

## **Organic Agriculture and Social Justice – Open Forum for Discussion and Action Planning**

**Saturday, June 21, 2008**

*Location:* Modena

Pages and books can be filled about the underlying principles of organic agriculture, how they have guided its evolution and development into a myriad of organic agriculture production systems which reflect the ethical, ecological and economical values and concerns towards a sustainable development. To further strengthen the conceptual and practical work of the international organic movement IFOAM'S active membership has developed the four principles of organic agriculture which are guiding our work since 2005, namely the principles of health, ecology, care and fairness.

Social Justice plays an important role in organic agriculture. In the program of the IFOAM Organic World Congress a whole day is dedicated to present examples of social justice related topics in organic agriculture and how organic agriculture deals with international cooperation, fairtrade, socio economic impacts, ethical trade, standards and other topics. It is the wish of the Program Steering Committee and many contributors to this module to provide for an open space and time to discuss theories and strategies in the context of social justice and social farming.

The preparation of this Open Forum will be done based on the outcomes and recommendations of the Social Justice Module during which propositions, ideas and recommendations for strategies and networking possibilities to strengthen the organic movement's actions can be put forward by any author or participant. Anybody is invited to participate in this process with separate written contributions and by participating in the Saturday session. The aim of this Open Forum Session is to critically analyse the different theories and strategies, to find ways of networking and strengthening the organic movement rather than to establish a wish list geared towards the GA of IFOAM which is taking place right after the OWC. We are proposing to make use of the OWC as a platform of exchange of ideas and experiences leading to new insights and strategies as the active members worldwide are the source of inspiration and diversity leading the way to the worldwide adaption of organic agriculture.