

## IFOAM – your global voice of organic

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#### Abstract

IFOAM represents the interests of the Organic Agriculture sector internationally. IFOAM is **the only worldwide umbrella organization** and among others responsible for the creation and revision of the International Organic Norms. IFOAM plays a leading role in the social and political development of Organic Agriculture worldwide.

**IFOAM is your voice.** IFOAM represents the organic movement at international policy making forum IFOAM has, among others, official status with FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNCCD, Codex Alimentarius and ISO.

**Capacity building for small farmers:** IFOAM is involved in several projects and publications relevant also for the farming community: New Training Manuals for Organic Agriculture in various vegetation zones and the IFOAM Internet Training Platform. We work on the Participatory Guarantee Systems and the Group Certification/ Internal Control Systems for small farmer groups. Access to knowledge and capacity building is one of the critical factors for the further development of Organic Agriculture especially in Developing Countries.

We have **established the Organic Guarantee System (OGS)** as a private sector global organic guarantee for integrity. The OGS unites the organic world through a common system of standards, verification, and market identity. It fosters equivalence among participating certifiers, paving the way for more orderly and reliable trade.

However, in a world with about 60 governmental regulations in place, harmonization, in order to achieve equivalence of private and governmental systems, is key for facilitation global organic trade. Together with FAO and UNCTAD IFOAM is leading the international task force for Harmonization and Equivalence in the organic sector.

Supporting the organic world and **defending the principle of organic agriculture** is in a nutshell IFOAMs role in the world. The Principles of Organic Agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity. They guide IFOAM's development of positions, programs and standards. Furthermore, they are presented with a vision of their worldwide adoption.

Organic Agriculture is based on:

#### **Principle of health**

Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

#### **Principle of ecology**

Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

#### **Principle of fairness**

Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

#### **Principle of care**

Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Come to our 45 minutes long session and learn more about IFOAM. In the same session you can also meet IFOAMs executive director Angela B. Caudle de Freitas, members of the World Board and representatives from IFOAMs different structures.

**Be part of the solution – join IFOAM.**

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