

Call for papers

Deadline for answer: **October 15th 2007**

International scientific and professional conference

Organic agriculture and climate change

The contribution that Organic agriculture and our dietary choices can make to the mitigation of global warming

April 17th – 18th 2008

ENITA Clermont-Ferrand, Lempdes, France

The reality of climate change due to human activities and its consequences in terms of climatic accidents, reduction of biodiversity, sanitary risks, etc., are now admitted by everybody. It is thought that carbon dioxide released during fossil fuel combustion (oil, natural gas, coal) is the foremost factor.

The part played by two other gasses, methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) has however been underestimated: both are implicated, in France, for about 26% of the greenhouse effect. Agriculture is the main source of these two gasses. Methane output comes from the digestive tract of ruminant animals and from the fermentation of effluents from livestock (manure, slurry, compost). Nitrous oxide comes mainly from the soils (denitrification) and to a lesser extent from livestock effluents. Agriculture contributes up to 19% to the greenhouse effect in France (CITEPA). If we include upstream and downstream activities, we can reach 30%. Worldwide, agriculture also contributes to about 30% of global warming. For farmers and consumers who choose organic agriculture or its products, these facts raise three questions: To what extent does the practice of organic farming reduce this impact? ; What can be changed in organic farming techniques and in our food habits that would further reduce this impact? ; What impact will climate change have on organic farming?

The aims of this international scientific and professional conference are: to gather a certain number of experts, to evaluate the state of the art, to discern verified results based on recognised aspects, on an international scale, to shed light on possible strategies for action at the level of decision-makers, farmers, food-processing industries and consumers. This conference will help make people aware of the consequences of our choices and of our ways of life, on a local scale as well as on the global scale. It will be a footbridge between the researchers' results and the people likely to put this knowledge into practice . Of course, this conference does not pretend to bring definitive answers to these questions. Many factors remain unknown in this field.

This international conference will be the first European scientific meeting devoted to the impact of agricultural techniques and food habits on climate change.

This meeting is simultaneously organized by several partners working in the field of organic agriculture.

- The initiative was taken by AsAFI (Association of the French Members of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements)) during the General Assembly of IFOAM in Adélaïde in September 2005. This initiative has the support of the world secretariat of IFOAM in Bonn.
- ENITA Clermont (National College of Higher Education specialized in agricultural engineering) of Clermont-Ferrand, has been working on organic agriculture for over ten years. "ABioDoc", the National organic agriculture documentation centre, which belongs to the French Ministry of Agriculture, and is part of ENITA-Clermont, is closely involved in the organisation process, www.enitac.fr and www.abiodoc.com.
- ITAB (Technical Institute of Organic Agriculture) and its network (GRAB Avignon and Pôle scientifique Bio of the Massif Central research group for Organic agriculture). ITAB has the responsibility for coordinating and attracting interest in French research on Organic farming, www.itab.asso.fr.

INRA- CIAB¹ (the internal committee for Organic agriculture of the national agronomic research institute) is involved, through some of its researchers in organic agriculture and in climate change. It is therefore an essential partner for this meeting, www.inra.fr.

¹ CIAB is a multidisciplinary network of researchers, within INRA, whose aim is to develop and promote organic agriculture

Draft Program

April 17th, 2008

09:00 – 09:10	Conference opening and keynote speeches
09:10 – 10:30	Agriculture and the greenhouse effect, an overview
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Contribution of organic agriculture to greenhouse effect, an overview
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:00	Poster session
15:00 – 19:00	The ability of organic agriculture to limit the contribution of agriculture to the greenhouse effect
19:30 – 22:00	Diner

April, 18th 2008

08:30 – 10:00	Food habits: what impact on the greenhouse effect?
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 13:00	Adaptation and vulnerability of organic agriculture to global warming
14:15 – 15:00	Poster session
15:00 – 16:30	Round table :
16:30 – 17:00	Synthesis and conclusion of the conference
17:00	End of the conference

Will notably participate to this conference the following invited speakers :

- Jorgen Olesen , DIAS (Danish Institut of Agriculture Science), Danemark
- Niels Halsberg, DIAS (Danish Institut of Agriculture Science), Danemark
- Andreas Fliessbach, FiBL (Forschungsinstitut für Biologischen Landbau), Suisse
- Paul Hepperly, Rodale Institute, Etats-Unis
- Jean-François Soussana, INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), France
- Bernard Seguin, INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), France

Submission of presentations: themes

The programme of the conference will examine the following themes:

1- Contribution of organic agriculture to greenhouse effect, an overview

- Energy production and consumption
- CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O emissions
- Carbon sequestration

2- The ability of organic agriculture to limit the contribution of agriculture to the greenhouse effect

- Modifications of production systems and techniques aimed at mitigating the impact of organic agriculture on global warming

3- Food habits: what impact on the greenhouse effect?

- Choice of protein sources
- Geographic origin of foods and types of distribution networks
- Impact of the food processing industry (and packaging)

4- Adaptation and vulnerability of organic agriculture to global warming

- Sensitivity of biological systems to climatic hazards
- Possible changes in order to adapt to climatic change

You are also welcome to submit presentations that are not specific to Organic agriculture but could contribute to discussion of the conference theme.

Submission

Languages of written presentations: French and English

Proposed presentations shall be submitted in the form of **summaries (1 page maximum)**; they shall be addressed to the organizing committee before **October 15th 2007** in electronic version to: **colloquebio08@enitac.fr**

The summary shall be presented as follows:

- 1) Identification : would you please precise on the top of the page :
 - title of the theme you ask for your proposed presentations
 - which kind of proposed presentations : oral or poster
 - name(s), forename(s), institution(s) in full, telephone, fax, electronic mail address of the author(s) indicating, if appropriate, the contact person
- 2) Guidelines
 - Format Word 2000 for PC
 - 1 page maximum (including any illustrations)
 - Arial (10 point)
 - Simple spacing
 - Bibliography
 - Key words (5 maximum)

Evaluation

The summaries will be evaluated by the scientific committee.

The authors will be informed by post and by e-mail by **November 23rd 2007** about whether their contribution is accepted.

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• **Scientific committee**

Claude Aubert (AsAFI, former director of Terre Vivante)
Marc Benoit (INRA Clermont - CIAB)
Michel Bouilhol (ENITAC)
Mathieu Capitaine (ENITAC)
Eric Dufour (ENITAC)
Andreas Fliessbach (FiBL, CH)
Sylvie Hacala (Institut de l'Elevage)
Anne Haegelin (Pôle Scientifique Bio Massif Central)
Jérôme Mousset (ADEME)
Bernard Seguin (INRA Avignon)
Jean-François Soussana (INRA Clermont - Crouël)
Bruno Taupier-Letage (ITAB)
Sophie Valleix (ENITAC- ABioDoc)
François Warlop (GRAB Avignon, ITAB)

• **Organizing committee**

Claude Aubert (AsAFI, former director of Terre Vivante)
Nicole Fayette (Nature & Progrès)
Krotoum Konate (ITAB)
François Le Lagadec (AsAFI, IBB)
Sophie Valleix (ENITA - ABioDoc)
François Warlop (GRAB Avignon, ITAB)

_____ **Conference secretary**

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AsAFI

Association des Adhérents
Français d'IFOAM

