

ISO FAR Newsletter no. 1, 2018

Dear ISO FAR Members and Supporters

Greeting from ISO FAR for beginning of Spring which is the season of positive changes and the natural world goes through a rebirth!

For the year of 2018, we would like to see ISO FAR build on its strengths, including its strong commitment to international research and to encourage even more geographically inclusive collaborations between members. Working closely with ISO FAR and contribution with its symposiums, conferences and workshops can solidify and strengthen its position as a preeminent, and of course with receiving your valuable manuscripts to our scientific journal "Organic Agriculture". All [members have open access to this](#) Springer journal where is a nice place to publish your next peer-reviewed paper!

Recently, a new platform created in our website as "Members Directory" in order to make the possibility for our members to be more visible and the way for buildup scientific networking between all members.

We are pleased and impressed with receiving good numbers of valuable News for our website since beginning of 2018 which means contribution of science in Organic Agriculture is raising across the world. Scientific attention for developing Organic Agriculture is becoming more and more attractive at academic level which is also a necessity and I hope we could continue strengthening and publishing our Newsletter seasonally and it is clear that it would be happened by your supports and energy.

The [ISO FAR website](#) is open for all ISO FAR members and supporters who want to publish news about events, projects, networks, a country report and you are welcome to get in touch by e-mail (mreza.ardakani@gmail.com) to agree about details.

This prolific season is a time of new beginnings; I wish your gardens fill with bright

flowers, sweet scents and buzzing bees! As we roll into this colorful time of year, let us not forget to wish our friends and family a season full of blessings and happiness.

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. M. Reza Ardakani, Vice president of ISO FAR

NEWS from ISO FAR:



Message from the President 2018

Thank you very much that you support the actions of our scientist network ISO FAR. This is important to keep scientists informed and networked, particularly in a research area, where many of us feel alone and isolated throughout the world. We have members from 70 countries, and we are recognized and appreciated as the global network for Organic Agricultural Research.



Report from Science Day 2018 at BIOFACH

On February 16, 2018, the sixth Science Day took place at BIOFACH, the World Organic Trade Fair, in Nuremberg, Germany. It was a joint event of TIPI, the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM and TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming.



ISOFAR President stated the biggest challenges and research gaps for organic livestock systems in the Global South

Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics International (TIPI) organizes yearly meeting as Science Day at BioFach, Nuremberg, Germany. In 16th February 2018, the Science Day focused on “State of the art and research gaps in organic systems in the Global South”.



Scientific conference on "Evolving agriculture and food - Perspectives in biodynamic research", taking place at Dornach, Switzerland, on Sept. 5th-8th 2018

This new biannual conference will gather academics, scholars, PhD students, graduate students, farmer-researchers and action researchers from around the world to discuss the latest and most pressing issues in biodynamic agriculture, moreover discussing related fields such as agroecology and food and nutrition, dedicating significant attention also to new and alternative researching methods.



SUSplus project - Innovative Education towards Sustainable Food Systems

SUSPLUS project supports cooperation between eight European universities to develop, implement and widely disseminate innovative educational materials and methods in the subject of sustainable food systems.



BSc studies OAFP – Organic Agriculture and Food Production at WULS, Poland

The BSc studies OAFP are prepared and constructed according to the expectations of the potential employers within the organic food production. The focus is on the innovative teaching methods activating students and preparing them to the future employment. The studies will offer a good possibilities to develop necessary skills and knowledge in desired specialties.

Deadline for applications: 31 May 2018



2nd International Workshop on “Organic farming and agro-ecology as a response to global challenges” in Capri Island, Italy

The Research Group on Organic Farming Italy (GRAB-IT) organizes the 2nd International Workshop on “Organic farming and agro-ecology as a response to global challenges” in Capri Island, near Naples, Italy on June 27-29, 2018.



Launching a European Organic Long Term Experiment Network

Organic farming, as stated by IFOAM, relies on a holistic and systemic management of the sustainability of agroecosystems. Functioning of organic cropping systems is based on long-term biological processes. Long-term cropping systems experiments (LTE) are thus of major interest for the further development of organic farming.



The 4th Organic Conference Cameroon

The African Organic Conference (AOC) is an initiative of the African Organic Network (AfrONet). The 4th African Organic Conference (4thAOC) will take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from November 5-8, 2018.

Deadline for paper submission is end of March 2018.

Message from the President 2018

Dear members of ISO FAR,

Thank you very much that you support the actions of our scientist network ISO FAR. This is important to keep scientists informed and networked, particularly in a research area, where many of us feel alone and isolated throughout the world.

We have members from 70 countries, and we are recognized and appreciated as the global network for Organic Agricultural Research. We became stronger in the last years (number of members and their contributions increased significantly with appreciative actions globally in the communication of organic agricultural research). However, on the other hand, there are too high expectations of capacities we should have had. That is not the case. As you know, all our actions are on volunteer level with minimum budget (or action with specific project grants). What we do is free of charge and we have no staff employed. I tell you this to give you a realistic clue of our work capabilities. And: that makes me proud. To have this global impact not because of a lot of resources, but with limited (no) resources is result of your volunteer work. That is great.

I like to inform you about activities we did already since November 2017, as the new board was elected (GA in Delhi for the term 2017 – 2020) and give you an outline of some ideas and actions of the coming years:

- We are twelve elected and one co-opted board members and had two board meetings since new board elected. We feel as a strong and well constituted better: composed? Board, covering many disciplines and regions.
- We have revised the aims and scope of our journal “Organic Agriculture” (Springer), which is now more focusing in the system-thinking of Organic Agriculture. The journal recently implemented the publication option for “concept notes”, where we like to discuss the needs of development for the Organic Agricultural sector. We are open for the IFOAM Organic 3.0 concept (influencing and stimulating the global food and farming sector towards more sustainability, not being limited to third-party certified product chains), and we are open for ethics and agro-ecology in the scope of the basic ideas and principles of Organic Agriculture. Also, we like to have one special issue a year, as output of special events or with a special topic. (I will inform you in accordance).
- We have extended and structured the editorial board for the Organic Agriculture journal, and prepare for ISI assessment 2019. This will hopefully give us an impact factor which will also be valid for already published papers.
- February 2018: Contribution to the Science day at the global leading organic market fair BIOFACH in Nuremberg, Germany. • We have started to plan for the 20th Organic World Congress 2020 in Rennes, France.
- Additionally, we have planned following regional events (supporting of cooperative partners and / or own actions):
 - June 2018: 2nd International Workshop on “Organic farming and agro-ecology as a response to global challenges” in Capri Island, (<http://capriworkshop.centrodiportici.it>). Your papers are welcome until March 31.



International Society of Organic Agriculture Research

- November 2018: 4th African Organic Congress in Yaounde, Cameroon: <http://isofar.org/isofar/isofar/index.php/about/2-uncategorised/204-continental-and-national-development-in-the-context-of-the-african-union-s-agenda-2063>). Your paper is welcome, if it makes a significant contribution to Organic Agriculture in Africa and is in English and/or French language.
- March 2019: 15th Organic Agriculture Research Conference in Witzenhausen, Germany: (<http://www.soel.de/projekte/wissenschaftstagung/>). Your paper is welcome if it makes a significant contribution to Organic Agriculture in German speaking countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland). The conference is in German.
- Autumn 2019: ISOFAR Workshop on Phosphate in Morocco. (planning has started).

You see, action is done! your contribution is important and you should feel proud to be part of ISOFAR, the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research.

Regards Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann President of ISOFAR

Report from Science Day 2018 at BIOFACH

State of the art and research gaps in organic systems in low and middle income countries.



Photo: Workshop groups at the morning session of Science Day 2018

On February 16, 2018, the sixth Science Day took place at BIOFACH, the World Organic Trade Fair, in Nuremberg, Germany. It was a joint event of TIPI, the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM and TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming.

TIPI organized the afternoon session, which focussed on elaborate research gaps in organic food and farming systems in low and middle income countries (100 questions to be addressed by novel organic food and farming systems).

After the welcome and introduction by Christian Andres (TIPI Scientific Secretary), Dr Monika Messmer (Senior Plant Breeder, FiBL, Switzerland), Prof Dr emer. Hans Hummel, (Distinguished Expert in Plant Protection and Biocontrol, University of Giessen, Germany) and Prof Dr Gerold Rahmann (Director, Thünen Institute of Organic Farming, Germany) gave input presentations on the biggest challenges and research gaps in low and middle income countries for organic plant breeding, biological plant protection and organic livestock systems, respectively. All the presentations from the afternoon session can be downloaded [here](#). The follow-up workshop (World Café) aimed at contributing to the development of a strategic research agenda for organic food and farming systems in low and middle income countries. The workshop (World Café) discussed the following questions:

1. WHERE? How should we delineate the different regions (continentally, climatically, main crops)?
2. WHO? Who should be the main actors to elaborate the strategic regional research agendas?
3. HOW? How should be the main actors elaborate the strategic regional research agendas?

Finally, Dr Dora Drexler (Director, Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ÖMKi) & Vice President TIPI, Hungary) summarized the constructive discussions and inputs

made during the afternoon in her closing remarks, and gave an outlook on further steps in the near future.



Photo: Presentation at the afternoon session of Science Day 2018

Relevant link:

<http://www.organic-research.net/home/news-organic-research/article/2178.html>

Author:

Christian Andres
Research Scientist in sustainable production systems in the tropics
Scientific Secretary of the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics
International (TIPI)
Department of International Cooperation
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL
Ackerstrasse 113, Postfach 219
5070 Frick, Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0)62 865 72 72, direct dial +41 (0)62 865 72 16
christian.andres@fibl.org
www.fibl.org

ISO FAR President stated the biggest challenges and research gaps for organic livestock systems in the Global South



Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics International (TIPI) organizes yearly meeting as Science Day at BioFach, Nuremberg, Germany. In 16th February 2018, the Science Day focused on “State of the art and research gaps in organic systems in the Global South”.

Researchers working on organic systems in the Global South do not have access to sufficient resources to realize the potential contribution of organic to rural development and the Sustainable Development especially in organic animal production systems. Prof. Gerold Rahmann, Director Thünen Institute of Organic Farming, Germany and ISO FAR President in his lecture the main key points on challenges and research gaps for organic livestock systems in the Global South:

- Hungry and hardworking people, animals and soils characterize the global south
 - Organic movement should consider more animal husbandry is agro ecosystem design
 - No more copy paste of north concepts to the south reality
 - Adaptation and resilience are the key solutions for the south challenges
- Livestock is a crucial component of the organic farming system, considering nutrient cycling in the system for more sustainability and autonomy. Challenges for the global south are enormous and face huge difficulties related to water scarcity, nitrogen deficiency, market gaps...
 - Classic concepts of organic movement are Eurocentric, and do not fit to south reality. Organic movement is the south consider animal welfare more than conventional animal livestock in the north. Indeed, farmers in tropical region have achieved an interesting degree of

balance between livestock needs and soil potential. Innovative solutions should be found to fit their conditions without breaking the balance and expanding the gaps.

- Mixed farming is yet less considered for nutrient cycling, but nitrogen struggle will remain the main challenge for protein production. Organic husbandry concept of the north would not be the solution, but still to find an agreement less restrictive to the global south. Organic livestock is important in organic farming and can solve future global challenges
- The main challenges for livestock development are:
 - Adapt organic concept to the realities/needs of the global south conditions
 - Keep and improve crop-livestock integration in the design of agro ecosystems
 - Increase productivity and pay attention to the environmental costs
 - Animal welfare is crucial, livestock is a living part of the system and not a device
 - Find innovative solution for feed deficits and health problems within global organic agreement
 - Development of local premium market with participatory quality insurance

Expand research actions in a comprehensive way in order to solve more organic livestock complications.

Reported by: Azim Khalid,
INRA/FIMABIO Morocco,
azim.khalid@yahoo.fr , www.inra.org.ma

Scientific conference on "Evolving agriculture and food - Perspectives in biodynamic research", taking place at Dornach, Switzerland, on Sept. 5th-8th 2018

This new biannual conference will gather academics, scholars, PhD students, graduate students, farmer-researchers and action researchers from around the world to discuss the latest and most pressing issues in biodynamic agriculture, moreover discussing related fields such as agroecology and food and nutrition, dedicating significant attention also to new and alternative researching methods.

Biodynamic research is done in any agricultural field, in many places of the world using a great diversity of methods and disciplines, getting in touch with many other research areas. Taking an inter- and trans-disciplinary approach, we aim to bring together both academic research and farmer's expertise to explore and discuss issues in biodynamic food and farming systems. The perspective taken on these issues may be from a classical scientific point of view as well as from an innovative methodical standpoint.

We invite contributions to the following topics:

1. New scientific methods in academic and on-farm research
2. The farm organism and (new) perspectives in agroecology
3. Beyond matter: Non-material influences on agriculture – quantum physics & co in agriculture
4. Associative economy – an approach to sustainable food systems
5. Living soil, soil life, and soil fertility
6. Research on plants
7. Food for live - food quality, nutrition and health
8. 8. Animal welfare
9. 9. others

Scientific contributions must follow common rules for the description of survey methods and data assessment. Contributions that do not meet scientific requirements (e.g. farmer observations without statistical data evaluation) can be submitted as 'Observation papers'. Proposals may be for oral or poster presentation. The final decision on the presentation form will be taken by the programme committee. Please send your abstract (max 4000 characters) using until April 8th, 2018. All abstracts must be in English language. For more information please visit: <http://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/veranstaltungen/biodynamic-research-conference/>



Author:

Dr. Christopher Brock Forschungskoodinator
Forschungsring e.V.
Brandschneise 5
64295 Darmstadt
Tel. +49 (0)6155 8421 23
brock@forschungsring.de

Susplus project - Innovative Education towards Sustainable Food Systems

SUSPLUS project supports cooperation between eight European universities to develop, implement and widely disseminate innovative educational materials and methods in the subject of sustainable food systems.



Photo: A common photo of the students and teachers from the SUSplus summer course in Tatra mountains

There is a necessity for innovative and market oriented education in the EU that addresses sustainability as a cardinal issue. According to different studies, the most important qualifications and skills desired by European employers include general skills and knowledge, but also team working, communication-, analytical and problem-solving skills, foreign language skills and ability to adapt to the new situations. Analysis of organic labour market expectations conducted in 7 EU universities acknowledged these results and moreover showed the huge significance of practical expertise and the ability of graduates to innovate and create.

There is a strong demand for a change towards a more sustainable development in face of global population growth, resources limitations and growing public health disquiet. Most of these issues are severely afflicted by current unsustainable food systems. Therefore it is necessary to develop strategies improving sustainability of present food production and consumption models. Simultaneously there is a lack of the university didactic programs covering these issues.

Therefore the aim of the Susplus project is

to develop, implement and disseminate innovative teaching materials and methods in the topic of sustainable food systems; it is based on the cooperation of 8 European Universities. Susplus didactic activities are providing university students with the inevitable knowledge and

skills supporting this important sector. We hope that it will increase the employment possibilities of the students.

The organic food system is presented as one of the models for increasing overall food production and consumption sustainability.

At the 1st SUSPLUS Conference, organized on 15th FEB 2018 at Biofach we discuss innovative teaching attitudes for sustainable development with an accent on organic systems. Results of a multi-country survey on student understanding as well as reports on e-learning and a summer school are presented. We look ahead to students teaching at schools and working on small projects in organic companies. The event is of interest for students, organic companies, and all organic stakeholders.

Consortium

1. Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland (coordinator)
2. University of Copenhagen, Denmark
3. Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia
4. University of Kassel, Germany
5. Münster University of Applied Sciences, Germany
6. ISARA-Lyon, France
7. University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy
8. Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain

Please visit:

Website: <http://susplus.eu/>

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYO61iqD-LZ9I-iypAvp3OuOZgJuYMjCd>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Susplus-Project-1308116522605666/>

Susplus project leader: Ewa Rembiałkowska, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland, ewa_rembialkowska@sggw.pl, www.sggw.pl

BSc studies OAFP – Organic Agriculture and Food Production at WULS, Poland

Start: 1 OCT 2018

Applications to: prof. dr hab. Ewa Rembialkowska

Division of Organic Food

Faculty of Human Nutrition and Consumer Sciences WULS

02-776 Warszawa, Nowoursynowska street 159 c

phone: 00 48 22 59 37 0 38

e-mail: ewa_rembialkowska@sggw.pl

www.sggw.pl

Deadline for applications: 31 May 2018

Organic production evolves with impetus across the whole world. According to recent data the world organic agricultural land in 2016 was 60 million hectares and organic market size was 89,7 billion US dollars. The continents with the largest organic agricultural areas in the world are Oceania, Europe, Latin America, next Asia and other continents. In Europe the biggest organically cultivated areas are in Spain, Italy and France. It is clear that organic food production and market is very promising. It is an important alternative to the conventional food production using a lot of synthetic substances with the harmful pesticides in the vanguard.

According to the current scientific data it is a clear interest among the European organic stakeholders to employ graduates well prepared in organic food and farming. The most desired specialties are plant production, food quality and plant protection. There is also a necessity for the innovation educational programs and methods, helping the students to achieve such skills as practical expertise, team working and problem solving skills.

The BSc studies OAFP are prepared and constructed according to the expectations of the potential employers within the organic food production. The focus is on the innovative teaching methods activating students and preparing them to the future employment. The studies will offer a good possibilities to develop necessary skills and knowledge in desired specialties. The alumni of OAFP can find jobs in the organic food production, processing, trade, also in different companies connected with education, dissemination and advisory services.

We want to encourage students from Europe and all other continents to study OAFP at our University. WULS (Warsaw University of Life Sciences) is the biggest and most modern agricultural University in Poland. We have about 25 000 students. WULS is a vibrant University offering not only interesting studies but also many possibilities to bud different talents – sport, music, dancing, scientific passions. The Campus is new and fashionable, also the student houses are renovated and offering good living conditions. Social life at WULS is brisk and intensive – it is very plausible to get many lifelong friends.

Therefore welcome at WULS, dear students!

2nd International Workshop on “Organic farming and agro-ecology as a response to global challenges” in Capri Island, Italy

The Research Group on Organic Farming Italy (GRAB-IT) organizes the 2nd International Workshop on “Organic farming and agro-ecology as a response to global challenges” in Capri Island, near Naples, Italy on June 27-29, 2018.

The Workshop is jointly organized by [GRAB-IT](#) (Research Group in Organic Farming), [Department of Agricultural Sciences](#) – University of Naples Federico II (Italy), and [Associazione Scientifica Centro di Portici](#), Naples and endorsed by International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISO FAR) and European Association of Agroecology.

The workshop is organized in seven tracks:

- 1) Producing sufficient healthful, safe and affordable food for a larger share of people worldwide.
- 2) Transitioning to Circular Economy: the role of organic agriculture.
- 3) Protecting the rural environment: soils, water, air, biodiversity and landscapes.
- 4) Emerging ethics concerns, sustainable food habits, lifestyles and consumer needs.
- 5) Societal and Policy dimension of organic farming.
- 6) Better breeds, feeds, animal health, animal welfare for organic livestock farming and aquaculture.
- 7) Integrated Pest Management in Organic Farming Systems.

The official language of the workshop is English. Scientific papers are welcome from all tracks/topics.

A two-page abstract is mandatory for the evaluation (a template will be available soon). For those who are interested in the best paper competition and Special Issue a full paper is requested (a template will be available soon).

Authors will send their abstract/full paper by **February 28th, 2018**.

More information available at: <http://capriworkshop.centrodiportici.it>

Launching a European Organic Long Term Experiment Network

Organic farming, as stated by IFOAM, relies on a holistic and systemic management of the sustainability of agroecosystems. Functioning of organic cropping systems is based on long-term biological processes. Long-term cropping systems experiments (LTE) are thus of major interest for the further development of organic farming.



Visit of French LTEs staff to the MOLTE LTE (Tuscany, Italy) – © Laurence Fontaine, ITAB

Why is there a need for long-term experiment research in Organic Farming? Understanding and managing organic cropping systems require long-term monitoring and assessment of such systems. Moreover, organic farming should be supported by research on exploring new best practices, based on biological processes and aiming at being more sustainable, embracing thus agroecological principles. Long-term cropping systems experiments (LTE) are thus of major interest for the further development of organic farming. Such experiments offer the opportunity to assess agricultural performance at the cropping system scale including inter-annual effects at the crop sequence level. They combine both a holistic and long-term approach of the agroecosystems with a scientific sound approach.

Why building a European organic LTEs network? The objectives of such a network would be (i) to have an overview of the diversity and convergences of LTE research on organic farming in Europe, (ii) to exchange ideas on the way to conduct an organic LTE from design, stakeholder inclusion to data analysis, thus supporting capacity building of the persons in charge of the experiments (iii) to clearly better know each other for further development of collaborative project, aiming also at pooling and comparing results to contribute efficiently to organic research.

What has been done so far? Recently, two national networks of organic LTEs were identified and linked: Retibio network in Italy (Peronti et al., 2015) and RotAB network in France. They organised cross-visits and workshops and have been sharing experiences on LTE's

management, fund raising opportunities and stakeholder involvement. From these first meetings emerged the idea to structure a European network of organic LTEs, thus revitalising the former experience promoted by ISO FAR some year ago and fostering - at the same time - the discussion dealing with the organic LTEs in order to put it in line with the most updated research trajectories of the organic food and farming sector. Indeed, It was considered relevant to include in the network organic LTEs that are designed in accordance to the agroecological principles, then distinguishable for their nature and features, thus representing powerful research infrastructure to contribute to the joint development of multidisciplinary research in organic farming and agroecology.

Outcomes documents of the first meetings: (<https://goo.gl/hyEhtM>)

Map of the first identified LTEs: (<https://goo.gl/JW79FG>)



Visit of Italian LTEs staff to the Corbas LTE (Rhône-Alpes, France) – © Olivier Duchêne, ISARA-Lyon

If you are involved in agroecologically sound research activities and in charge of an organic LTE and you wish to join this starting network, please contact:

Marion Casagrande (ITAB): marion.casagrande@itab.asso.fr;

Stefano Canali (CREA):

stefano.canali@crea.gov.it;

Daniele Antichi (University of Pisa): daniele.antichi@unipi.it;

Cesare Pacini (University of Firenze): gaiocesare.pacini@unifi.it



**THE 4TH AFRICAN
ORGANIC
CONFERENCE
CAMEROON**

NOVEMBER 5-8, 2018

T H E M E :
**ECOLOGICAL AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STRATEGIES FOR VIABLE
CONTINENTAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF
THE AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063**

NOVEMBER 5-8, 2018 // YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

First Announcement and Call for Partners/Collaborators

The African Organic Conference (AOC) is an initiative of the African Organic Network (AfrONet). It is convened every three years as a stakeholder's platform, for sharing knowledge, experiences and views on various issues of concern in organic and ecological agriculture. The first AOC was held in Uganda, Kampala from 5th-9th May, 2009, the second in Lusaka, Zambia from 2nd-4th May 2012 and third at Lagos, Nigeria, in October 5-8, 2015. The 4th African Organic Conference (4thAOC) will take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from November 5-8, 2018.

The conference aims to:

- Show case the potential of organic agriculture in transformation of national and continental economy through income growth, climate change adaptation, food sovereignty and trade.

- Facilitate the sharing of knowledge, information, experiences and skills among all stakeholders in the organic sector.
- Explore partnerships and cooperation opportunities for the implementation of the African Ecological Organic Agriculture Action Plan, which aims at mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture into national and continental agricultural production systems in Africa by 2025.
- Encourage the uptake of organic alternatives through south-south collaboration, especially, in the sharing of experiences.
- Strengthen the sub-regional bodies of Afronet (West, center, Eastern, Southern).
- Exchange on the potential contribution of EOA to the realization of the objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The conference will provide a valuable platform for:

Exchanging and sharing experiences of organic agricultural research pursuits, training and extension applications.

- Sharing of knowledge and experiences between African organic farmers and their national and sub-regional representations.
- Presentation of scientific evidence on capability of organic agriculture in contribution to transformation of national and continental economy, systems resilience, mitigation of climate change, among others.
- Exchange of information by regional (Regional Economic Communities) and national policy makers on the implementation of these solution of the African Heads of States and Government to support organic farming in Africa.
- Appraisal of impact of supports by different bodies in support of development of organic agriculture in Africa.
- Exhibition of organic produce and products (Afro Organic Fair) to stimulate regional and international trade.
- Sensitization of policy makers and media organizations on the potential of ecological organic agriculture to effectively contribute to sustainable development in Africa.

The conference targets farmers, consumers, researchers, trainers, academics, extension practitioners, policy makers, donors, media organizations, private sector actors and financiers in the agriculture value chains promoters of organic agriculture. Others are; students and groups of young people interested in organic and ecological agriculture.

It is organized in the context of mainstreaming organic agriculture based on the resolution of the African Heads of States and Government to support organic farming in Africa. It is estimated that more than 350 delegates from at least 35 countries will attend the conference.

Tentative overall programme:

- Day1:** Press conference, exhibition, pre-meetings and opening ceremony,
- Day2:** Presentations, exhibition, side events and field visit,
- Day3:** Presentations, exhibition, and official closing,
- Day4:** Continental/regional meetings.

Exhibition Fee:

- * International:500,000FCFA/USD1,000
- * National:300,000FCFA

Deadlines: Conference Announcement:

- Paper submission (fullpaper, not more than 6 pages in A4, 1.5 spacing, Times New Romans 12 font size) up to Jan 31, 2018.
- Decision-Final decision on submitted papers: April 30, 2018.

CALL FOR PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS:

The Conference Organizers call upon organic agriculture based or related organizations within or outside Africa to support the conference as partners or collaborators. Contributions inform of financial sponsorships, logistics, etc. will be greatly appreciated.

Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes du Cameroun-National Consultation of Farmers' Organizations of Cameroon (CNOP-CAM)

Rue Martin Tabi Essomba 152, Face Dispensaire Mvog Ada Yaoundé, Bp 7445 Yaoundé.
Phone: +237675185536 and +237699246028.
E-mail: cnopcameroun@yahoo.fr; josephine188fr@yahoo.fr

Hervé Bouagnimbeck

Groupement Appui pour le Développement Durable (GADD), Bp 46 Dschang.
Phone: +23762046262 and +237699834684, E-mail: hervebouagny@yahoo.de

African Organic Network (AfrONet)

Headquarters: Uhuru Road, MAFAOHSE, 15th Floor, Ilala BOMA, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone: +255732975799, Mobile: +255758908303
Email: info@afro.net.bio; Website: www.afro.net.bio

Participation fee:

Early payments latest May 31, 2018:

- International-\$225 for International
- Cameroon Nationals-FCFA 40,000.00
- Students: International=\$100;
Local=FCFA 20,000.00

July 1, 2018 upward:

- International-\$250
- Cameroon Nationals-FCFA 50,000(\$100)
- Students: International=\$100; local=FCFA 50000

Contacts:

General Conference email: conference@afro.net.bio and cnopcameroun@yahoo.fr

Website: www.afro.net.bio

Partners: West Africa Organic Network, Southern Africa Network for Organic Agriculture Development, East African Network for Organic Agriculture, Regional Platform of Farmer's Organizations in Central Africa.

Organized by AfrONet in collaboration with the National Consultation of Farmers' Organizations of Cameroon (CNOP-CAM) under the auspices of the African Union led Coalition of Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA) in Africa and the IFOAM-Organics International, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and other partners.

Bienvenue à Cameroon! Welcome to Africa!

