

IFOAM

International Federation of Organic Agriculture

Annual Report 2007





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IFOAM IS THE INTERNATIONAL UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS WORLDWIDE.

IFOAM'S MISSION IS LEADING, UNITING AND ASSISTING THE ORGANIC MOVEMENT IN ITS FULL DIVERSITY.

OUR GOAL IS THE WORLDWIDE ADOPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY, SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND SYSTEMS THAT ARE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Message from the President



Dear members of IFOAM,

Since the year 2001, IFOAM has published Annual Reports, which are circulated to all our members. They are also used quite extensively to present IFOAM to the outside world. As such, they don't describe internal aspects of the Federation in elaborate detail, and also do not specifically focus on issues such as the development of positions. These aspects of IFOAM's work are reported and communicated through our internal newsletters "IFOAM in Action", the "Insider", our online magazine "Ecology & Farming" as well as press releases or special announcements and of course our website.

Organic is growing worldwide be it in production, processing, manufacturing or trade. Markets have been developing continuously at amazing two-digit growth rates. Whatever publication you read, new records are always mentioned. Wherever you go, organic products can be found on the shelves. Not only is the North American market complaining about shortages of organic supplies, so is the European market and several others across the globe. Emerging organic markets are showing significant steps in their development too. Some regions of the world may be lagging behind, but they have gained their own momentum supported by the development of standards and regulations, local market initiatives (including Participatory Guarantee Systems) and often through exports.

We are on the right track in striving to make organic available in all different market channels. Only then will our efforts make the world a better place on the scale that we seek to achieve by providing fertile soils, clean water and healthy food without pesticides or GMOs, and by contributing to steadying the climate. In order to appreciate the opportunities presented by the challenges such as globalization in organic, concentration of ownership and trade and increasing competition, we have to actively and openly approach the changes necessary to move forward and maintain the integrity of our systems.

2007 must be seen as a very successful year for the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. Based on the four Principles of Organic Agriculture (Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care) we contributed a lot towards achieving our mission by increasing our advocacy activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Herrmann". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gerald A. Herrmann
President of IFOAM 2005-2008

Message from the Executive Director

Compiling IFOAM's Annual Report is best done from a chameleon's point of view. With one eye you reflect on the past and with the other you try look into the future, while moving steadfastly in an unhurried pace. During the year 2007 we continued to work with resolute determination because we firmly believe that Organic Agriculture is best and that we will eventually reach our goal of its worldwide adoption.

It was with great satisfaction to observe the broad-based process that has been successfully conducted by our membership in clearly defining Organic Agriculture. It is equally satisfactory to see that more and more individuals and organizations join hands the world over and can subscribe to this definition: **“Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.”**

Highlights of 2007 were definitely the two conferences IFOAM organized, namely the International Conference on the Marketing of Organic and Regional Values in Schwaebisch Hall, and the Trade Symposium in the wake of the BioFach Trade Fair in Nuremberg of which IFOAM continued to be the patron.

More than 100 times IFOAM had been represented at events, making IFOAM visible practically everywhere where agriculture and sustainable development are discussed. Not just World Board members or staff had the opportunity to represent us, but ordinary members held the flag up high for organic. This decentralized advocacy tool had proven so successful that it will definitely be further developed in the future.

As IFOAM expands internationally we are happy to see the newly established Regional Office for Latin America, based in Argentina, thriving. At the same time our regional and sectoral internal bodies are consolidating and assuming their roles in strengthening the organization much better. Yet, blinking with the forward eye, the chameleon would say, there is still room for improvement.

Our mainly donor funded international projects supported targeted regions and strategic sectors. We are proud that our necessary training resources and guidelines served widely as important instruments for building capacity of key stakeholders in the organic world, from farmer, certifier, researcher to retailer. While assisting in the development of organic markets through the appropriate development of regional standards, for instance in East Africa through Participatory Guarantee Systems, IFOAM promoted innovative and complementary approaches to certification.

In 2007, IFOAM continued to work on three fronts – maintaining the current Organic Guarantee System, revising the Organic Guarantee System, and leading the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture.

Vibrant and dedicated work by our elected World Board members, staff, interns and volunteers serving on a number on internal committees makes all this possible. We are very grateful for all this support. The Principles of Organic Agriculture (Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care) can only be upheld if there are caring people from all walks of life and in all corners of the world guarding them.

Last but not least, I would like to sincerely thank all our donors for their generous support in the past. Rest assured that, unlike the chameleon, IFOAM will not change its colour, it will remain green.



Angela Caudle de Freitas
Executive Director



IFOAM Conferences

IFOAM organized two important conferences in 2007: the Trade Symposium 2007 in Nuremberg (Germany) and the first IFOAM International Conference on the Marketing of Organic and Regional Values in Schwaebisch Hall (Germany).



IFOAM Trade Symposium 2007: In-Between Discount and Premium - Friend or Foe?

IFOAM organized this trade symposium inviting key players in the organic sector to discuss the implications of large-scale conventional businesses entering the organic marketplace. The symposium took place on February 14th in Nuremberg, Germany, in connection with BioFach 2007, the world's largest organic trade fair, of which IFOAM is the patron.

The IFOAM Trade Symposium 2007 consisted of four presentations by key players in the organic sector, and was moderated by Gerald A. Herrmann, IFOAM President.

Gerald A. Herrmann, summarized the thread of the discussion, noting that "The speakers, all leaders and pioneers in the organic sector, have reminded us that it is us nobody else who are defining how this market will develop, and that we need to bring everyone to the table to make this happen. This is precisely the role of IFOAM – to create a better world by creating a platform that brings people together, including those who are not already part of the system. This symposium also confirms that through ethical trade and education, the organic sector is provoking long-term consumer commitment and sustainable economic success."



First IFOAM International Conference on the Marketing of Organic and Regional Values

From August 26-28, 2007, over 200 participants from 40 countries came together in Schwäbisch Hall (Germany) for the 1st IFOAM International Conference on the Marketing of Organic and Regional Values to discuss ideas, opportunities and strategies to protect organic product identity, traditional knowledge and biodiversity, and thus farmers and rural communities. With over 50 keynote speeches and presentations from experts and leaders in the organic sector, such as Dr. Vandana Shiva and Helena Norberg-Hodge, the conference addressed the importance of bringing back value in local and regional economies that are increasingly getting lost in our globalized world.

Organized by Organic Services and Ecoland in cooperation with IFOAM, and supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection, the 1st IFOAM International Conference on Marketing Organic and Regional Values stressed the importance of local ecological and cultural systems from around the world. With a growing consumer demand for organic products, organic farming offers alternative strategies and solutions for rural development, thus enhancing economic prosperity.

Conference participants unanimously issued the Schwäbisch Hall Declaration, which concludes that as rural communities are threatened by corporate monopolies and genetic engineering, regional development must be strengthened by all means. The declaration focusses on support for identifying values through brands, trademarks and geographical indications coupled with organic farming as the social and economic alternative for rural areas that has the potential for developing long-term ecological and economic sustainability. The complete conference declaration can be found here: www.ifoam.org/press/positions/pdfs/Conference_Declaration.pdf

1ST IFOAM
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
MARKETING OF ORGANIC
AND REGIONAL VALUES

AUGUST 26 – 28, 2007
SCHWÄBISCH HALL,
GERMANY



Global Advocacy for Organic Agriculture



There are many events and meetings related to Organic Agriculture all around the world. When the purpose of the event fits within IFOAM's scope, mission, goals and objectives, it may be important for IFOAM to be represented. During planning at the Head Office and World Board meetings, upcoming events, including those of United Nations organizations, are evaluated according to their relevance to IFOAM, and whether or not IFOAM's attendance will positively contribute to the mission and ultimate goal the worldwide adoption of Organic Agriculture. Generally, members of the World Board and the Executive Director attend those high level or political meetings.

During the course of the year, IFOAM receives invitations to contribute content for specialized audiences. In such cases, IFOAM is increasingly relying upon its members, experts on diverse topics related to Organic Agriculture, to represent IFOAM and expand IFOAM's presence in the world.

Many IFOAM member organizations are deeply engaged in activities advocating Organic Agriculture. When attending events on the international level, it may also be appropriate for IFOAM members to wear "the IFOAM hat" and act as a representative of the federation. Additionally, members might consider IFOAM's presence to be indispensable at certain regional events.

IFOAM's greatest strength is its network of members and experts around the world. Recognizing this fact, the IFOAM World Board initiated a trial phase in 2005 of allowing member organizations to serve as official IFOAM representatives at international events and advocate on IFOAM's behalf. The success of these coordinated advocacy efforts made IFOAM continue with this model, and so in 2006, IFOAM was able to attend 43 selected meetings. For the year 2007 the number of events doubled, making IFOAM visible practically "everywhere" where agriculture and sustainable development are discussed. Some of the events are highlighted on the following pages.

Africa

The Organic Agriculture Project in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria (OAPTIN) organized the 3rd National Organic Conference & Scientific Meeting from the 11th to the 15th of November. Patricia Wangong'u represented IFOAM there and affirmed the high potential for Organic Agriculture in Nigeria. She encouraged linking up with IFOAM and learning from the Organic Standards East Africa (OSEA) project for a possible replication of it in West Africa.

The FAO and IFAD Liaison Office

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Liaison Office explored the potential and challenges of agrofuel in relation to food security. Cristina Grandi attended the meeting to explore the breadth of this subject. She made the case that food should have a higher priority than fuel, and that instead of trying to get more and other sources of fuel, one should rather think of more efficient energy use. She questioned the environmental sustainability of large scale "biofuel crops" and their efficiency.

FAO Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security

FAO held an international conference on Organic Agriculture and food security from May 3rd to 5th 2007 aimed to identify Organic Agriculture's potential and limits to the food security challenge, including conditions required for its success.

The outcome of the conference provided a thorough assessment of the state of knowledge on Organic Agriculture and food security, including recommendations on areas for further research and policy development. The Report of the Conference subsequently was submitted to the 33rd Session of the Committee on Food Security, for information and further action. IFOAM was a partner in organizing the conference, and had both an official role in the steering committee and sponsored members to contribute to the conference by presenting their positive examples and share how the conversion to organic makes a significant difference in the livelihoods of people.

For complete overview on the event: http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/index_en.htm

Plant Genetic Resources

Angela Caudle de Freitas, IFOAM's Executive Director, showed presence at FAO's 34th Session from the 17th to the 24th of November 2007 in Rome, Italy, accompanied by Liaison Officer to FAO and IFAD, Cristina Grandi. During this important summit both IFOAM representatives had the chance to discuss with governmental representatives of countries interested in



implementing Organic agriculture programs, such as Indonesia and Sierra Leone. Also they met some FAO officials engaged in Organic Agriculture.



Around the Organic World

Katherine DiMatteo, IFOAM World Board member, participated in the Global Action Network (GAN) leaders meeting and workshop. IFOAM itself can be considered a Global Action Network and the meeting was a learning experience on how other networks function, and on how to measure effectiveness.

Ron Khosla, organic farmer from the Naturally Grown Farm in New York State, went for IFOAM to the meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council on April 2nd, where “Eradicating poverty and hunger joining forces to make it happen” was discussed. This being the first Millennium Development Goal, Ron could contribute to the discussion based on IFOAM’s dossier on ‘Organic Agriculture and the Millennium Development Goals’ and based, of course, on his own experiences.

The third European Conference of GMO-free Regions was held in Brussels at the premises of the European Parliament on April 19th and 20th. Organic and other gmo-free activists gathered to share their experiences and to get mutually inspired. IFOAM took the opportunity to present its GMO free manual and seed saving manual, both tools to safeguard our common seed heritage!

Prabha Mahale, IFOAM World Board member, gave a speech titled “Organic Produces/Products Are Increasingly Traded on a Bigger Scale. Is It a Healthy Development? What Are the Impacts and Consequences” during a conference in Malaysia on April 28th. The same topics were discussed during the IFOAM trade conference, which took place just before BioFach in Nuremberg, and thus the outcomes were integrated into the Malaysian meeting. It showed once more that the challenges of the organic movement are shared worldwide.

IFOAM was invited to send a speaker to the Members’ Assembly of Demeter International in East Troy, WI, USA as a follow-up to the meeting between IFOAM and Demeter International in February 2007. Katherine DiMatteo, IFOAM World Board member, presented IFOAM in the Demeter annual member meeting (May 2007). The meeting was an excellent step to further build alliances with the Demeter association.

EurSafe and the University of Vienna organized the 7th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics in September 2007 to exchange information on Sustainable Food Production and Ethics. One focus of this congress was ethics of Organic Agriculture. Louise Luttkholt, IFOAM Strategic Relations

Manager, presented the Principles of Organic Agriculture and attended the panel discussion on coexistence (gmo and gmo-free).

Under the framework of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), its Task Force (TF) organized a meeting with NGO representatives of the Indian PGS program as well as government officials, between the 5th and the 8th of October at the World Wild Fund and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Offices in Delhi, India.

Ong Kung Wai, IFOAM's World Board Member assisted in the 3rd International Conference on Gross National Happiness, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand from the 22nd to the 28th of November. Gross National Happiness is a better measure for a nation's well being than the Gross National Product. IFOAM is convinced that more Organic Agriculture contributes to a higher Gross National Happiness index!

Mapping Like-Minded Organizations

IFOAM started a project to identify potential allies and initiate relations with those which promise to mutually enhance each other's advocacy strategy and goals. Over seventy IFOAM stakeholders responded to the invitation from IFOAM's Executive Director, Angela Caudle de Freitas, to recommend potential advocacy partners. More than 20 potential partners were selected and approached. The initiative generated expressions of interest from several organizations, whose representatives were invited to an informal dinner meeting on the eve of the FAO Food Security Conference at the beginning of May. Planet Diversity, the side event of the Convention of Biodiversity, taking place in Bonn May 2008, is a very nice example of how IFOAM cooperates with like minded organizations, fighting for a common cause: diversity!



Establishment of IFOAM Representation Offices

In an effort to increase linkages with regional organic movements and to increase access to information about Organic Agriculture in developing countries, IFOAM established representation offices with the aim of providing easy access to IFOAM training materials and resources.

On June 1st 2007, IFOAM opened a Regional Office in Latin America and the Caribbean to support the development of Organic Agriculture in the region. The office is located in Salta, Argentina, and Patricia Flores Escudero serves as the IFOAM representative to Latin America and the Caribbean on a part-time basis.

The Definition of Organic Agriculture

Extending from the establishment of the Principles, IFOAM articulated the Definition of Organic Agriculture through a participatory process with its members to arrive at a clear, succinct and global definition. After adoption of the Principles of Organic Agriculture, the General Assembly passed a motion to establish a succinct Definition of Organic Agriculture. This definition must explain what Organic Agriculture is, reflecting its true nature and the Principles in a concise way.

Starting in 2006 a call went out far and wide to send in definitions of Organic Agriculture giving us the full diversity of thoughts on how to define Organic Agriculture. The submitted definitions, as well as other definitions from regulations, past IFOAM publications, and Organic Agriculture-related definitions, were compiled, analyzed and summarized into a report. The Task Force on the Definition of Organic Agriculture used the report to craft a first draft definition in August 2006. The Task Force sent out a first draft of the definition of Organic Agriculture and called for comments from IFOAM internal bodies. All input were analyzed, considered, acknowledged and where appropriate, incorporated. The Task Force formulated a response to the inputs. Along with the response, the Task Force presented a second draft. The general public and IFOAM members were invited to comment on the second draft definition, which was composed of four definitions and explanatory notes. Many people reacted and submitted their feedback on the second draft definition. The majority (2/3) of the comments were “positive” (in the sense that they agree with the process and give a preference to one of the proposed definition). They appreciated the transparency of the process and being consulted for their opinion. However a substantial part could not agree to any of the four proposed definitions. Many proposed alternative definitions. The Task Force analyzed the alternative definitions given. At the request of the Task Force the IFOAM World Board withdrew the requirement from the Terms of Reference that the Definition should be positive as opposed to negative. The Task Force worked at the final draft that was approved by the IFOAM World Board and was presented to the General Assembly 2008.

The definition reads:

“*Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.*”

Growing Organic Worldwide

IFOAM plays a leading role in fostering the development of Organic Agriculture all over the world. Helping to transform agricultural systems towards ecologically, socially and economically sound models, IFOAM's efforts create the knowledge base and infrastructure to support a sustainable future.

Providing Support to Targeted Regions and Strategic Sectors

To facilitate the practical adoption of Organic Agriculture in targeted regions or strategic sectors, IFOAM provides necessary training resources and guidelines, builds capacity of key stakeholders, develops and provides appropriate tools for local marketing development, assists in the development of regional standards, organizes targeted advocacy and networking, and promotes innovative approaches. This is achieved through donor-funded projects and strategic cooperation with other international key actors and their organic projects. IFOAM uses projects as an important tool to implement the IFOAM Programs (such as Program 2008), which are guiding IFOAM's work in general.

As one of the objectives is to grow together worldwide, IFOAM is setting a stronger focus on countries with an emerging organic sector. In 2007, IFOAM worked on nine donor-funded projects, namely:

- **I-GO (IFOAM - Growing Organic)**, funded by Hivos (Netherlands) and the “Fund for Sustainable Biodiversity Management” of the Dutch Government. I-GO is still the biggest program and aims at strengthening Organic Agriculture in developing countries.
- **“Development, Production and Trade of Organic Tea in China and India”** funded by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). the China section started in 2007.
- **OSEA** (Regional Cooperation for Organic Standards and Certification Capacity in East Africa), funded by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).
- **“Building Capacities on Certification of Organic Agriculture in the Pacific”** funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



- A project funded by the **Rudolf Steiner Foundation**, with three components:
 - a) Support of African certification bodies for international accreditation
 - b) Setting-up of the Organic World Foundation
 - c) Support to the Africa Pavilion at BioFach 2008
- The **IFOAM Africa Office (IAO)**, a project funded by the Africa desk of Hivos.
- The **International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF)**, a joint project of IFOAM, FAO and UNCTAD.¹
- The **Organic Guarantee System** revision project, funded by NOVIB.
- The **“Biodiversity Manual”** a project on the elaboration of a manual for an effective enhancement of biodiversity on organic farms, funded by the Software AG Stiftung.

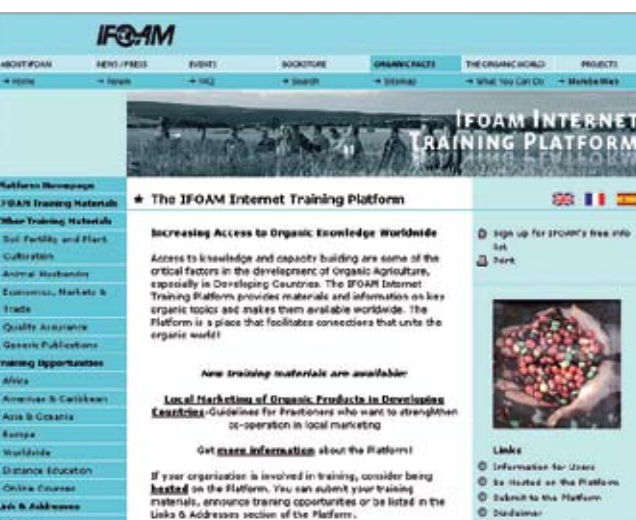
Through these projects IFOAM achieved substantial progress in areas that are pivotal to the development of Organic Agriculture in targeted regions and the growth of the organic sector worldwide. IFOAM was able to take the lead on activities that typically belong to its mandate such as developing and providing favorable frameworks and best conditions in order to facilitate the growth of the organic sector world wide.

Providing Necessary Training Resources and Guidelines

In 2007, IFOAM further developed the “Internet Training Platform”, which has the objective to provide worldwide access to training materials and training opportunities on Organic Agriculture. Links and materials available on the platform have increased by 30%. There has been a sharp increase in the number of visitors of the platform, from 1000 visits a month in the beginning of the year to 2500 visits a month at the end of the year.

Moreover, in 2007, IFOAM worked on the development of a comprehensive “Information Package” for countries with an emerging organic sector. A study on “Building Sustainable Organic Sectors” was published, and together with the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) document “Best Practices for Organic Governments / What Developing Country Governments can do to promote the Organic Agriculture Sector” it builds the cornerstone component of this package. Both studies are based on analytical case studies from all around the world.

Comprehensive additional tools and resources, including the Training Platform, will complete the package. Together they give guidance and provide development options for the organic



IFOAM Training Platform website

1. See page 21

sector in the frame of: a) Why Go Organic -> Arguments for OA, b) Policies, c) Advocacy, d) Strategic Relations and Partnerships, e) Quality Assurance, f) Marketing, g) Training and h) Research. The overall concept of the comprehensive information package is developed and will materialize in a web-resource in 2008.

Building Capacity of Key Stakeholders

In 2007, IFOAM has provided significant support and capacity building towards a range of stakeholders that are key players in the development of Organic Agriculture in regions where it is emerging.

Emerging **certification bodies (CBs)** in several countries received support through IFOAM's projects.

In China a strategy for the achievement of official recognition of the certification system of the OTRDC (Organic Tea Research and Development Center) was developed in the frame of the CFC Organic Tea project.

Four certification bodies in Africa received direct financial support from IFOAM to acquire international accreditation (in particular ISO 65 and IFOAM accreditation).

Moreover, regional cooperation and capacity building for staff of certification bodies was initiated and provided through the OSEA project, with the development of joint protocols for the verification of compliance with the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS).

In the context of the IFAD Pacific Project, members of the Regional Organic Task Force (ROTF) received training on Internal Control System (a tool for Group Certification). A survey for an appropriate certification system for the Pacific was initiated.

Training for Trainers on Organic Agriculture was also provided in the framework of the IFOAM Regional Representation Offices in China and in Latin America.

Through the I-GO Program and the Africa Office, IFOAM supported the participation of developing country representatives in IFOAM's internal structures (World Board, committees and task forces, etc). This was part of a continuous IFOAM effort to assure balanced representation in its official structures, in terms of geographical origin, background and gender. Around 20 key persons from developing countries have benefited from this support in 2007.

Eight African key persons and the two IFOAM representatives participated in a workshop held at IFOAM's Head Office and received an **intensive introduction to the activities and policies**



CFC meeting with Chinese government officials



of IFOAM. These key persons are now strongly involved in regional advocacy work of IFOAM. The funds came from the IAO and I-GO.

To facilitate learning from the East African experience and increase networking capacities, IFOAM also supported the participation of several of the African key persons at the Regional Organic Conference in Tanzania in May 2007.

Assisting in The Development of Organic Markets Through the Development of Regional Standards

In May 2007 the East African Community adopted the East African Organic Product Standards as an East African standard, which means they became publicly recognized in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. The Pacific community saw the development of the first draft of its regional organic standards in 2007.

Both regions took regional conditions into account. The approach was and is participatory and based on a strong private-public partnership. The objective of these standards is to facilitate local, regional and international organic trade.

In East Africa the process was facilitated by the OSEA project in close collaboration with a project of the UNEP/UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF).

OSEA initiated the further development of PGS in the region and developed a consumer awareness raising concept. In addition, the National Organic Agriculture Movements established a common organic mark to be used on organic products in the region, also on PGS verified products.

The experiences in East Africa can provide interesting learning points for other parts of the world.

The Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) who is managing a complementary project funded also by IFAD, IFOAM and SPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding focusing on a good cooperation in these projects. ROTF, composed of government and private sector representatives, is active for both projects.

Developing and Promoting Innovative and Complementary Approaches

Early 2007, the noncompliance decision on a grower group in Mexico operating an Internal Control System and certified within the US National Organic Program, led to a major event in the history of group certification acceptance, with the 2002 NOSB recommendation on group certification being challenged and the risk of group certification acceptance to be discontinued with the US authorities. IFOAM took a leading role in the dialogue with the NOSB, liaising intensely with key players in the US to try to influence the recommendation that the Certification, Accreditation and Compliance Committee (CACC) was mandated to deliver to the NOSB. IFOAM finally came up with an official position and a public call to action. With the comments submitted on the topic of group certification the IFOAM position made up the majority of the responses and in several of the other comments, IFOAM criteria, guidance or position was referenced.

As a result of the posted comments, the CACC decided to present their recommendation for discussion, not decision at the NOSB meeting held November 28th - 30th, 2007. It remained open how the CACC would proceed from then onwards, and IFOAM will have to remain active on this issue.

In parallel, IFOAM continued the implementation of four pilot projects on group certification in Europe. The objective is to test if the group certification concept can be applied in the European context and the advantages and challenges that would come with its potential acceptance by the European Union. Pilot farmer groups in Spain, France, Italy and Turkey are implementing an Internal Control System and partner certification bodies carried the assessment of their ICS.

In 2007, the **PGS Task Force** of IFOAM had on its agenda the development of guiding tools for the set up of new PGS or for the possible improvement of those already existing.

IFOAM initiated the development of a guidance manual on how to set-up PGS, compiled the frequently asked questions and their answers on PGS, and initiated a study on the official recognition of PGS in organic regulations.

First steps were done to develop an appropriate PGS for Africa. Linked to the OSEA project IFOAM organized financed through I-GO, a study about the actual situation of “PGS” in East Africa. This was the basis of a workshop with the objective to further develop PGS in that region. Three National Organic Movements (NOAMs) of East Africa set up two pilot PGSs in each country, which will be monitored and further developed in the second phase of OSEA.

Project Donors

- HIVOS (Netherlands)
- “Fund for Sustainable Biodiversity Management” of the Dutch Government
- Common Fund for Commodities
- Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Rudolf Steiner Foundation
- NOVIB
- Software AG Foundation



African Advisory Group

The African Advisory Group (AdGroup) was appointed by the World Board in 2004 to guide the work of the IFOAM Africa Office (IAO).

The AdGroup members were:

1. El Hadji Hamath Hane, Senegal
2. J. Ngugi Mutura, Kenya
3. Diana Callear, South Africa
4. Charles Walaga, Uganda
5. René Tokannou, Benin Republic
6. Sue Edwards, Ethiopia

The World Board decided to cancel the African Advisory Group for the following reasons. The IFOAM Africa Office has established an African organic network through Contact Points (CPs) across Africa. At present, 11 Contact Points exist in 10 different countries. Each of them represents or is the coordinating office of a National Organic Agriculture Movement (NOAM) or a national or regional organic network. CP Coordinators establish the link between the IFOAM Head Office and their members. The CPs inform the IAO about developments in organics in Africa, provide inputs for the e-newsletter and the IFOAM website and highlight important organic events and projects taking place in their countries or region. They were involved in the finalization of the new project proposal for the IAO.

In 2007, CP coordinators met in the IFOAM HO and received an intensive introduction into IFOAM and so became part of the IFOAM key persons in Africa. Occasionally, CP coordinators represent IFOAM in specific events when mandated by the IFOAM Executive Director or perform advocacy work in coordination with the IFOAM Head Office. CPs received public relations materials from the IFOAM Head Office and have access to the MembersWeb and the Internet Training Platform of IFOAM. They can share all materials and information within their own network and with other networks, and use them for their lobbying activities. African Contact Points are therefore real representatives of the African organic movement and they easily can take over the tasks of the Advisory Group mentioned above.

Publications falling under the responsibility of the International Project Department, in 2007

- Revised edition of “Building Trust in Organic Agriculture”
- Building sustainable sectors
- Organic Agriculture and HIV/AIDs (French and English)
- Socio-economic effects of Organic Agriculture in Africa (English and French)
- An overview of Organic Agriculture in the Pacific
- Organic Markets in Africa (French and English)
- Translated version (In French and Spanish) of the PGS case study
- gmo-free regions manual

The Project Steering Committee / Program Strategy Committee (PSC)

The PSC was originally established in 2000 as the Program Steering Committee of the I-GO program.

Their main tasks was to give advice in regard to financing project proposals (at the regional level), submitted by IFOAM member organizations in the framework of the I-GO program. In 2005, the Terms of Reference of the PSC changed, as there were no open funds anymore within I-GO and it became the Program Strategy Committee, the expert committee on program and project development. The new role of the PSC was to advise the WB on strategic issues of new programs and projects in the frame of the IFOAM Program.

The PSC developed together with the International Projects Manager the “guidelines for IFOAM’s involvement in projects”. As project development is now guided by the IFOAM Programs and became more and more a management task, covered by the Head Office, the World Board cancelled the mandate of the PSC by end of 2007.

Thanks a lot again to Diana Callear, Joseph Ngugi Mutura, Hay Soree, Maheswar Ghimire, Slavisa Jelusic and Oscar Castañeda for their engagement for IFOAM.



PSC meeting in Nepal

The Organic Guarantee System and Harmonization

In 2007, IFOAM continued its work on three fronts – maintaining the current Organic Guarantee System, revising the Organic Guarantee System, and leading the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture.

Maintaining the Organic Guarantee System

IFOAM Accreditation is the centerpiece of the Organic Guarantee System. It provides a private international guarantee that IFOAM Basic Standards for Production and Processing and IFOAM Accreditation Criteria have been effectively applied by IFOAM accredited certification bodies. The International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS), which implements IFOAM Accreditation under an agreement with IFOAM, reported a gain of one additional Certification Body accredited under the IFOAM Accreditation Program for a total of 36. These accredited certification bodies maintain a Multi-Lateral Agreement (MLA), which enables them to recognize one another's certification in the course of trade. The MLA's efficiency grew in 2007 when some participating certification bodies dropped certain standards requirements that went beyond the established baseline in the MLA.

Revising the Organic Guarantee System

In 2007, IFOAM continued work towards revising the Organic Guarantee System. The revision aims to make our system more accessible for certification bodies and producers worldwide, enabling it to grow and become a more effective private sector platform for international harmonization and equivalence. A main focus of this system revision in 2007 was the comprehensive revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS). The IBS (with a new working title) has been restructured and its role changed to serve as standards for organic standards worldwide. Principles and objectives for each topic are established and these lead to outcome based requirements. The objectives and outcome-based requirements are not prescriptive and so they can accommodate organic standards-setting for the diverse situations of Organic Agriculture worldwide. During 2007 the IFOAM Standards Committee produced two drafts of the revised document, on which member and other stakeholder comment was invited. Further work and an IFOAM member decision on the revised IBS is planned in 2008.



A new emphasis on capacity development of the organic certification system is being built into the Organic Guarantee System. The primary vehicle for this is the International Certification Body Forum, which was established by IFOAM in 2006. While in 2006 the Certification Body Forum focused on organizing itself and setting priorities, in 2007 it shared information and implemented workshops on two priority topics – interpreting conversion periods and group certification. Group certification became a high priority after the USDA expressed concerns in early 2007 about whether this approach to certification of smallholders fits under their regulations. The Certification Body Forum aims to sustain group certification in the future by identifying how to enhance its performance and credibility on a worldwide basis. In the case of both 2007 topics, certification bodies completed surveys and provided procedures and other information from their programs in order to create a shared knowledge of the current situation and identify best practices. This is a significant and very positive development in organic certification body cooperation. Oxfam NOVIB continued to financially support the Organic Guarantee System revision in 2007.



Most members of the IFOAM Standards Committee and OGS staff: (from left to right) Tali Berner, Matthias Fecht (former OGS Coordinator), Mariella Sandini, Chayaporn Wattansiri, Paul van den Berge, Jorge Casale, Mahesh Chander. Missing from photo: Brian McElroy, Eckhard Reiners, Diane Bowen (OGS Manager).

Fostering Harmonization and Equivalence Among Governments

IFOAM's Program 2008 includes not only a commitment to harmonization and equivalence through the private IFOAM system, but also to fostering these approaches among governments. Since 2003 IFOAM has partnered with FAO and UNCTAD to lead the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF). The early years of the ITF were spent to define the problem and explore potential solutions. 2007 was the year in which ITF developed specific solutions to trade distortion caused by the proliferation of organic standards and certification requirements. With IFOAM's leadership, ITF developed a tool to promote the recognition of certification bodies in the course of international trade. The International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies (IROCB) is envisioned as a unifying document for recognition and approval by a government or private approval/accreditation body of certification bodies outside their own system. Certification bodies that can demonstrate compliance with IROCB should therefore be able to be recognized by many oversight bodies worldwide. The ITF also started to develop a guideline for determining equivalence among different organic standards. A first draft of the "EquiTool" was developed and reviewed by ITF at its main meeting in Bali, Indonesia in November, 2007.



ITF Meeting in Bali, November 2007

The SIDA and the NORAD financially supported the ITF in 2007.

IFOAM World Board member Katherine DiMatteo and Otto Schmid from FiBL attended as observers the 35th Meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Labeling (CCFL) from April 30th to May 4th, 2007 in Ottawa, Canada. The CCFL is responsible for the development of the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods.

Membership

Highlights of the Year: E-Voting System in Place and Member Meetings All Around the Globe

By providing a sophisticated web based ballot voting procedure IFOAM increased member involvement and democracy in regard to both standards development and consultations about strategic matters. It has been of utmost importance for IFOAM to include as many member organizations as possible in order to build the platform for exchange and continuous improvement.

IFOAM was present at about 100 events globally in 2007, either represented by staff, World Board members or membership. It is notable that more and more IFOAM members represent IFOAM at international events. At the same time the IFOAM staff and World Board members take the opportunity to meet the membership at special members' meetings at fairs and events. For instance at the BioFach fair in Germany in February 2007 a meeting with the leadership of the IFOAM Internal Bodies and structures took place with the objective to inform and exchange items with relevance for the General Assembly 2008.

Membership Development and Trends

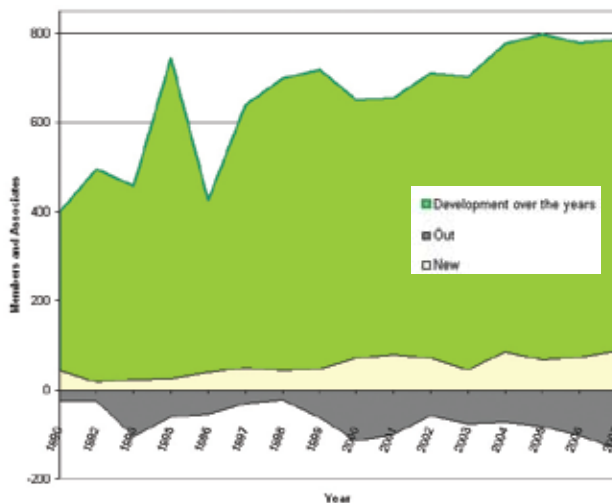
In cooperation with Nürnbergmesse/BioFach a special promotion pamphlet has been developed and distributed to promote IFOAM membership. We hope that as a mid-term perspective new members can be recruited through this activity. For IFOAM it is crucial to better communicate the various membership benefits, both to the membership and the general public. Therefore the Senior Manager of Outreach position has been created in 2007, which will be supported by a new Membership Coordinator to be recruited full-time in 2008. IFOAM counts on a strong membership, who is "Proud to be part". The activities of IFOAM would not happen without the engagement of many members volunteering their time, initiative and skills. The newly created Outreach department will even more support their engagement and will also provide improved benefits and services.

Impact of New Fee Structure

In order to facilitate access to IFOAM membership the membership fees have been significantly reduced for the highest and lowest fee categories at the General Assembly in 2005. The objective for IFOAM was to have an even stronger worldwide impact with a strong membership basis. In 2007, IFOAM attracted roughly 20% more new affiliates than in 2006. This illustrates IFOAM's relevance as global platform and voice for the organic sector. IFOAM's membership is engaged and strong making IFOAM relevant and prominent in the public arena. Despite this fact, the total amount of affiliates in 2007 remained steady due to a lapse in membership by the same amount of new affiliates.

To maintain and increase this strength IFOAM is keen to enlarge its membership, to help spread the Principles of Organic Agriculture globally through 'movers and shakers', new and old, throughout the sector.

At the end of 2007 IFOAM had 661 members and associates.



IFOAM Members and Associates
Development 1990-2007

New Members Joining in 2007

- Upendo Biotechnology Laboratories Co., Ltd China P. R.
- University of Applied Sciences - Faculty Geisenheim - Dept. Organic Viticulture Germany
- Rovies Agricultural Cooperative Greece
- FoodCert India Pvt.Ltd India
- The National Agricultural Development Company Saudi Arabia
- All-Ukrainian Non- Government Organization "Living Planet" Ukraine
- Clearspring Ltd. United Kingdom
- Citromax S.A.C.I. Argentina
- GUCUM Zirai Isletmeleri A.S. Turkey
- Europäisches Bioobst-Forum Austria
- Association Wouol Bérédagougou Burkina Faso
- Psyllakis Family Farm Greece
- Attiki Association of Organic Farmers Markets Greece
- Organization for Certification and Inspection of Agricultural Products Greece
- PLANTRICH India
- Biorigine Life Sciences PVT LTD India
- Olusegun Obasanjo Centre for Organic Research and Development Nigeria
- Rainbow's End Inc. Uruguay
- Albinspekt Albania
- ICEA Albania
- Organic Guide Pty Ltd Australia
- KAMUT Enterprises of Europe bvba Belgium
- Irupana Andean Organic Food S.A. Bolivia
- Business Center Elhovo Bulgaria
- Green Cross Burkina Faso
- Union Biologique Paysanne Canada
- The Living Vine "Organic.Biodynamic.Sustainable" Canada
- Smart Food Box Canada
- Lohao City Organic Market Ltd. China P. R.
- Harbin Organic Island Foodstuffs Co. Ltd. China P. R.
- Beijing Organic & Beyond Corporation China P. R.
- Ecocert Colombia Ltda.
- Tradin Africa Ethiopia
- Finfood- Suomen Ruokatieto ry Finland
- Association of Bio-Dynamic Plant Breeders eV Germany
- Viana/Soyatoo Germany
- Atriplex Rohstoffagentur Ltd. Germany
- Gää Nordost e. V. Germany
- Lehmann Natur GmbH Germany
- Eloc Farms Limited Ghana
- Agro Eco Ghana
- IRIS Organic products' inspection & certification body Greece
- "A Cert" - European Organization for Certification S.A. Greece
- PRASINOS ELEGHOS - GREEN CONTROL -
- Thomas Misailidis OE Inspection and Certification of Organic Products Greece
- Bionics Technology India
- maxEema Biotech Pvt. Ltd. India
- Northeast Natural Products India
- Amit Group of Companies, Spectrum International Pvt Ltd India
- Biomor Israel Israel
- Consorzio Agricoltori Biologici Soc. Coop. Italy
- BRIO S.p.A. Italy
- Organic Africa Consultancy Kenya
- Macedonian Association for Organic Food Macedonia
- Laulanie Green University Madagascar
- Malta Organic Agriculture Movement
- Aires de Campo SA de CV Mexico
- Sociedad Mexicana de Produccion Organica A. C. Mexico
- ICEA Group SRL - Moldova Moldova
- Mongolian Organic Farming Association Mongolia
- Kanchanjanga Tea Estate Nepal
- Broad Initiatives for Negros Development Foundation Inc. Philippines
- Eco Forest SRL Romania
- East Milling S.A. Quality Organic Food & Agriculture Saudi Arabia
- Rainman Landcare Foundation South Africa
- Chonnam National University Environment South Korea
- Friendly Agricultural Products Certification Center South Korea
- SPACE Co. Ltd. South Korea
- Overseas Seafood Operations Switzerland
- Ming Dao University Taiwan
- Tse-Xin Organic Agriculture Foundation Taiwan
- International Foundation of Natural Ecology in Taiwan
- Advanced Green Biotechnology Inc. Taiwan
- Groupement la Ruche-Setrapal Togo
- Organic Federation of Ukraine
- Abu Dhabi Organics United Arab Emirates
- OrganicAssistant.com United Kingdom
- National Association of State Organic Programs United States
- Environmental Care & Share, Inc. United States
- Tradin Organics USA, Inc. United States
- Sleep & Beyond United States
- Seeds of Change United States
- Participatory Ecology Land-Use Management Zambia
- Liban Cert SARL Lebanon
- Nature's International Certification Services United States
- Earthoil Plantation Limited United Kingdom
- XHERDO Ltd. Albania
- Sustainable Agriculture Development Program, Nepal
- OneCert, Inc. United States

Funding and Resources

In 2007 IFOAM continued to recover from the financial shortages experienced in 2004 and 2005. Fundraising and financial development of IFOAM remain a major priority. In 2007 the work to establish the Organic World Foundation began. The Foundation is intended to help fund IFOAM's work. This is a mid- to long-term financial strategy with the first donation to IFOAM projected for 2009.

In 2007 IFOAM continued to experience decreased income from membership fees. While income from other source was slightly less than in 2006, operational expenditures were also less. Through tight spending at the IFOAM Head Office and generous donations from IFOAM members, 2007 ended with a positive result of 82.000€. This result is being allocated to reserves. These reserve funds will be essential in helping IFOAM bridge funding for key staff positions and projects in the beginning of 2009 when funding from several projects end, including for the I-GO program funded by Hivos.

Table 1: IFOAM Income Statement (Euros x 1000)

	Audited 2005	Audited 2006	Audited 2007
Income			
Project Income	757	1,103	1,378
Membership Fees	345	300	281
Other Income	238	405	310
	1,340	1,808	1,969
Expenditures			
Operational	908	923	768
Project Expenses	528	850	1,119
	1,436	1,773	1,887
Net Result	-96	35	82
Allocation to Appropriated Reserves	0	0	80
Result After Allocation to Appropriated Reserves	-96	35	2

(Rounding differences +/-1 within the calculations may occur)

Table 2: IFOAM Year End Balance Sheet (Euros x 1000)

	Audited 2005	Audited 2006	Audited 2007
Assets			
Bankaccounts	638	635	450
Member Fee dues	25	9	1
Financial Assets	2	2	2
Assets (Equipment + software)	17	18	13
Other current assets	98	153	223
Trading stock	7	7	7
Total Assets	786	823	696
Liabilities			
Accrued liabilities	85	31	32
Accounts payable	119	235	303
Other liabilities	10	10	11
Project Funds	570	509	231
Equity	98	3	38
Appropriated reserves	0	0	0
Profit/Loss	-96	36	82
Total Liabilities	786	823	696

(Rounding differences +/-1 within the calculations may occur)

Publications

Global Organic Farming: Continued Growth, IFOAM, FiBL and SÖL Presented New Facts and Figures About the Organic Sector at BioFach 2008



IFOAM, FiBL and the Foundation Ecology and Agriculture (SÖL) presented the latest statistics about Organic Agriculture worldwide at BioFach 2008. The results of this year's study, titled "The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2008", had been presented at the world's largest trade fair for organic products on Friday, February 22nd, 2008.

The study shows that 30.4 million hectares are currently certified according to organic standards (data as at the end of 2006). Australia continues to account for the largest certified organic surface area, with 12.3 million hectares, followed by China (2.3 million hectares), Argentina (2.2 million hectares) and the USA (1.6 million hectares). The greatest share of global organic surface area is in Oceania/Australia (42%), followed by Europe (24%) and Latin America (16%). In terms of certified land under organic management as a proportion of national agricultural area, the Alpine countries, such as Austria (13%, 361,487 hectares) and Switzerland (12%, 125,596 hectares), top the statistics. Compared to the adjusted data of the previous

survey, the global organic area grew by approximately 1.8 million hectares during 2006. Growth was strongest in Oceania/Australia (more than 600,000 hectares) and Europe (more than 500,000 hectares). From the first figures available for 2007, Helga Willer of FiBL expects that the area under organic management has continued to grow.

The global market for organic products reached a value of 38.6 billion US Dollars in 2006, with the vast majority of products being consumed in North America and Europe, according to *Organic Monitor*. This constitutes a growth of five billion US Dollars compared to the 2005 data. Healthy growth rates are expected to continue in the coming years. Angela Caudle de Freitas, IFOAM Executive Director, suggests that the ever-growing demand for organic products offers attractive opportunities for producers – especially those in developing countries. Performance of the global survey and production of the yearbook has been supported by NürnbergMesse since 2000. Starting in 2008, support is now also being provided by the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO), Berne/Switzerland, within the framework of its support activities for organic production in developing countries and by the International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva/Switzerland, which has joined the survey as a partner. The global survey on organic farming and the publication of the yearbook have been carried out jointly by IFOAM, FiBL and SÖL since 2000.

Other Publications in 2007 (see Bookstore on Our Website)



- Organic Agriculture Worldwide: Directory of IFOAM Member Organization and Associates 2007
- The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2007
- The Principle of Organic Agriculture, several language versions
- IFOAM in Action (free download through MembersWeb)
- Insider (free download through MembersWeb)
- Ecology & Farming (changed from print version to online magazine)
- Leaflets (free downloads through Organic Facts)
- Organic Agriculture's Role in Combating Desertification
- Organic Agriculture and Participatory Guarantee Systems/Marketing Support for Organic Smallholders
- Organic Agriculture and Seed Diversity
- Organic Agriculture and Human Health
- Organic Agriculture and Food Security
- Organic Agriculture and Rural Development
- Flyer: Training Platform

Human Resources



The IFOAM Staff

IFOAM Offers Its Special Appreciation to the Dedicated Interns and Fellows at the Head Office in 2007

Laura Batlle, Spain
Luis Massucati, Brazil
Giacomo Zanella, Italy
Somdy Bounduangchanh, Laos
Masaya Koriyama, Japan
Wenpeng You, China
Elin H. Sikkeland, Norway
Mathieu Courgeau, France
Demeteris Hale, USA (Rome office)

Staff Development

IFOAM is proud of its enthusiastic Head Office team. Despite the fact that at the end of 2007 lots of positions had to be filled due to replacements and the ongoing restructuring to focus IFOAM more on advocacy and outreach, the team has been successfully engaged in the organization of the 1st IFOAM conference on Organic and Regional Values, a variety of international projects and publications, the preparation of the Organic World Congress and General Assembly in 2008, etc.

In 2007 the agreement with Patricia Flores was signed to represent IFOAM in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As Senior Manager of Outreach Ms. Anita Deppe was hired. She contributes among other 20 years of media and communication work experience in Africa to the IFOAM team. Under her guidance the new outreach department will be designed early 2008.

IFOAM Head Office Staff as per 31 December 2007

ANGELA CAUDLE DE FREITAS, Executive Director
ANNE BOOR, International Projects Manager
HERVE BOUAGNIMBECK, Africa Office Coordinator
DIANE BOWEN, Organic Guarantee System (OGS) Manager
CHRISTIANA CHRISTEN, Personal Assistant to the Executive Director
THOMAS CIERPKA, Director of Member Relations & Human Resources
MARTIN EIMER, International Projects Coordinator
MONIQUE FUHRMANN, Finance & Accounts Manager
CRISTINA GRANDI, Liaison Officer to FAO and IFAD
GABRIELE HOLTSMANN, Member Relations & Events Coordinator
JOELLE KATTO-ANDRIGHETTO, International Projects Coordinator
LOUISE LUTTIKHOLT, Strategic Relations Manager
LUIS MALO PENICHE, Strategic Relations Trainee
RANDOLPH MORAWE, Information Technology Officer
KATHARINA PFUNDT, Organic Guarantee System (OGS) Coordinator
NINA POLSKICH, Office Communication Apprentice
ANGELA ROTT, Office Coordinator
ELENA MÜLLER, Bookkeeper & Administration Apprentice
NEIL SORENSEN, Communications & Events Manager

Our Funders






In 2007, foundations and development investment in IFOAM amounted to 56% of the annual budget, enabling the continuation of projects and programs. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our 2007 institutional donors. From the members and staff of IFOAM, thank you.

Programs and projects at IFOAM would not be possible without the generous investment of institutional donors. The expansion of institutional support from foundations, corporations and government agencies is crucial in enabling IFOAM to meet the growing needs of the continually expanding organic sector and to enable IFOAM to pursue its mission and achieve its goal.

Thank you to our 2007 funders for their generous investment in IFOAM and the development of the organic sector.

We would also like to thank the many generous donors that supported us through the past years. Without your direct financial contributions to IFOAM and your participation at IFOAM conferences, we would not have been able to achieve a positive result.

We are also very grateful for the support in kind provided by Rapunzel, Lebensbaum, Laverana, FiBL, and City of Bonn.

	BMELV Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (Germany)
	CFC Common Fund for Commodities (Netherlands)
	EVS European Voluntary Service
	HIVOS Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Netherlands)
	IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
	NORAD Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norway)
	novib-oxfam Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation Agency (Netherlands)
	RSF Rudolf-Steiner-Foundation (USA)
	Schweisfurth Stiftung (Germany)
	software AG – Foundation (Germany)
	SIDA Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sweden)

