

World Board Motion on Principles of Organic Agriculture

For the IFOAM General Assembly September 2005

Rationale:

IFOAM publishes the Principal Aims of Organic Production and Processing in the IFOAM Basic Standards, where they historically served as an introduction to the IBS. Their purpose was to clarify the principles and ideas of organic agriculture and were directly connected to the Standards. Over time they were changed as the standards extended to new areas such as processing, aquaculture, and textiles.

The membership discussed the IBS revision procedure during IFOAM's General Assembly in Victoria, Canada, 2002 and passed a motion that stated 'Any change in the basic principles (section B.1) would have to be approved by the GA'. This amendment was taken as the occasion to revise the principles and have them approved by the GA.

In its meeting March 2003 the World Board formulated IFOAM's mission to refer to the Principles of Organic Agriculture. The IFOAM World Board formed a Task Force and Consultative Group to work on the revision of the Principles. Membership and external stakeholders were involved and consulted on the draft in January 2005. The process on principles has been presented and discussed at several occasions in and outside the organic movement over the past one and a half year. The process has been transparent and participatory.

With approving the Principles of Organic Agriculture, the Principal Aims of Organic Production and Processing (section B.1) are taken out of the IFOAM Basic Standards.

The World Board is committed to phrase a definition of Organic Agriculture based on the Principles.

Motion from the World Board:

The General Assembly adopts the Principles of Organic Agriculture.

Please note:

Any amendments to the proposed Principles of Organic Agriculture can only be submitted through the Motion Bazaar process during the General Assembly. The objective of the Motion Bazaar is to provide for (informal) discussion of key motions ahead of the formal voting, and to reduce the amount of discussion and time spent for voting.

The Motion Bazaar provides for the opportunity to get additional information on the process so far and the reasoning and arguments of the Task Force on Principles. The members of the Task Force on Principles will be present to listen to and discuss with IFOAM members.

The whole process on the review of the Principles of Organic Agriculture, including questionnaires, drafts, feedback and minutes of Task Force meetings, appears on the IFOAM website.