

# IFOAM Declaration for Living Change

## Organic Agriculture Offers Solutions for Global Challenges

### **“We, Laureates of the Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award),**

Vandana Shiva (India), Percy & Louise Schmeiser (Canada), Ibrahim & Helmy Abouleish (Egypt), Frances Moore Lappé (USA), Taeko Ogiwara & Ikuko Sasaki (Japan), Melaku Worede (Ethiopia), Maria Salete Campigotto (Brazil) and Pat Mooney (Canada);

#### **coming together**

to meet, at the invitation of the International Federation of the Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), COLABORA, concerned citizens and advocates for change;

#### **express**

our deepest concerns about prevailing agriculture policies, research and development agendas, and private sector strategies favoring short-term individual profits, to the detriment of the long-term sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of all, causing unnecessary and unacceptable hunger, poverty, climate change and destruction of habitats and biodiversity for human beings and Nature;

#### **declare our conviction**

1. *that* we believe in the capacity of Nature to decently and healthily feed a growing human population, provided human beings honor the value of nature and establish strategies based on the intensification of naturally occurring ecological processes;
2. *that* respect for human beings and for all forms of domesticated and wild life has the power to establish a new culture of dialogue and progress, thus creating unprecedented synergies between ecology and economy for the benefit of all;
3. *that* only farming that nourishes Nature and supports biological activities, efficient use of water, climate, seeds, breeds and naturally developed soils - rather than industrial agricultural that creates deserted monotonous landscapes and relies on external energy, - can guarantee food for all: now and in the future;
4. *that* positive development requires a legal framework that prioritizes the right of rural communities and their people, regardless of their race, culture, religion, gender and age, to access their own local natural resources in order to provide for their needs and access relevant knowledge of traditional and science based ecological farming practices;
5. *that* the power of consumers in rural and urban areas worldwide can put the world on a path to sustainability, provided they have access to fully transparent information about the implications of food production for the health of their own families and for the health of all people and natural environment involved in the supply chain;

## and demand

1. *that* agriculture and food security policies of communities, governments, private sector and civil society at local, national, regional and global levels implement the comprehensive IAASTD recommendations and that they aim for sustainability in development, including ecological biodiversity, social welfare for all and economic viability of systems;
2. *that* threats to Nature and society, posed by high risk technologies such as synthetic agriculture inputs, biotechnology, agro-fuels and nanotechnology, are made transparent to all and that the interests of Nature, of smallholders and landless rural populations, of domesticated species and of consumers are prioritized over profits of their proponents;
3. *that* the Principles of Organic Agriculture (Ecology, Health, Fairness, Care) guide power holders on thoughtful decision making and disseminators of information on significant messaging;
4. *that* the potentials of organic approaches are increasingly adopted by farmers, processors and marketers of agriculture products, so as to achieve sustainable natural environments and societies throughout the world. “

Bonn, Germany 16 September 2010

### The Declaration is Endorsed by:

**Partners:** Katherine DiMatteo (IFOAM, USA); Markus Arbenz (IFOAM, Germany); Bernward Geier (COLABORA, Germany); Willy Douma (Hivos, Netherlands); Benjamin Gräub (Biovision, Switzerland); Kerstin Lanje (Misereor, Germany); Martien Lankester (Avalon Foundation, Netherlands); Claus Rättich (Biofach, Germany); Jörg Schallehn (Vermögensakademie, Germany); Andreas Schriber (Biovision); Jakob von Uexküll (Right Livelihood Award, Sweden).

**Dialogue Partners:** Elisabeth Cruzada (MASIPAG, Philippines); Thomas Dosch (Bioland/ IFOAM EU, Germany); Rupert Ebner (Slow Food, Germany); Ulrich Gundert (Brot für die Welt, Germany); Hans Herren (Biovision/Millennium Institute/IAASTD, USA/ Switzerland); Bärbel Höhn, (Federal Parliament, Germany); Barbara Keller (Frauen für die Vielfalt (Germany); André Leu (IFOAM, Australia); Beatrix Tappeser (Vereinigung deutscher Wissenschaftler, Germany); Melanie Weber-Moritz (Verbraucher-Initiative e.V. VI, Germany); Hubert Weiger (BUND, Germany).

**Supporters:** Georg Abel (Verbraucher-Initiative e.V. VI); Nora Brüggemann (Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production, CSCP); Udo Censkowsky (Organic Services); Fédération Nature & Progrès; Alexander Gerber (Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V., BÖLW); Sigrid Großmann (ECOVIN); Susanne Gura (Verein zur Erhaltung der Nutzpflanzenvielfalt VEN.); Ines Hensler, (IMO); Robert Hermanowski (Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau, FIBL Deutschland); Michael Kuhndt (Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production, CSCP); Sreedevi L. Kuty; Bharat Mansanta; Organic-Market. Info; Dieter Overath (Transfair); Marion Rhein (Demeter e.v.); Elke Roeder (Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren Herstellung und Handel e.V.); Helmut Röscheisen (Deutscher Naturschutzring); Gerhard Roth (Ökосоziales Forum Deutschland); Bhaskar Save; Rolf Schauwecker (COSILANA Naturwäsche GmbH); Jörg Sommer (Deutsche Umweltstiftung); Christa Thomas (Schweisfurth Stiftung); Edith van Walsum (ILEIA); Angela von Besteen (Ökologischer Ärztebund e.V.); Alexandra Wandel (World Future Council); Uli Zerger (Stiftung Ökologie & Landbau); Johanna Jacobi (Universität Bonn).

And the 300 participants of the IFOAM **Inspiration for Living Change** conference in Bonn and worldwide, through the internet

# Appendix

## The Principles of Organic Agriculture

- **Principle of Health:**  
Organic Agriculture sustains and enhances the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.
- **Principle of Ecology:**  
Organic Agriculture is based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.
- **Principle of Fairness:**  
Organic Agriculture builds on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities
- **Principle of Care:**  
Organic Agriculture is managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

## The Definition of Organic Agriculture

Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

## IFOAM

Founded in 1972, IFOAM, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, is the international umbrella organization for the organic movement. Currently, IFOAM represents over 800 member organizations in over 100 countries. Among IFOAM's affiliates are, for example, organic farmers' associations, organizations from the organic food industry and fair trade, research institutions, as well as certifiers. IFOAM represents the common interests of the organic movement based on the principles of organic agriculture (ecology, health, fairness and care). IFOAM's task is to lead, assist and unite the organic movement in its full diversity.

The worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems, based on the principles of Organic Agriculture, is IFOAM's highest-ranking goal.

I believe in and support the *IFOAM Declaration for Living Change*.

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