

## **Recommendations from the Third International IFOAM Conference on Biodiversity and Organic Agriculture**

**September 24-26, 2004  
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### ▪ **Building Relationships and Policies**

- ✓ IFOAM members should seek to form partnerships around shared concerns with local conservation and consumer groups
- ✓ IFOAM and partners to promote organic agriculture to governments not just as an export crop, but as a tool for food security and biodiversity conservation
- ✓ IFOAM should work with partners to support IUCN, UNEP and other conservation organisations to lobby for international and national policies and targets (i.e. 2010 biodiversity goal, MDG and agricultural assessment) to include biodiversity and organic agriculture
- ✓ IFOAM, IUCN and UNEP to support members to work with environment ministries to include organic farming in their national biodiversity plans
- ✓ IUCN and their members, with IFOAM support, to encourage discussions with national park authorities to promote organic farming in protected areas (where appropriate) and buffer zones
- ✓ UNEP, IUCN and IFOAM to encourage donors to include biodiversity elements in their project proposals and to fund projects on organic farming and biodiversity

### ▪ **Research**

- ✓ IFOAM, IUCN and their members to use existing research results to develop evidence-based packages to convince others that organic agriculture should become the base-line standard for biodiversity friendly farming
- ✓ In order to further investigate and exploit the potential biodiversity benefits of organic farming:
  - ✓ FAO, UNEP and research institutions to develop and disseminate long-term data sets on organic farming and biodiversity
  - ✓ FAO, UNEP and research institutions to investigate the role of organic farming in halting biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, particularly in third world countries
- ✓ In order to further enhance the ability of organic farming to deliver biodiversity friendly farming
  - ✓ Research institutes should be encourage to identify and develop breeds with the potential to perform well in local conditions
  - ✓ IFOAM and partners to research consumer food buying preferences and organic food characteristics in order to further develop markets
  - ✓ Research institutes should be encourage to identify and develop enhanced parasite control strategies for animals
  - ✓ Research institutes should be encourage to identify and develop predator friendly protection strategies for livestock

### ▪ **Promoting Markets for Biodiversity**

- ✓ IFOAM, UNEP, FAO, UNCTAD and partners to further promote and develop markets for organic products, particular small holders, such as local alternative distribution systems (i.e. box schemes, farmers markets)

- ✓ IFOAM and partners to further promote biodiversity aspects of organic agriculture to consumers
- ✓ IFOAM and partners to lobby for changes in policy incentives for the private sector to participate in environment protection
- **Promoting Biodiversity: Outreach**
  - ✓ IFOAM, IUCN and their members to develop a media plan to raise awareness of organic agriculture's benefits to biodiversity and thus help create markets
  - ✓ IFOAM, IFOAM members, NGOs and research and extension organisations to highlight biodiversity services to farmers
  - ✓ IFOAM, IFOAM members and conservation organisations to promote exchanges of successful biodiversity farming examples among farmers and technicians
  - ✓ IFOAM and its members to encourage organic farmers to apply for biodiversity awards and to encourage development of local awards for best practice
- **Promoting Biodiversity: Standards**
  - ✓ IFOAM should develop organic standards that are process orientated (i.e. farm plans) to promote biodiversity and to exclude activities that are detrimental to biodiversity conservation
  - ✓ IFOAM, FAO, IUCN and their members should be a platform for the harmonisation of biodiversity standards
  - ✓ IFOAM members should work with local conservation NGOs to raise awareness of biodiversity standards with certification bodies, farmers and consumers (i.e. demonstration farms exhibiting best practice farm plans, farmers groups to exchanging experiences)
  - ✓ IFOAM should investigate standards for organically certified wild-crafting
  - ✓ IFOAM should investigate standards for organically certified pastoralism
- **GMOs**
  - ✓ UNEP and partners to support the establishment of GMO free countries, counties and municipalities
  - ✓ UNEP and partners to encourage countries to develop more information and awareness, for farmers and consumers, through registering GMO production areas and labelling GMO products
  - ✓ IFOAM to lobby for authoritative scientific reports on the economic, social and environmental problems associated with GMOs, specifically relating to organic agriculture
  - ✓ IUCN and UNEP to encourage further research on the effects and potential effects of GMOs on biodiversity, and ensure that protected areas are free from GMOs
  - ✓ Legal actions:
    - ✓ IFOAM and UNEP and partners to lobby governments to use the legal frameworks developed under the CBD and Cartagena Protocol to develop bio-safety laws at the national level
    - ✓ UNEP and partners to call on governments to implement existing laws on GMOs in favour of farmers and consumers instead of the GMO companies
    - ✓ Governments to be called on to place a moratorium on GMOs until legal frameworks are in place
  - ✓ UNEP and governments to support the use of local seed varieties and to ensure GMO free seed

▪ **Capital Investment**

- ✓ FAO, UNEP, IUCN, IFOAM and partners to lobby for the polluter-pays-principle for agricultural producers
- ✓ UNEP, FAO, IUCN, UNCTAD, IFOAM and partners to lobby governments to evaluate the impact of subsidies and significantly increase the support for organic agricultural development in the south
- ✓ IFOAM, UNCTAD and partners to support ways to develop finances for developing alternative supply chains (e.g. credit)
- ✓ IFOAM and partners to identify ways to reduce, or compensate for, certification costs (i.e. group certification)