

**Dear Reader,**

You receive this newsletter shortly before the big event in Modena that will see the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISOFAR Conference in the frame of the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress. During the past weeks we have tried to keep all authors and ISOFAR members informed about the events' contents and schedules with updated information. Meanwhile you should have received the final information package via the Head Office.

Modena will certainly mark a milestone on the history of international conferences on Organic Agriculture. The variety of offers that are organised successfully by our Italian friends demands from all participants to prepare well their daily schedules. A remarkable part of the programme will consist of contributions and workshops provided by QLIF (QualityLowInputFood), a big international research project involving thirty-one research institutions, companies and universities throughout Europe and beyond who are funded by the European Union ([www.qlif.org](http://www.qlif.org)). We will be represented by skilful staff providing support at the ISOFAR booth on-site. You can find details you might require for your preparation in this newsletter.

Some ISOFAR members, above all the Korean colleagues and friends, had a kind of dress rehearsal for Modena in March 2008 with the ISOFAR Regional Conference 'Organic Agriculture in Asia' that was held at Dankook University, Republic of Korea (ROK). Not only the consumers' demand of organic agricultural products has developed dynamically in South Korea, and, what is more, all over Asia, but the demand for a scientifically based Organic Agriculture has increased in that region as well. The conference in ROK, consisting of a specific symposium on soil fertility as well as an international symposium on Organic Agriculture with the presence of IFOAM that dealt with more general topics and a following workshop at Gangwon University, all of which aroused the participants' well-deserved great interest and attracted a great deal of media attention, are a vital expression for this phenomenon. Moreover, it is most enlivening to see how science and practice of Organic Agriculture are promoted by leading personalities from the fields of politics and administration. ROK is going to apply in Modena for hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> Organic World Congress in 2011. I myself have watched the development in this fascinating country for several years and can therefore state that ROK is well prepared for this event.

You can read a report about the conference as well as information about the Proceedings in this newsletter.

Hope to see you in Modena. Keep on our side.

With warm personal regards,

Ulrich Köpke

(President ISOFAR)

## ISOFAR Conference 'Organic Agriculture in Asia',



The conference was held from March 13-14, 2008 at Dankook University, Republic of Korea. It was organized on-site by ISOFAR Board Member Professor Dr Sang Mok Sohn (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (RIOA, Dankook University) and his team supported by his Organizing Committee colleagues Prof Dr Ulrich Köpke (IOL, University of Bonn, Germany), Prof Dr Sung Kyo Choi (Gangwon National University, Korea) and Mr Young Jeong (Korea Organic Farming Association) as well as ISOFAR's head office. The conference with the presence of IFOAM represented by its vice-president Mette Melgaard was hosted by Gyeonggi Province and conducted by RIOA in association with the Rural Development Administration (RDA), the International Center of Organic Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (ICOAFF) of Gangwon National University, Korean Organic Farming Association (KOFA) and Korean Organic Agriculture Education Association (KOAEA).

The conference consisted of two symposia and might mark a milestone in the progress of Organic Agriculture not only in Korea but throughout the whole of Asia. Contributions focussed soil fertility management but also dealt with several other aspects that might enhance future growth and development of Organic Agriculture in this region. 28 foreign speakers and 15 Korean speakers were invited to present papers in the conference. Revised full papers are compiled in the 400-pages Conference Proceedings edited by Sang Mok Sohn and Ulrich Köpke in two different versions, English/ Korean language. (The table of contents is shown at the end of the newsletter).

We hope that the proceedings may serve as a stimulus to the future research activities of mainstream scientists in the field of Organic Agriculture. The references for the papers published in the proceedings will be entered into the Eprints system and linked the ISOFAR

homepage, where ISO FAR members can download the proceedings. After 12 months the proceedings will be opened to all users. Details will be given after Modena. Hardcopies of the proceedings will be available in Modena at ISO FAR's booth and directly at RIOA, Korea. Information how to order copies will be published on ISO FAR's website.

The need for such a conference was long recognized. However, it was only in June 2007 that the final decisions were taken so that planning and preparations could begin. The value of a scientific conference can be judged in many ways. Firstly, by the stimulus it provides to individual scientists and practitioners, especially those young ones; on them future progress will depend. Secondly and more broadly, by the opportunity it offers to discuss different strategies to overcome restrictions Organic Agriculture is confronted with under individual site conditions.

The pre-conference tours took place on 11 and 12 March. We visited the Korean Rural Development Administration with its Division for Organic Agriculture Research. Besides insights into research on Organic Agriculture, the excursions enabled the participants to have a closer look on the whole marketing chain covering the production, processing, distribution and retailing of rice, vegetables, fruits and other high value organic crops like grapes, e.g. We consider the pre-conference excursions as inspiring for the meeting. They did round off the impressions of a country and continent where foreigners from the very beginning feel at home. A visit to KINTEX ([www.kintex.com](http://www.kintex.com)) that offers Korea's largest world class conference and exhibition facilities gave some participants rise to imagine the 17th OWC 2011 performed here in the true heart of Korea.

Our conference 'Organic Agriculture in Asia' can be considered as successful and an important step forward for ISO FAR's aims. We very much hope that everyone who attends the conference will find assistance in developing closer understanding and cooperation, not only between each other but also between the institutions. This is what ISO FAR aims to deliver: to promote collaboration among participants and authors for mutual benefit and for the advancement of the knowledge of organic agricultural approaches; to bring people and institutions together no matter whether they engage in mainstream agriculture or primarily orientate on Organic Agriculture research.

We strongly believe that this conference is not going to be the last one of its type and that further ones will be organised in Korea and elsewhere in Asia. Undoubtedly, such meetings will help in solving some of the basic problems of Organic Agriculture and consequently would increase our knowledge how to overcome the obstacles given for an environmentally sound food production of highest quality, which is the final objective of all our research.

We are sure that we will be echoing the sentiments of the participants of the conference by recording our gratitude and sincere thanks to those who made it possible to hold the conference and to prepare the proceedings. The conference was held under the Patronage of this Excellency Mr Moon Soo Kim, Governour of Gyeonggi Province. We are greatly indebted to the benefactors and institutional hosts, Gyeonggi Province and Dankook University and

the organising committee. For the secretarial help special thanks are due to Mrs Annette Frankenberg (IOL), Mr Yeon Kyung Kim, Dr Kyeong Seok Oh, Ms Hae Shin Kwak, Mr Jae Hoon Jang, Mr Sang Myeong Choi, Mr Hyoung Joo Moon and Mr Seong Hoon Hwang (RIOA). We are grateful to Ms Kosima Köpke, Ms Anja Schneider (ISO FAR), Ms Sarah Kemp and Dr Daniel Neuhoff (IOL/ISO FAR) for proofreading and revising the papers which we received early enough.

Prof Dr Ulrich Köpke  
Institute of Organic Agriculture (IOL),  
University of Bonn, Germany

Prof Dr Sang Mok Sohn  
Institute of Organic Agriculture (RIOA),  
Dankook University, Republic of Korea



### Last information:

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ISO FAR Scientific Conference in the frame of the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress 'Cultivate the Future based on Science' in Modena, Italy from 18 - 20 June 2008

The conference will offer about 200 oral and 180 poster presentations divided in 49 thematic sessions. The full programme is available on our website at:

[www.isofar.org/modena2008/programme-detail.html](http://www.isofar.org/modena2008/programme-detail.html)

The proceedings of the conference (2 Volumes with a total of 1700 pages) are available at ISO FAR's conference booth in Modena or may be ordered after the conference at the FIBL book shop ([www.fibl.org/shop/](http://www.fibl.org/shop/) (FiBL order number 1503). A PDF version will be available after the conference free of charge for ISO FAR members via the member area of [www.isofar.org](http://www.isofar.org). Passwords have to be requested by contacting the Head Office via: [info@isofar.org](mailto:info@isofar.org)

Please have also a look at the various workshops which will be carried out before the conference on Tuesday, 17. June in the afternoon at:

[www.isofar.org/modena2008/programme/workshops.html](http://www.isofar.org/modena2008/programme/workshops.html)

The programme of the OWC including tours and cultural events is now available at:

[www.ifoam.org/events/ifoam\\_conferences/owc/Organic\\_World\\_Congress.html](http://www.ifoam.org/events/ifoam_conferences/owc/Organic_World_Congress.html)

Information on locations, maps, etc. is given at:

[www.modenatur.it/infopack.pdf](http://www.modenatur.it/infopack.pdf)

**Newsletter No. 9, June 2008**

Please visit our booth in the central tent at Parco di Piazza D'Armi Novi Sad. The joint booth with Fibl and DARCOF has the number 2-3-4 and is located on the opposite site of the registration desk.

Contact: Dr. Daniel Neuhoff, ISOFAR Head Office, [d.neuhoff@uni-bonn.de](mailto:d.neuhoff@uni-bonn.de)



**Events**

Please check our website at: [www.isofar.org/events](http://www.isofar.org/events)

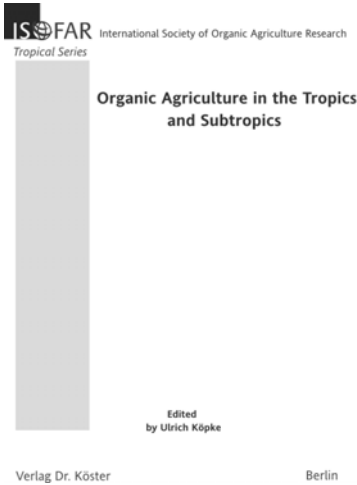
**Announcements**

**ISOFAR Scientific Series Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture**

*ISOFAR Tropical Series Volume I*

**'Organic Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics' *In Print***

The first volume of ISOFAR's planned scientific series on Organic Agriculture in the tropics and subtropics is in print and will be available at the ISOFAR booth in Modena.





Compared with the knowledge gained and distributed in the northern half of our globe, information based on scientific work on Organic Agriculture is limited in the South.

ISOFAR's Tropical Series is foreseen as a stepwise extended source of knowledge that will serve scientists and teachers as well as students interested in the evolution of scientifically based Organic Agriculture in the tropics and subtropics.

Volume 1 of the series provides an introductory compilation of various important issues that Organic Agriculture is confronted with in the South. Future volumes will be structured as theme books that focus on specific topics in order to develop strategies for improved environmentally sound agricultural approaches.

Although expensive binding and production methods were used to insure the sustainable use and durability of this book, its price has been kept low to allow extended worldwide distribution and access.

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*Prices:*

*ISOFAR members: 9.00 EURO in Modena, after Modena: + shipping*

*Non- ISOFAR members: 15 EURO in Modena*

*Book trade price foreseen: 16.80 Euro + shipping*

May this book find a good reception among its readers.

Ulrich Köpke

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## Membership services

### Keywords needed

May we take again the opportunity to remind all ISOFAR 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 / ISOFAR Secretariat

International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR), c/o Institute of Organic Agriculture (IOL), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke (President), Ms Anja Schneider (Secretary), Katzenburgweg 3, D-53115 Bonn, Tel. +49 228 735616, Fax +49 228 735617, Dr. Daniel Neuhoff (honorary duties) +49 228 732883, E-Mail [info@isofar.org](mailto:info@isofar.org), Homepage [www.isofar.org](http://www.isofar.org)

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# Proceedings

# Organic Agriculture in Asia

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



**IFOAM**  
With the presence of IFOAM

**Editors : Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke  
Prof. Dr. Sang Mok Sohn**

- **Date** : 13-14 March 2008
- **Venue** : Dankook University / Korea
- **Host** :  Gyeonggi Province
- **Conduct** :  Research Institute of Organic Agriculture  
Dankook University

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