

<http://www.agroecologia.net/congresos-seae/proxeventos.htm#plasencia>

- **Second Scientific Conference of ISO FAR from 18-20 June 2008 in Modena, Italy "Cultivating the Future based on Science"**

In the frame of the 16th IFOAM world congress the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISO FAR) will organise a Scientific Conference on current research in Organic Agriculture. The conference will be held from 18 to 20 June 2008 in Modena Italy.

More information on the conference is available at the conference website at:

www.isofar.org/modena2008 and at: <http://www.ifoam.org/>

- **First meeting of the Organic Breeding working group "Plant Breeding for Organic and Low-Input Farming systems: dealing with genotype-environment interaction"**

The Eucarpia Working Group Organic Plant breeding will hold a conference in Wageningen, The Netherlands on 7 – 9 November 2007 on Plant Breeding for organic and low-input farming systems with special emphasis on how to deal with genotype-environment interactions. This conference will be jointly organized by COST SUSVAR: WP1 genetics, ECO-PB, ISO FAR Section Plant Breeding & Seed Production and the Graduate School Production Ecology & Resource Conservation (PE&RC) of the Wageningen University.

Registration and more information: www.eucarpia.org and <http://www.ecopb.org>

Contact: Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Wageningen University & Research Centre, Plant Science Group, Room 2.178, P.O.Box 386, Droevendaalsesteeg 1, 6700 AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands: e.lammerts@louisbolk.nl

- **Food in a Future Climate - Conference on Sustainable Food Systems**

From 19 to 21 November 2007 a conference on organic and sustainable food production will take place in Norrköping, Sweden, full programme at:

<http://www.cul.slu.se/english/conference/index.asp>

For the following events see also:

<http://www.isofar.org/events/index.html>

1.1 27 - 29 February 2008

International Congress on Compost and Digestate CODIS 2008 in Switzerland

<http://www.codis2008.ch/index.html>

1.2 18 - 20 February 2008:

13th International Conference on Cultivation Technique and Phytopathological Problems in Organic Fruit-Growing in Weinsberg, Germany

<http://www.ecofruit.net/>

1.3 17 - 18 April 2008

Organic agriculture and climate change in Clermont-Ferrand, France

http://www.enitac.fr/gfx/pdf/colloque_AgriBio.pdf

1.4 9 - 12 June 2008

Biodiversity and animal feed – future challenges for grassland production (22nd EGF General Meeting) in Uppsala, Sweden

<http://www-conference.slu.se/egf2008/>



Announcements

ISO FAR Scientific Series Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture

As earlier announced ISO FAR is planning the first volume of the future Scientific Series Organic Agriculture in the tropics and subtropics. The first volume is foreseen to be published and released at the 2nd Scientific Conference of ISO FAR bound into the 16th Organic Congress of IFOAM, Modena, 17 – 20 June 2008. The following volumes are planned as theme books (topics: Role of Soil Organic Matter in the Tropics, Phosphorous Management, Rice Production Systems, Cotton). All ISO FAR members who may contribute are invited to contact the ISO FAR Head Office (attn. Ms Anja Schneider) suggesting other topics, a provisional title of a paper and a short abstract.

Membership services

Keywords needed

May we take the opportunity to remind all ISO FAR members to deliver keywords concerning their personal expertise and research topics? It is necessary to gain this extended information to cluster our members for future joint research activities as well as for fulfilling lecture requests, etc.

Newsletter Contact / ISO FAR Secretariat

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