

## Feedback on 4<sup>th</sup> request for input POA review:

### Internal Stakeholders:

39 reactions

3 reports of meetings (WB meeting, Asilomar and Biofach)

6 Revision related inputs incl ppt presentation (EU project)

1 ppt presentation on meaning of OA in Africa

Africa: 3

Asia: 8

Latin America: 5

Europe: 17

North America: 3

IFOAM World Board

IFOAM staff: 2

1. Do the proposed principles presented reflect the values of organic agriculture? If not, are there values or principles that are missing or some that could be removed?

Yes: iiiiiiiiii

The principle 'to feed humanity with this way of production' is missing

Miss the consumer focus

Local markets / accessibility is not a subset of other principles (not clear).

Role of ethics and animals needs to be emphasized, stronger through the whole text.

Miss a description of the value of diversified farming systems.

Miss a principle on energy conservation or recycling

Add the 'principle which designates natural laws as the norm' –mankind should respect nature and live in harmony with nature.

2. Do you think that the proposed principles are universally applicable and take into account regional variation?

Yes: iiiiiiiiii

Too lofty in situations of poverty or underdevelopment, seem to be associated with stability and peace, which does not count for many parts in the world.

Is something to be taken into account to a larger extent, namely allow for greater flexibility in standards due to differences in climate, culture etc. etc

Take out principle of care and add 'ethical principle': OA must lead to behavior change of those who practice it. OA is to be presented as an opportunity to adjust our actual courage to others that allow harmonious relations with the common environment.

Too theoretical

3. The feedback on the first questionnaire suggested that principles should be formulated in a normative way. However some members of the consultative group questioned the use of the word 'should'. The Task Force solicits for ideas on a different kind of wording that is as strongly normative as 'should', but otherwise formulated.

It is not OA that 'should' but industrial agriculture

A good formulation to lead us the way  
Disrecognizes what has been accomplished  
Ignores agricultural systems of native /indigenous communities and cultures  
'Is to be'  
'Shall be'  
'Has to be'  
'Must be'  
'Must'  
'Will have to' 'tendra que'  
'Should' is OK  
'To strive'  
'To work towards'  
They are principles and not standards, so 'should' is fine  
To set as a goal to'  
Several terms can be used (alternating in the doc)  
If we say 'OA should be' it seems to show some uncertainty  
I cannot think of another way to formulate them  
Would prefer 'is', however 'should' seems to be the best. We are not yet there, OA needs improvement, the 'should' encourages that.  
First describe the value and then the consequences: 'therefore ....must...'  
'Can'

#### 4. Do you have any suggestions on the wording of the preamble?

We do not create principles, but we 'identify' or 'recognize' them  
'Principles have been described'  
'OA is and shall be based on four primary principles'  
Make clearer what the role of the principles is  
Role of the principles is to show the balance between conflicts  
'The roots from which OA has grown and will develop'  
'All principles are interdependent. Together they inspire action to realize their vision'  
'Normative' is a difficult word. To be replaced by 'intentions'  
'Agriculture is humankind's most basic activity'  
'Legacy' might not be a common word  
The way humans interact with water and air is missing  
'What we eat, wear and dwell in'  
'They are formulated and published to share with all stakeholder and partner the key components of our movement'  
'We' is confusing, does not always refer to same group of people  
'Agriculture is embedded in history, culture and community values' (other way round than formulated in current draft)  
'Utilize or manage wetlands'  
Delete the sentence 'because we need to nourish ourselves daily', reason for agriculture most basic activities is even broader.  
'Environment' in stead of 'soil' in the second paragraph  
Is there an order of importance?  
It does not express the contribution of OA to the world  
Rename the principles to 'principles of organic production' to better include the whole production chain.

'Production' or 'agriculture'? Production sounds too technical, however principles should include the whole chain.

What is 'give guidance' exactly?

Make clear it is not only about certified (see IFOAM's position on the cull diversity of organic agriculture – what we call organic)

Include an evolutionary approach of agriculture and of human beings.

Wording is static and little dynamic.

5. Do you have any suggestions on wording and language? Are the principles and the explanations that belong to them easily to be translated in your language?

Principle of fairness and principle of care are not as good formulated as the first two.

'Care' is hard to translate. Prefer precaution (exercise of precaution is an exercise of human sovereignty)

'Whole / health' reference in the text only counts in English

Language should be alive and open to dynamics

The text does not make a simple reading; explanations and details make it difficult to translate.

We urge you to use active sentences.

Grammatical

Difficult to translate, even in English it should be possible to find words that are more common

The principles should be described positively, without references to what they should not be.

'Mental health' has different meaning and connotations in different languages

Female form of 'workers', 'producers' etc possible?

In a lot of languages 'farming' is only related to crops, animals are not included in this notion.

Suggestion: 'farm and animal husbandry'

Farming is synonymous with agriculture. Farming could be replaced by 'production and harvesting'.

Use 'people' instead of 'human(s)'

Use of words like 'they' and 'it': sometimes hard to find out where these words refer to.

Too academic wording now, needs simplification

6. Do the proposed principles and explanations address 'soil,' 'animal welfare' and 'biodiversity' in a satisfying way? Do 'soil' and / or 'animal welfare' deserve a separate principle? If you think so, please suggest some motivation, formulation and explanation of the new principle.

Yes: iiiiii

They do not need a separate principle, they are results or effects but OA has many positive side effects, cannot name them all

Animals are closely related to humans and biodiversity is an important aspect of ecological cycles and health

Animal welfare and soil deserve and own principle, as the role of animals has been neglected.

Animal welfare is covered adequately.

Emphasis on soil seems to have been lost

Biodiversity is mentioned only in the negative

Animal welfare could be stressed more / more prominent– mention it in the text where it can be 'lifted up'

Animal husbandry should be made more important

Biodiversity is not given enough attention

7. Do you think that the principle of fairness rightly addresses the responsibility of Organic Agriculture's in the world? Does the proposed statement make claims and imply obligations that are beyond the control of the Organic Agriculture Movements?

Yes: iiiii

This principles is difficult to achieve, depends on things outside the OA movement.

It is complemented by the Principle of care and so it is OK

Economic aspects are not clearly highlighted

Statement makes claims and implies obligations, which are within the periview or OA movements.

8. *Repeated request from the first questionnaire:* Do you have any visualization / materialization (e.g. a photo, art, a poem, a music composition) that expresses for you the Principles of Organic Agriculture? You are invited to share them with the Task Force! Could you articulate in one sentence the relationship of this photo, painting etc. with the Principles of Organic Agriculture? At the coming General Assembly space will be provided to exhibit all these visualizations.

In the Hindu religion there is no distinction between the sacred and the profane and all the principles of organic agriculture are nurtured through religious beliefs.

We respect our land to achieve the best fruit

9. Any other comments.

Nice piece of work

Well-done job

Formulated now they are too general

Need for provisional sub clauses

Strategies to reach there? Roadmap

In addition we might need shorter sentences to clarify and make statements on each principle area

Need for a definition of OA

It is good to have a horizon

Implicit conflict in the sector: 'staying a small niche' and 'changing the world' → what is the mandate for change.

The text as such is not open, but self-referential. How do new 'surprises' fit in?

Important work, needed to advance on legal level and on the commercial level.

Character of principles is that they are never to be fully implemented

Relation work TF and input consultative group is unclear

Principles are too far from the 'human scale'

Current Principal Aims for another 3 years, the proposed principles are no improvement

Are they convincing enough? Can we communicate them to others?

Are they values or are they principles?

Relation to spirituality is not clear in text, however exists in reality.

'Air' should not be left out

Important that IFOAM establishes these principles as separate from the norms

I miss the word 'common sense'

Principles are a tool for the harmonization between standards

Should not be requirement, but goals to be achieved.

Not written exclusively applicable to organic production, however it is important to emphasis what is typically organic.

Processing to be written in a more positive wording, state what is should be, not what is not should be.

Miss something on the productivity aspect of organic agriculture as a holistic system.

Miss contributions to carbon sequestration

Processing, trade and consuming should get attention as well

### **Principles of Health:**

Soil is of main importance

'Organic Agriculture sustains and enhances the health of edaphic (soil), Aquatic (water) and aerial (air) environments, plants, animals and humans as one, complementary and indivisible'

health of ecosystems

Health is the maintenance of harmony between all factors involved in the well-being of organisms.

'Continual process in which materials are accumulated'

health for everybody / everything

Add animals

Healthy soils produce healthy crops and foster the health of the animals and humans that eat those crops.

Organic husbandry allows animals to satisfy their natural behavior patterns, provides preventative health care benefits and answers the consumer expectation of humane animal care. {This is our old chestnut, the one real orthodoxy in organic agriculture. Let's feature it in our principles!}

Family well-being

Include 'water'

Human beings = people

Health is not a process

Add prevention 'Prevention, mutuality, resilience .....

'Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of ecosystems including human beings, in its entirety / wholeness

Add nutritional aspect

Add concepts 'shindo-fuji' (body and earth in one) and 'Tekichi-tekisaku' (right land for right crop)

### **Ecological Principle:**

The principle of ecological sustainability ii

The Principle of Ecology (now the name seems to be a different 'sort')

Pastoral systems to be included

'Non-organic external inputs' in stead of 'external inputs'

Include '(agro) biodiversity is essential for the evolution of life'

It must encourage biodiversity on actively managed land and in the surrounding ecosystem {This is a good place to mention biodiversity!}

This principle is the basic one and should be mentioned first

Air should be included

Remove reference to external inputs and replace by 'with and emphasis on recycling'

'Landscapes' 'habitats' in stead of 'landscape' and 'habitat'

OA is more than adopted to systems and cycles. Role of organisms.

'.. And help them sustain' in stead of '...and help sustain them'

Wild harvesting is not production in the true sense

'.....living systems or life support systems, including those which exist outside of its production areas.'

Include a positive reference to biodiversity

Include a humble statement that we have an incomplete understanding of ecosystems and coexistence of organisms.

Statement lacks substance, change into something more concrete.

It is hard to draw a line for what is exploitative; all farming is in a way.

Nature has a value in itself, as well as interdependency of all organisms

Farm animals to be included in this principle.

Petroleum age comes to an end

### **Principle of Fairness:**

Notion of 'livelihood' needs to be added

Principle of respect

Principle of fairness and solidarity

Too much a compromise between animal welfare and social justice

Should be earth centered

Production system not be 'constrained' by animal needs, however 'designed' or take into account 'Tailored to'

If we constrain the production system by their needs, we will never eat a steak of an egg.

Innate nature of plants

'rights ... are temporary' → take care with formulation

Reality of the market place

Conflict values of OA and subsidies

Relation fair trade and subsidies?

'Fairness requires systems of production, distribution and trade that are open, equitable, transparent and participatory, and the participation or representation of all stakeholders'

'Organic agriculture should adhere to high standards of responsible care for the common resources of the planet and oppose the private ownership of living organisms.' {We must take a stand against the patenting of living organisms!}

'Since the real environmental costs of producing, distributing and marketing food are unknown and hidden to consumers, organic agriculture should take the lead in demonstrating that these true costs can be accounted for and made transparent. (This is very important and deserves a paragraph to itself!).'

'This principle supports the right of peoples and nations to an adequate supply of food, to community food security, and to food sovereignty. ({We need to be clear about the political implications of this principle.})'

Problematic to handle this principle with no distinction between human- human relations and human – animal relations.

At the end we do kill the animals, this is NOT in accordance with their physiology.

What about learned behavioral needs? (as important as innate)

Should count as well for control and certification bodies (they should be fair)

'rights and ownership are temporary' is contradictory to private property and contemporary society, however important to mention it

Physiology and innate behavioral characteristics of plants?

'Animal' is (in Japan) used to connote all living organisms including bacteria and plants

Economical aspect for small farmers is important

Personal development could be added

Delete last sentence paragraph 2 and last sentence paragraph 3, as these express practical or political actions and not a principle.

Fairness should only deal with human beings.

Trade must not be carried out to the disadvantage of local agrarian systems.

Enough food for all

### **Principle of Care:**

Too loose as a notion

Too vague a word

Include ' biodiversity and cultural diversity are essential'

Not the right title

Principle of precaution and responsibility

Principle of responsibility

Principle of sustainability

‘Care is expressed in exercising precaution and responsibility. Precaution and responsibility are based on scientific and empirical evidence as well as experience built up through modern knowledge and the accumulated wisdom and knowledge of the generations of agriculturalists that have given the present agricultural production systems of the world. Precaution and responsibility cannot be reduced to risk assessment, which is based on a narrow scientific and/or economic appraisal, because they also have a moral content.’

Farmer as researcher

Traditional knowledge

Leave out explanation on why not risk assessment

Includes all other principles, could be conclusion or part of the preamble.

This principle could be taken out because:

1. The aim of the head paragraph is into the health and justice principles.
2. It is supported on a specific monoculture organically production context that deals with technological packages exchange (chemical-organically) being exposed to an unbalance condition with the use of determinated commodities.
3. If there is an ecological principle proposed as the base of organic agriculture, we believe that risks and cautions might be obviated.
4. There is a proposal contradiction between the ecological and care principles

Principle of consideration

## External Stakeholders:

11 reactions (mainly from the international task force on harmonization)

1. Do the proposed principles presented reflect the values of organic agriculture? If not, are there values or principles that are missing or some that could be removed?

Yes: ii

It could be 3 principles as health and care can be integrated, however proper wording is needed.

Remove principle of care, it stands for all other principles.

Combine health and fairness

Although fairness and care is quite such a new topic raised

2. Do you think that the proposed principles are universally applicable and take into account regional variation?

Yes: iii

IFOAM's mission is to unite, should not give room to too many interpretations, could lead again to controversies.

3. The feedback on the first questionnaire suggested that principles should be formulated in a normative way. However some members of the consultative group questioned the use of the word 'should'. The Task Force solicits for ideas on a different kind of wording that is as strongly normative as 'should', but otherwise formulated.

'should' can be removed

'must'

'Shall'

'Need'

should is OK

4. Do you have any suggestions on the wording of the preamble?

Principles should be based on the ultimate goal of OA, which is given the benefit to Plate, People and Profit.

Define scope/boundary of each of the proposed principles, otherwise they are intermingling.

Sustainable income to be part of economic that the principles should be concerned because that is important esp in developing countries

5. Do you have any suggestions on wording and language? Are the principles and the explanations that belong to them easily to be translated in your language?

The names of some principles are confusing

Can translated well into Italian

6. Do the proposed principles and explanations address 'soil,' 'animal welfare' and 'biodiversity' in a satisfying way? Do 'soil' and / or 'animal welfare' deserve a separate principle? If you think so, please suggest some motivation, formulation and explanation of the new principle.

Soil and animal welfare do deserve a separate principle. They share a common root but have different ethical implications.

Is OK like now, as ecological principle shows the relationship between all.

No need for separated principles

7. Do you think that the principle of fairness rightly addresses the responsibility of Organic Agriculture's in the world? Does the proposed statement make claims and imply obligations that are beyond the control of the Organic Agriculture Movements?

Include a statement that expressly refers to ethic issues.

Claims and obligations are not beyond the control of the OA movements.

What about limited land resource?

Principle of fairness in covered

8. *Repeated request from the first questionnaire:* Do you have any visualization / materialization (e.g. a photo, art, a poem, a music composition) that expresses for you the Principles of Organic Agriculture? You are invited to share them with the Task Force! Could you articulate in one sentence the relationship of this photo, painting etc. with the Principles of Organic Agriculture? At the coming General Assembly space will be provided to exhibit all these visualizations.

Soil, water, plan and forest are like the heart of people in the country, Help maintaining and conserving them. Our children will survive using such resource.

9. Any other comments.

Use renewable inputs to allow sustainable agriculture to be carried out on a large scale (national) for generations.

Interesting process as well in the light of EU action plan for organic farming

The draft makes a balanced impression

Base the principles on the three dimensions of sustainability: social, ecological and economical

Draft is not enough specific, not science based. If not more specified they would not have much influence.

Does not give sufficient guidance in case of controversial questions.

Most importantly there should be the market buying the organic agriculture products.

## 1. Principle of Health

Aquatic environment to be included in statement

Should cause development on positive direction in thought of people including the current functions.

Delete 'this principle is the foundation of organic agriculture' as it has been stated in the preamble that the principles are the foundation of OA.

## 2. Ecological Principle

Production is based on local ecological processes.

It is not only about recycling materials and energy, but as well about recovering

Add 'protecting and enhancing biodiversity'

'Living ecosystems principle'

Too general

This principle does not mention whether organic agriculture can use any external inputs.

'Minimize resource inputs' still means that they are used? Better say what is reality: OA cannot survive without using some chemical inputs.

Should ensure the usage of local renewable resources economically and rationally including the current functions.

'Fuel saving and effective fuel use' to be added as petroleum is not replaceable.

### **3. Principle of Fairness**

Emphasize on fairness in terms of 'human relationship, in production, processing and marketing / trading of OA. This would then include 'harmonization and equivalence)

Confusing and politically dangerous.

Fair to whom?

'Society responsible'

Mention economic sustainability

### **4. Principle of Care**

Statement is not easy to distinguish with statement under principle of health.

Principle of sustainable care