



International Society of Organic Agriculture Research

Minutes General Assembly 2014

12 October 2014

Time 9:30 - 12:30

in Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey

Participating: 31 persons with voting rights and about 8 supporters

1: Welcoming of participants (President Prof. Dr. Sang Mok Sohn)

ISO FAR President 2011-2014 Sang Mok Sohn warmly welcomed all participants to the General Assembly (GA) of ISO FAR.

2: Appointment of Moderator and Minute keeper; Amendments to agenda

All members supported the motion to ask the former General Secretary of ISO FAR, Dr. Daniel Neuhoff, to conduct the further moderation of the GA.

Dr. Anne-Kristin Løes (Vice-president 2011-2014) was appointed for keeping minutes of the GA.

No amendments to the agenda were requested by the participants.

3: Report of the ISO FAR President

ISO FAR President 2011-2014 Sang Mok Sohn presented the ISO FAR World Board 2011-2014, in all 12 members, out of which 8 were present at the GA. During the last three years, there has not been an active GS to assist the board in its activities. The board members have shared the tasks between them, such as maintaining the website, writing minutes from board meetings, supporting seminars etc. Several groups of board members were established, e.g. to follow up on our scientific journal Organic Agriculture (established in 2011, published by Springer) and the scientific track of the 18th OWC. The journal has so far published about 80 peer-reviewed papers of high relevance for OA. However, it still needs to demonstrate its capability of producing 4 complete issues per year to achieve a required scientific impact factor. All members are encouraged to contribute to achieve this important goal for our society. All ISO FAR members receive a free on-line access to the journal. Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahman was recently appointed as the new Editor-in-Chief, taking over after Dr. Elizabeth Stockdale. Sang Mok Sohn continued to report about the progress of a large event in Korea during 2015, the ISO FAR World Organic Expo. Several board members have devoted much time to develop this event, including several visits to Korea and the deliverance of scientific contents of 10 large exhibition halls. "Science meets public" is the slogan of this important event, which will expand the initiative on OA raised in Korea thanks to the 17th OWC which was successfully arranged there in 2011.

The President presented several scientific conferences where ISOFAR has been a co-organiser, such as

- 2nd African Organic Conference, “Mainstreaming organic agriculture in the African development agenda”, Lusaka, Zambia May 2012
- Asian Organic Conference, Korea September 2012
- 2nd IFOAM and ISOFAR International Organic Animal Husbandry Conference in Hamburg, Germany September 2012 (170 participants from 40 countries)
- Crop Protection Symposium, Tunisia, March 2013 (100 participants)
- 7th World Congress in Allelopathy, Vigo, Spain July 2014
- ISOFAR Symposium on Korean Organic Agriculture & Industry, Jungwon University, Korea, July 2014 (450 participants)

The President informed about our new website to be launched immediately after the GA, and about the ISOFAR newsletter which has been published with 8 issues since 2011 (no. 11-18), editor being Anne-Kristin Løes. He also mentioned the Science Day which was arranged during Biofach in Nuremberg, Germany in February 2013 and 2014, in cooperation with TIPI, TP Organics, IFOAM and IFOAM-EU. TIPI aims at developing a global vision for organic food and farming research.

The board has come together for two meetings in Korea, and additionally for 15 meetings arranged by Skype. Minutes from these meetings have been written and approved by the board, and are available for ISOFAR members on the website.

The President acknowledged the efforts especially of Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann to represent the ISOFAR board in the preparations of the scientific track of the 18th OWC. 380 papers were submitted to the scientific track, 300 were accepted (100 for oral, 200 for posters). All papers were submitted via Organic E-prints. Finally, the President warmly acknowledged Dr. Daniel Neuhoff who kindly prepared the elections and other procedures of this GA.

A discussion followed, where the main issues were how to increase the number of active members, and how to increase the status of the journal Organic Agriculture.

4: Cash report (Gerold Rahmann)

Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann, the treasurer of ISOFAR during 2011-2014, gave a short overview on the financial situation of ISOFAR and showed on the screen the actual numbers for accounts during 2011-2014. The society has received the status as a non-profit organisation (tax reduction for grants in Germany). The documents and treasurer work was transferred from the last treasurer (Daniel Neuhoff) and main office (Bonn) to Gerold Rahmann at Trenthorst, Germany in January 2012. The membership status definition has been clarified, so that *active members* are now defined as those who have paid at least once in two years, whereas *passive members* are those who have not paid in a two-years period. This has caused a high loss in the number of members, from 815 “members” in 2012 to 111 in 2013. We expect about 200 active members by the end of 2014. The costs for administration has been reduced significantly, to 3680,54 € for the whole period.

In the reporting period (1 January 2012 to 31 August 2014) the total money on our account was increased from 29,875 Euro to 64,448 Euro (+116%). Total expenditures were 39.203,40 € which were largely used for supporting scientific conferences where ISOFAR was a co-organiser.

The account results in summary 2012 – 2014 (August):

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	2012	2013	2014 (31.8.14)
Members	815	1021	1655
Members paid	127	111	50
A Income	40.291,24 €	26.440,00 €	4.985,00 €
A.1 member fees	7.967,44 €	6.390,00 €	4.955,00 €
- fee / member	62,74 €	57,57 €	99,10 €
A.2 WOE	30.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	
A.3 others	323,80 €	50,00 €	30,00 €
B Expenditures	7.782,12 €	19.697,98 €	11.723,30 €
B.1 Conferences	7.436,85 €	17.879,33 €	10.206,38 €
- therefore AOC 12	3.022,93 €		
- therefore OAHC 12	2.000,00 €		
- therefore Tunis Conf 13		206,00 €	
- therefore FQH 13		2.308,36 €	
- therefore OWC 14	154,39 €	364,97 €	697,38 €
- therefore IOE 15	2.259,53 €	15.000,00 €	7.449,44 €
B.2 ISOFAR administration	345,27 €	1.818,65 €	1.516,62 €
- therefore office	345,27 €	975,00 €	765,00 €
- therefore promotion		843,65 €	751,62 €
C Balance	32.509,12 €	6.742,02 €	-6.738,30 €
Account beginn year	29.875,45 €	62.384,57 €	69.126,59 €
Account end year	62.384,57 €	69.126,59 €	64.448,15 €
Balance	+32.509,12 €	+6.742,02 €	-4.678,44 €

The cash report had been checked in advance by accounting staff at Thünen institute, Braunschweig, Dr. Hiltrud Nieberg and Kerstin Martens. These colleagues stated that book keeping of ISOFAR during the period 2012-end of August 2014 is correct. The auditors gave suggestions how to improve the accounting system of ISOFAR that will be considered by the future treasurer.

As a part of the financial report, Gerold Rahmann proposed a budget for 2014-2017.

Gerold Rahmann also proposed to reduce the membership fees significantly, to attract the interest of more members. The following proposal was accepted, with a large majority of votes:

Defintion of ISOFAR member and amended membership fees

1. ISOFAR members are all persons, who have registered as member
2. Passive members have not paid membership fee once during the two last years. They receive newsletters and are part of the network, but they have no voting rights and no free online access to the journal Organic Agriculture.
3. Active members have paid membership fee at least least once in two years. They have free online access to the scientific Journal of Organic Agriculture (Springer publisher; NB annual registration costs for non-active ISOFAR members would be 345 € per year). Active members have voting rights.

4. Board members need to pay every year. Only with paid membership fee in the year of election they can candidate to become board member.

5. The annual membership fee will be reduced immediately after the GA to following amounts, varying by countries as defined by the Human Development Index:

a. Very High Developed Countries: 60 Euro

b. High Developed Countries: 30 Euro

c. Middle Developed Countries: 15 Euro

d. Low Developed Countries: 7.50 Euro

e. Students, retired and job-less members pay half of the annual fee.

YES: 29

NO: 1

ABSTENTIONS: 1

5: Exoneration of the ISOFAR Board

ISOFAR member Jochen Mayer, Switzerland asked the General Assembly to accept the reports given by the President and the Treasurer. This motion was supported by the GA:

YES: 20

NO: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 2 (The 8 board members were not allowed to vote in this matter)

6: Election of the new Board, financial controllers and auditors

Moderator Dr. Neuhoff explained the voting procedure to all members. Following an invitation from the board, 21 members had launched a candidature to the 12 Board Member seats. Out of these candidates, four were not present in person and were briefly presented by the Moderator. Others presented themselves briefly, emphasising their motivations to participate in the board.

The counting of the ballots (n = 28) was done by ISOFAR members Dr. Atle Wibe, Norway and Dr. Niels Halberg, Denmark. The following persons were elected (in brackets: votes):

1: Gerold Rahmann, Germany (28)

2: Anne-Kristin Løes, Norway (28)

3: Ilse Rasmussen, Denmark (26)

4: Ulrich Hamm, Germany (23)

5: Raffaele Zanolì, Italy (20)

6: Victor Idowu Olowe, Nigeria (19)

7: Reza Ardakani, Iran (17)

8: Peter von Fragstein und Niemsdorff, Germany (16)

9: Eva Rembalkowska, Poland (14)

10: Wengliang Wu, China (13)

11: Stefano Canali, Italy (13)

12: Mahesh Chander, India (13)

For financial controllers, Dr. Nick Lampkin, UK and Sabine Zikeli, Germany were elected.

For auditing the January 2012-September 2014 accounts, Dr. Hiltrud Nieberg and Jörn Sanders were elected (both Germany).

8: Break (simultaneously: constitutive meeting of new Board Members)

9: Presentation of the New Board, E- Board and President

The new Board agreed upon the following Executive Board:

President: Gerold Rahmann

Vice-president: Anne-Kristin Løes

Treasurer: Ilse Rasmussen

10: Outlook on future activities

The new President Gerold Rahmann gave a short speech where he announced some of the future board activities including regional activities and the active publishing of scientific publications.

11: Closure

The GA was closed at 12:30.

Tingvoll, Norway / Trenthorst, Germany / Tjele, Denmark; October 28, 2014



Minute keeper: Anne-Kristin Løes



Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann (President)



M.Sc. Ilse Rasmussen (Treasurer)