

**Consolidated Annual Report  
of IFOAM - Organics International  
& its Action Group**



*#We Unite*

**2019** 2018  
2020

IFOAM AGRIBIOMEDITERRANEO | IFOAM ORGANICS ASIA | IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE | IFOAM EURO-ASIA | IFOAM FRANCE  
IFOAM IRAN | IFOAM JAPAN | IFOAM LATIIN AMERICA | IFOAM NORTH AMERICA | IFOAM SOUTHERN AFRICAN NETWORK  
IFOAM APICULTURE FORUM | IFOAM AQUACULTURE | IFOAM ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ALLIANCE | IFOAM SEEDS PLATFORM  
INTERCONTINENTAL NETWORK OF ORGANIC FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS | TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PLATFORM OF IFOAM | bioC | IOAS

**IFOAM**  
ORGANICS  
INTERNATIONAL

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# 1

## President's Message



### Growing Together, Organically

We are now three years into our strategy, and an increasing number of groups and individuals are joining us on our journey to transform agriculture towards true sustainability. While working on increasing consumer demand, building capacity to facilitate more supply, and advocating for a policy framework conducive to sustainable growth, we welcome everyone regardless of their 'shade of green' to steer our food systems in the right direction. In all our activities, we aim to unite people around the Principles of Organic Agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness, and Care.

There is a great sense of urgency that the enormous efforts made thus far, thanks to sector pioneers, need to go further if we are to successfully tackle pressing global challenges. The transformation of agriculture, the way we regard our natural resources, the way we actually acknowledge ourselves as part of nature, needs a holistic perspective. This transformation starts within each and every one of us. Therefore, I urge you to 'Eat Honest', voice your concerns, and explain your choices to others. Welcome and embrace the ideas and suggestions of others so that we can accelerate much-needed change. Do not get distracted. We only have one Earth, and time is of the essence!

IFOAM – Organics International is dedicated to playing an important role in this critical transformation. The growth of the organic sector over the last decades proves we are on the right track and that others are hearing our messages. We have increased our awareness-raising efforts and are also reaching out to 'unusual suspects'. Our 779 members are key to our success and we proudly draw upon their valuable experiences and activities.

Internally, through what we call our Network Reform, we are recalibrating the cooperation between all regional bodies and sector platforms in IFOAM – Organics International. We want our structures to be fit for purpose so that we can maximize synergies and more strategically translate the mandate given to us by our members.

The people involved in IFOAM – Organics International are among the most passionate, creative, innovative, intelligent, and caring people I've ever met. I know that IFOAM – Organics International will thrive with your support and participation!

At the upcoming **Organic World Congress and General Assembly**, now scheduled for September 8-11, 2021, we will present our progress over the last term. I am looking forward to working collaboratively with members on a roadmap for our future strategy.

Peggy Miars

# 2

## Executive Director's Message



### Climate Awareness on the Rise: United for a Better Future

The global 'Fridays for Future' movement, the 'We Are Fed Up' demonstration in Germany, along with protests to highlight the Amazon fire show the increased citizen awareness of the danger our planet is in. We protest because we refuse to be sidelined. We care about the environment and unite to safeguard it for future generations.

Given the state of our Earth, we can no longer afford to discuss questions like "Can organic feed the world?". Rather, we should be asking why the industrial model of agriculture is not feeding the world and highlighting what works, namely food systems that provide sufficient and nutritious food for all, that minimize environmental impact and enable producers to earn a decent living. Food systems should benefit the public good, i.e. positively contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, and help us live within our planetary boundaries. Here, organic agriculture has proven to be a valuable tool in policy-making as it balances and optimizes several common 'goods' without adding to the 'public bads'.

The influence agriculture and food-related policies can have on farming and business practices, costs, prices, and consumer choice means they can either perpetuate the status quo or pave the way to more sustainability. The publication '**Sustainability in Global Agriculture Driven by Organic Farming**' shows how smart policies can trigger the required transition to true sustainability in agriculture. Fortunately, the shift from competing narratives to a collaborative strategy has already begun. UN institutions are increasingly recognizing the role of agroecology as a science, a practice, and a social movement that contributes to making agriculture and food systems more sustainable. At the Committee of World Food Security's FAO meeting last October, represented countries expressed overwhelming support for the '**Scaling up Agroecology**' initiative. Now, most world leaders understand the multi-dimensional benefits that organic delivers.

Similarly, and based on our input, organic agriculture is acknowledged as "a production management system which promotes and enhances agroecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity" in the first global assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture. This shift has been pushed by honest conversations from citizens in their roles as voters. More and more of us understand how current chemical-based agriculture is causing more environmental harm than good. And many of us are puzzled by the fact that it is financially more advantageous to harm the environment, exploit people, and risk health than it is to protect and enhance natural resources and strive for the well-being of us all.

By communicating clearly on the positive contribution of organic agriculture, we can build new partnerships and ensure more people know why organic agriculture is part of the solution.

Louise Luttkholt

# 3

## The Organic World in 2019 at a Glance



### Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries

INDICATOR	WORLD	TOP COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE
<b>COUNTRIES WITH ORGANIC ACTIVITIES</b> <sup>1</sup>	2018: 186 countries	
<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH ORGANIC REGULATIONS</b>	2018: 103 countries	
<b>NUMBER OF AFFILIATES OF IFOAM - ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL</b>	2019: 779 affiliates from 110 countries	Germany: 79 affiliates India: 55 affiliates China : 45 affiliates USA: 48 affiliates
<b>ORGANIC MARKET</b>	2018: 96.7 billion euros (2000: 15.1 billion euros)	USA: 40.6 billion euros Germany: 10.9 billion euros France: 9.1 billion euros
<b>PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION</b>	2018: 12.8 euros	Switzerland: 312 euros Denmark: 312 euros Sweden: 231 euros
INDICATOR	WORLD	TOTAL PER REGION AND TOP COUNTRY
<b>ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL LAND</b>	2018: 71.5 million hectares (1999: 11 million hectares)	Africa: 2 million ha (Tunisia 306,467 ha) Asia: 6.5 million ha (China 3.1 million ha) Europe: 15.6 million ha (Spain 2.2 million ha) Latin America: 8 million ha (Argentina 3.6 million ha) North America: 3.34 million ha (USA 2 million ha) Oceania: 36.0 million ha (Australia 35.7 million ha)
<b>ORGANIC SHARE OF TOTAL AGRICULTURAL LAND</b>	2018: 1.5%	Africa: 3% (São Tomé and Príncipe 22.5%) Asia: 0.4% (Timor-Leste 16.8%) Europe: 3.1% (Liechtenstein 38.5%) Latin America: 1.1% (Uruguay 14.9%) North America: 0.8% (Bermuda 2%) Oceania: 8.6% (Samoa 34.5%)
<b>WILD COLLECTION AND BEEKEEPING AREAS</b>	2018: 35.7 million hectares (1999: 4.1 million hectares)	Africa: 11.5 million ha (Tanzania 2.4 million ha) Asia: 1.8 million ha (China 973,000 ha) Europe: 17.3 million ha (Finland 11.3 million ha) Latin America: 3.4 million ha (Brazil 1.2 million ha) North America: 6'981 ha (Canada 6,643 ha) Oceania: 765 ha (Fiji 653 ha)
<b>PRODUCERS</b>	2018: 2.8 million producers (1999: 200,000 producers)	Africa: 806,000 (Uganda 210,352) Asia: 1.3 million (India 1 million) Europe: 418,610 (Turkey 79,563) Latin America: 227,609 (Peru 103,554) North America: 23,957 (USA 18,166 ) Oceania: 20,859 (Papua New Guinea 12,742)

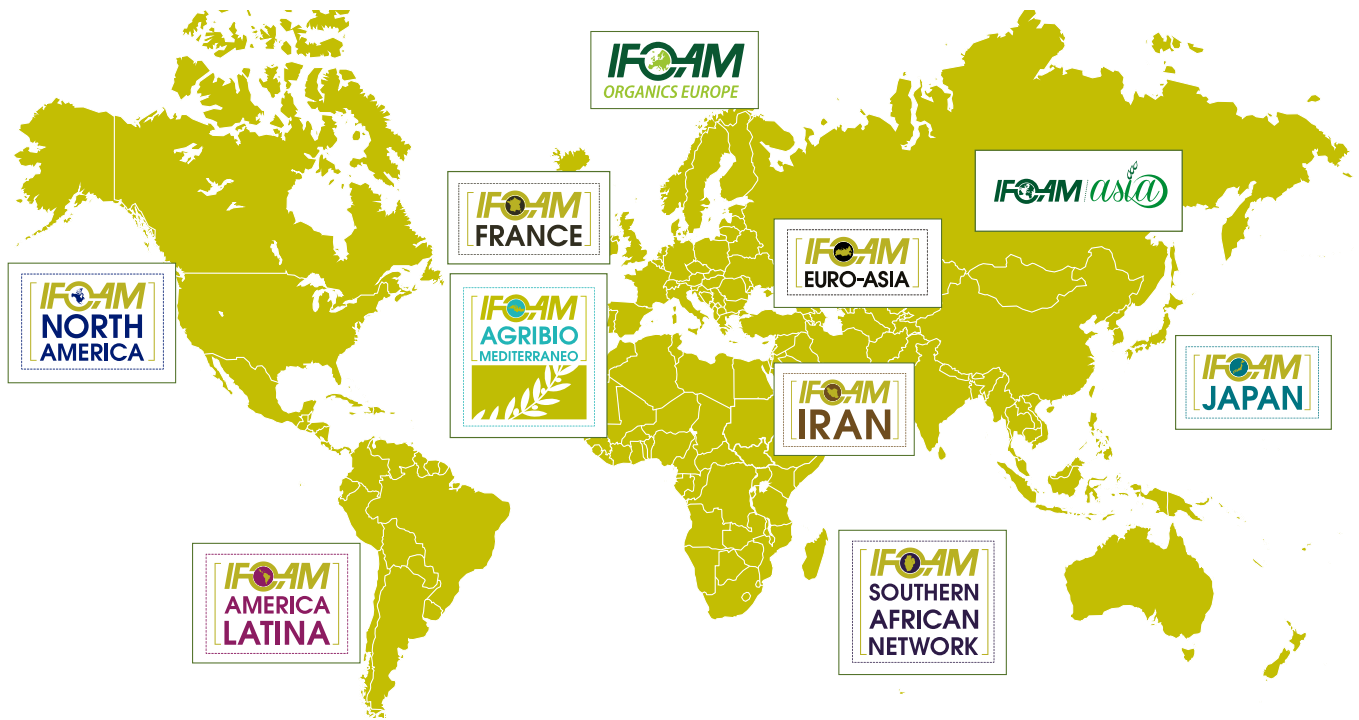
<sup>1</sup> Where the designation "country" appears, it covers countries and territories, see UNSTAT website <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm>

# 4

## Our Membership and Global Network

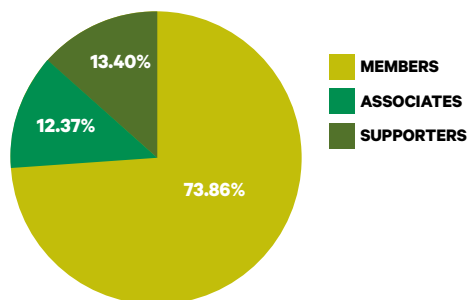


### Our National and Regional Bodies

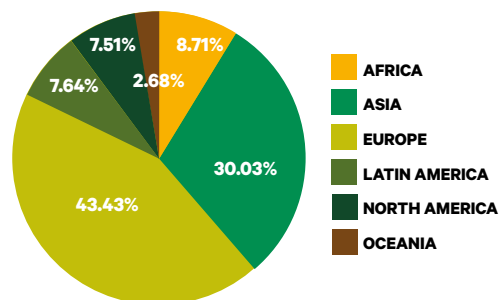


### Our Affiliates

**AFFILIATES BY AFFILIATION TYPE**

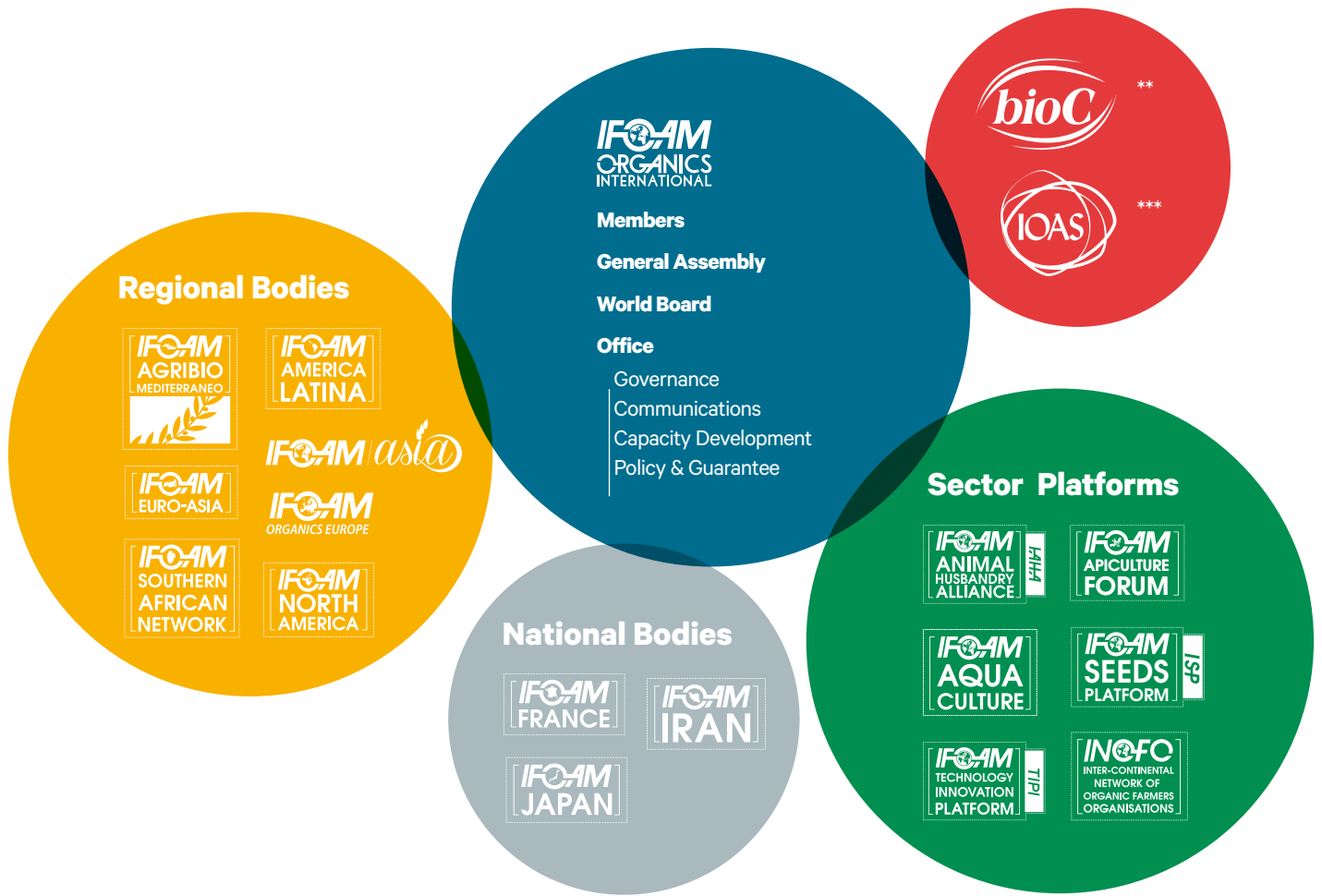


**AFFILIATES BY REGION**





## Our Action Group



\*\* IFOAM - Organics International is a shareholder

\*\*\* Daughter Company

# 5

## A Spotlight on IFOAM ORGANICS ASIA



Members of the newly elected board of IFOAM Organics Asia



**The Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA)** was initiated by IFOAM Organics Asia in 2013 with the aim of fostering dialogue and cooperation among Asian local governments for the development of organic agriculture and related industries. ALGOA is a daughter organization of IFOAM Organics Asia and was officially inaugurated in September 2015, in Goesan County, Republic of Korea. ALGOA works with over 200 local governments in Asia to promote the expansion of organic agriculture. Mayor Lee Cha Young of Goesan County holds the ALGOA presidency until 2020.

In its 5th edition and for the first time in an international format, the 'ALGOA+4 International Summit on Organic Agriculture Policy' in Goesan County, Republic of Korea attracted over 100

guests from around the world. IFOAM - Organics International contributed its global outlook and thought-leadership to the program, further supporting the event with the presence of our entire World Board, as well as many representatives of our Self-organized Structures.

The Summit was integrated into the Goesan Organic Festival where delegates from Asia participated and showcased their organic products and provided information on organic farming from their respective home countries.

At the Summit, IFOAM Organics Asia's largest member, the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH), a coalition of more than 200 mayors in the Philippines, and Naturland, our



© IFOAM Organics Asia

Asia Organic Youth Forum, New Taipei City





ALGOA +4 International Summit

German-based member, signed a cooperation agreement outlining their commitment to further develop organic food and farming in the Philippines, implement joint projects and training, and support market development. Other activities in Asia include the yearly ALGOA Organic Foundation Course. An introductory course on the basics of organic agriculture and its principles, growth and trends, it brings together organic leaders from different countries and territories in Asia. This time around, 21 delegates from Bhutan, India, the Philippines, India, Taiwan, Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka embarked on an extensive eight-day training course in Goesan County, Republic of Korea.

Taking our training a step further, the next generation of educators in the Asian organic movement participated in an ‘Organic Foundation Course Training of Trainers’ (ToT) at Chungbuk Organic Agriculture Research Institute. Here, we shared the concept of Organic Leadership Courses (OLCs) in ToTs with the aim of empowering local organic stakeholders to act as multipliers and replicate the learnings of the OLC.

The **Organic Youth Forum** recognizes innovations and creativity of the youth, our future leaders in the organic sector. The forum has over 100 members in Asia. In 2019, two three-day Organic Youth Forums were organized by IFOAM Organics Asia: one in Dimapur, Nagaland, India, the other in New Taipei City, Taiwan. The events were funded by the Government of Nagaland and Nagaland Organic Konnect (NOK), and the New Taipei City Government, respectively, showing the support that exists for a future based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture. Over 400 organic agriculture

students, practitioners, researchers, and enthusiasts attended the events.

**The 1st Xichong International Organic Innovation Summit** is a meeting of innovators and the stakeholders in the organic sector globally. It is jointly organized by Xichong County (China) and IFOAM Organics Asia to highlight innovations in the organic sector and to find ways to share exemplary farming practices, policies, technologies, as well as research and networking opportunities. The first-ever **Organic Medal of Honor** was awarded during the opening ceremony of the Summit. Applicants were judged based on the three pillars of sustainability, that is the ecological, economical, and societal impacts of their work. The Kerala Organic Farmer’s Association (India) and The Youth Collabo Farm (Republic of Korea) were awarded the first Organic Medals of Honor which acknowledged their positive contributions to organic with the sum of USD 5,000.

**The 4th IFOAM Organics Asia General Assembly (GA)** was held in Xichong County, China in June 2019 and enjoyed a huge turnout with 78% of all IFOAM Organics Asia members. The Board Member elections saw Sundeep Kammath being re-elected, Edgardo Uychiat and Selina Gan joining the Board for the first time while IFOAM Organics Asia incumbent President Zhou Zejiang retained his position. Incumbent Board Members Miyoshi Satoko and Indro Surono were elected as Vice Presidents.

# 6

## A Spotlight on THE INTERCONTINENTAL NETWORK OF ORGANIC FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS (INOFO)



**INOFO is the autonomous self-organized farmer structure in IFOAM - Organics International aiming to strengthen existing relationships between organic farmers' organizations. Established in 2008, INOFO fosters and facilitates relationships between farmers and their organizations across continents. It gives organic farmers a platform to consult, cooperate, and speak with a common voice on matters of concern at a global level.**

Originally a largely informal structure with a broad vision, INOFO is now in the process of shaping their vision into a sustainable organizational strategy that will strengthen them for the long term.

Since 2018, a need to define a clear vision and mission for INOFO led to several strategy workshops conducted with the Council of Convenors, representing different continents, an external coach, and the close involvement of IFOAM – Organics International in Germany and in the Republic of Korea. This institutional development work is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and carried out by the Andreas Hermes Academy. The newly created structure seeks to be fully integrated into our association to ensure that opportunities to further the interests of farming communities are fully explored.

Pending approval by the membership, the plan is for this to be presented and discussed in September 2021 at the upcoming General Assembly (GA) of INOFO, during the Organic World Congress (OWC).

There, the INOFO GA will set the organizational and thematic agenda for the coming three years, elect the new Council of Convenors, and decide on priorities. The coming years will see INOFO strengthen their structures, with the continued



Seed Festival in Minas Gerais, Brazil

cooperation of IFOAM – Organics International and other Self-organized Structures. Furthermore, the OWC 2021 will give farmers a very visible platform in the form of the Farmers' Forum, continuing in the vein of the Farmers' Track introduced at the OWC 2017 in India, with INOFO playing a prominent role.

INOFO had a busy year in 2019, including their active participation in farmer-specific events such as the Organic Youth Forum and ALGOA Summit, hosted by IFOAM Organics Asia, and the Farmers Track in the West African Organic Congress (WAOC), hosted by West African Organic Network WAFRONET and GIZ.

It is worth noting that INOFO is now part of the Steering Committee of the Farmers' Forum of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), filling six seats in the Forum. This important achievement resulted from the sustained advocacy work of Cristina Grandi, the Chief Food Security Campaigner of IFOAM – Organics International. She contributed to the creation of a space for organic farmers, represented by INOFO, to join and influence discussions on the future of agriculture. As part of IFAD's Farmers' Forum, INOFO representatives participated in the Regional Farmers' Forums that took place on 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Overall, the need to advance the position of farmers worldwide was supported by the 72nd United Nations General Assembly,

December 2017, when they announced the launch of the Decade of Family Farming, 2019-2028 (IYFF+10).

In May 2019, the Decade of Family Farming was successfully launched at an event in Rome attended by an INOFO delegation with representatives from India and Kenya. The Decade of Family Farming aims to promote better public policies and facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also seeks to put people ahead of special interests and to build a better future in both our rural areas and cities while ensuring the worth of Family Farming is understood and recognized.

IFOAM – Organics International is a member of the civil society World Coordination Committee (WCC) of IYFF+10, the international committee that campaigned for its establishment and draws on the input of INOFO to fulfill this function.

Access to such global high-level decision-making forums allows us to represent the interests of small-scale farmers from a position of strength and legitimacy.



INOFO at IFAD's Asia Pacific Farmers' Forum (FAFO)



Thales Mendonça (INOFO) at an organic market in Brazil

# 7

## We Unite: Our Work in a Nutshell



### Healthy Food for All: Scaling up Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

**The 2019 EAT–Lancet Commission report urges us to refocus agricultural priorities from producing high quantities of food to producing healthy food. The NMA project shows us how this can look in practice.**

The Nutrition in Mountain Agro-ecosystems (NMA) project enjoyed continued success in 2019 as we ramped up Phase II of our efforts, focused on replicating and scaling up interventions and knowledge of nutrition-sensitive agriculture in mountainous areas. The new phase expands project activities into a total of nine countries – up from five – and shifts the project work’s scope from that of a national perspective to one transboundary. The four new countries (Ecuador, Bolivia, Tajikistan and India) increased the outreach of the project in the 5 regions where the project is being implemented (Andes, African Highlands, Himalayas, Hindu Kush and Tian Shan).

Implementing SUNSAIs (Scaling Up Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Interventions) is the crucial component to successfully increasing nutrition-sensitive interventions. SUNSAIs build on experiences extracted from micro-interventions with a longer duration (e.g. two years) and wider reach (e.g. 500 to 1,000 producers / 5,000 to 10,000 consumers).

The success of NMA can be attributed to its people-centered approach, which supports the belief that rural service providers can become agents of change and leaders in their community. The project is most impactful when it succeeds in connecting scalable, practical solutions for food and nutrition security with national and global conversations. The messages we convey in success stories are drawn from on the ground experiences of local communities. They are

used to advocate for the integration of nutrition-sensitive agriculture in the discourses, programs, and policies of governmental and intergovernmental bodies.

Health and nutrition were also top of the agenda at the world’s leading trade fair, **BIOFACH 2019**, where congress sessions debated the importance of health and nutrition in line with the overarching theme ‘**The Organic System: Healthy in a Holistic Approach**’. The discussions reiterated the important role of organic agriculture in contributing to a broader understanding of ‘health’ and echo the position expressed in the ‘**Food in the Anthropocene**’ report by the EAT–Lancet Commission that “[f]ood is the single strongest lever to optimize human health and environmental sustainability on Earth.”



Health and nutrition are part of the holistic thinking that underpins organic agriculture.

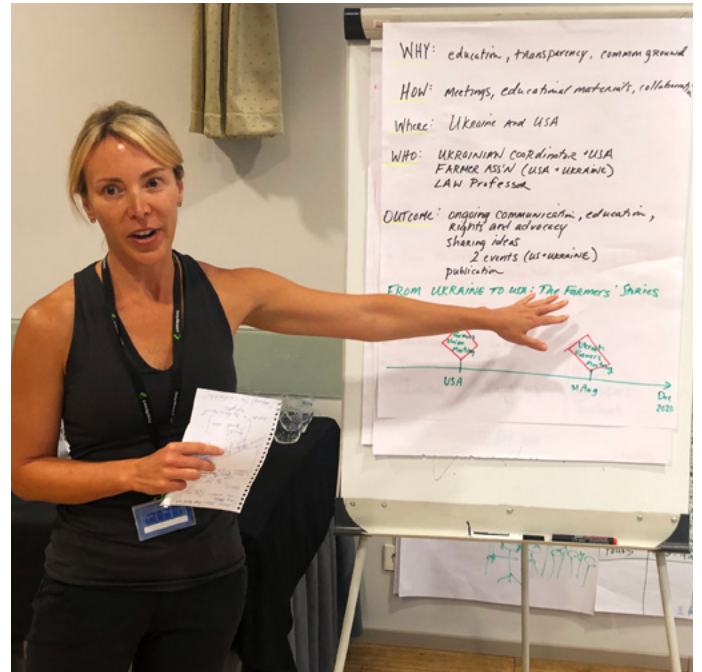
## Joint Action, Amplified Impact

**We believe that by sharing our knowledge and building the capacity of new trainers, we effectively empower multipliers to increase the reach and impact of organic agriculture and strengthen our networks.**

In 2019 we fostered yet more generations of organic leaders through our Organic Leadership Courses (OLC). As part of the Organic Markets for Development (OM4D) project, the top three alumni in each of the countries where OLCs were conducted, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Togo, were awarded a grant to allow them to test their end-of-course development plans in a real-life setting. One of our alumni was also able to secure, beyond the grant, additional funding from her local government to replicate her model farming lot, which allows the local community to see organic agriculture in action.

Similarly, across all NMA project countries, we worked hand in hand with dynamic local teams and movements. We used our Training of Trainers programs (ToTs) to build the capacity of local multipliers in NMA target countries to conduct their own trainings on nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

In acknowledgment of the relevance of our capacity-building strategy, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) invited, for the second year in a row, our Organic Academy to conduct a training at their summer school. Focusing on 'Agrobiodiversity in a Changing Climate', we contributed our capacity-building expertise while providing thematic leadership from a global angle.



OLC 2019 alumni Anne Ross at the face-to-face session, Lithuania



Training of Teams of Trainers (ToToT) in Nepal, 2019 (NMA 2)

## Coming Together to Transform Agriculture and Food Systems in Africa

**If not curbed, the accumulated cost of illness and injury linked to pesticides in small-scale farming in sub-Saharan Africa could reach US\$90 billion in 2020. Now stakeholders appeal to African governments to align policies with agroecological milestones.**

According to the UN, 90% of synthetic pesticide fatalities come from developing countries. Estimated costs from synthetic pesticide poisonings in sub-Saharan Africa now exceed the total annual overseas development aid given to the African region for basic health services.

The '1st International Conference on Agroecology Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems in Africa', held in Nairobi, Kenya, brought to light the damage synthetic pesticides has inflicted on African populations, their animals, the environment, and government as well as household economies.

The event, jointly convened by Biovision Africa Trust, IFOAM - Organics International, and World Food Preservation Center LLC, offered an inclusive platform attracting a diversity of stakeholders, making it an effective moment for transformational change in agriculture, value chains, and food systems in Africa.

Over 400 national, regional, continental, and international agroecology and agribusiness development stakeholders from 20 countries gathered to learn about the harmful effects of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Participants also discussed food security, nutrition, and sustainable consumption as well as how to scale up agroecology practices and systems. Measures to strengthen regional ecological organic trade and how policies can help set milestones to reduce synthetic fertilizer and pesticides were also on the agenda.

The conference concluded with a call to action for African governments to commit to aligning policies with the milestones needed to further agroecological activities whilst stressing the need to further raise awareness on the adverse effects of synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and GMOs on the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment.



© Courtesy of Biovision Africa Trust, Photography by Steve Mugo, Infinity Clix

Barbara Zilly, Senior Manager, Capacity Development at IFOAM - Organics International



## We Demand: Good Food for All!

**The Sustainable Development Goals have set the task of reaching Zero Hunger by 2030.**

**An ambitious goal that can only be achieved by balancing the needs of farmers, consumers, and the planet.**

'The 'Good Food for All' campaign, conducted with the support of the IFOAM Organics Europe, was completed in 2019. It drew citizens' attention to the need for a transition to growing food in a way that nourishes soils, preserves biodiversity, and protects water sources from contamination. The campaign was part of the 'Make Europe Sustainable for All' project run together with 24 European civil society organizations, which aimed to mobilize 25 million EU citizens and 4,100 key policy makers to make the transition to more sustainable lifestyles and to develop and promote policies for the concrete implementation of the SDGs. Notably, the campaign included two actions that put farmers in the foreground.

A Twitter storm with the hashtag #IGrowYourFood gave farmers from around the world an opportunity to speak out about the challenges they face, the work they do, and how we can support them. The overwhelmingly positive responses have led us to adopt #IGrowYourFood as a yearly activity to



Farmers protesting at the 'We are Fed-Up' demonstration

highlight farmers' experiences, and celebrate the solutions they have developed.

We also produced the short film 'We Unite', a window into the lives of two organic farmers and the reasons they join the yearly 'We are Fed-Up' demonstration in Germany. Along with hundreds of other farmers, they drive their tractors into the heart of Berlin where they unite with thousands of citizens calling for a better food and farming system for all. Carlo Horn and Hanna Erz talked about why they farm organically, the impact it has on soils and yield, and how, even in times of drought, they are still able to harvest crops. They highlighted the need for sustainable food systems that give farmers access to land, protect the environment, pay fair prices, and provide good food for all.

The campaign stressed the need to transition to a sustainable food system that pays farmers and farmworkers fair prices and does not just feed people, but nourishes them and the planet.



The filming of 'We Unite'

## From Its Roots, Organic Inspires Life: The Organic Movement in Action

**The Organic World Congress and General Assembly are without a doubt the most important events for our democratically led membership organization. An opportunity to keep a finger on the pulse of the global organic movement, these events offer a fertile, vibrant platform for exchange.**



OWC 2008 in Modena, Italy

A lot of energy went into the preparation of our flagship event, the Organic World Congress (OWC), and our most significant membership gathering, the General Assembly (GA), both held consecutively every three years. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of both events is their truly global nature, bringing together people from the entire organic movement to address common challenges and share lessons learned.

The GA is our membership's decision-making forum, the place where the strategic focus for another three years is set. Calls for contributions to the OWC, bids to host the next OWC and GA, nominations for the World Board, and motions were spread extensively. We received over 700 submissions that were considered for inclusion in the OWC congress program.

At the time of writing, the decision to postpone the OWC to September 6-10, 2021 has already been taken. The membership of IFOAM - Organics International voted to hold the General Assembly on September 11 and 12, 2021.

We are humbled by the overwhelming support from partners, donors, sponsors, speakers, and registered participants, and look forward to seeing you all in Rennes!



Rennes, old town center



# 8

## Shaping the Future: PRO-PLANET POLICIES



### An Agenda for Transforming Agriculture

**It is now widely accepted that agricultural practices have to change in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Yet, a policy framework that can trigger and carry the required transition is still urgently needed.**

An article by some of our World Board members, Executive Director, and leading scientists from the organic movement was published in the international journal 'Nature Sustainability' which publishes peer-reviewed research in all fields of science and technology.

It argues that agriculture and food systems urgently need to change to make progress on several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to stay within planetary boundaries. Yet, two

narratives dominate the discussion on this, i.e. incremental steps to improve efficiency in conventional agriculture while reducing negative externalities, versus the transformative redesign of farming systems based on agroecological principles. The SDGs offer an opportunity to reconcile these divisions by focusing on the sustainability contributions of different farming approaches and the policies that help accelerate the required transition.

Agriculture and food-related policies play a crucial role both in perpetuating unsustainable systems and in inspiring more sustainable ones since they greatly influence farming and business practices, costs, prices, and consumer choice. The article identifies four important groups of policy actions that can synergistically transition our food system to a more sustainable one:

- 1) Support and enhance transformative systems;
- 2) Foster the demand of sustainable food products;
- 3) Incentivize improvements in mainstream systems; and
- 4) Raise legal requirements and industry norms.

Successful implementation of a reformed and supportive policy context needs societal debates and social movements to apply pressure on governments and institutions. Governments should only support agriculture and food systems that deliver on the SDGs (in line with 'public funds for public goods').

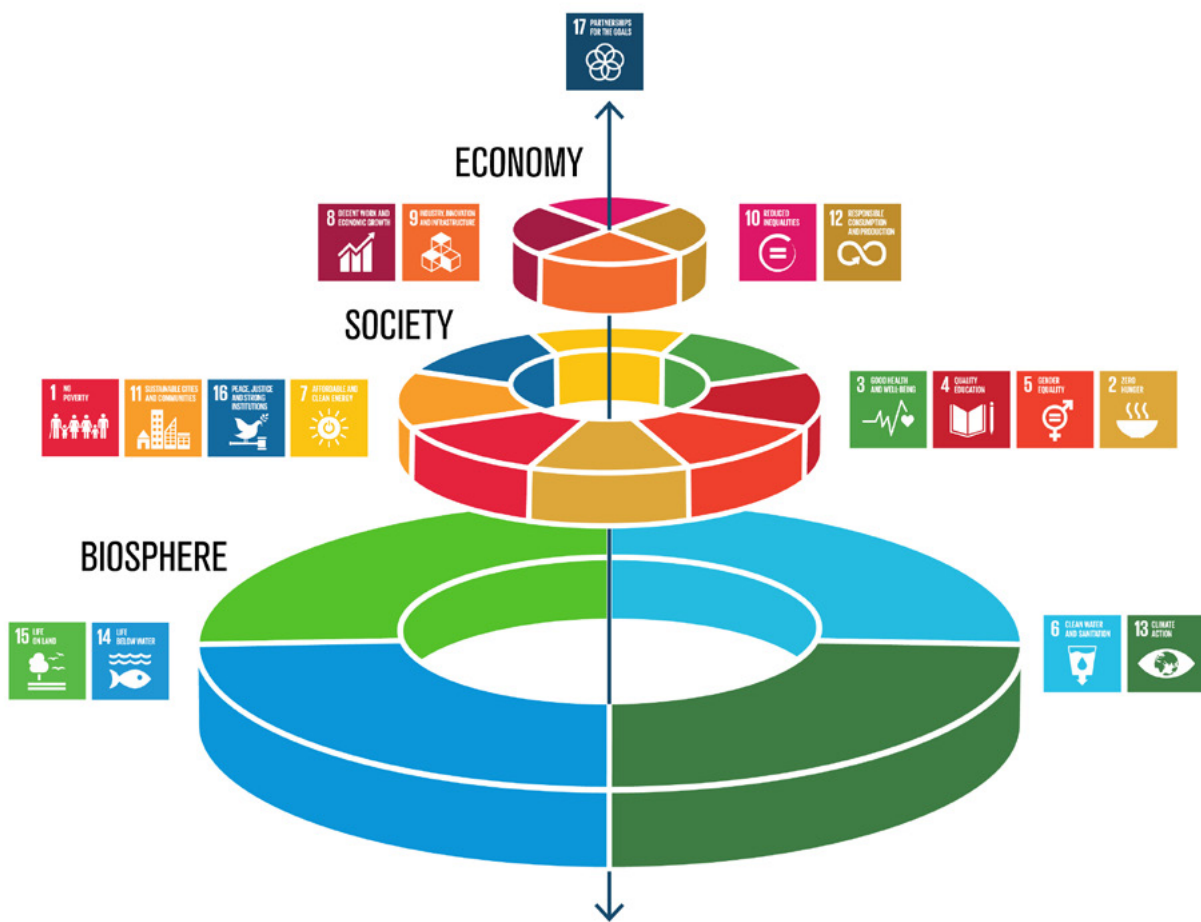


However, powerful vested interests, including global and national agribusiness corporations, food companies, and commodity groups, command ever greater market power and heavily influence policies. It will take a critical mass of scientists, farmers, policymakers, businesses, and civil society organizations to align on a transformation agenda and pull these powerful players along to achieve the SDGs. Transcending ideological barriers and vested interests while focusing agriculture and food policies on the SDGs needs to be at the top of the agenda to accelerate the necessary shift towards more sustainable food systems.

The article acknowledges that full cost accounting, a method incorporating the value of ecosystem services and the ex-

ternal costs of farming into economic decision-making, represents one way to provide conceptual guidance in such a policy reform. With this in mind, we also published a **guideline for the organic movement on Full Cost Accounting to Transform Agriculture and Food Systems**. The document explains how the organic sector can contribute to and make use of full cost accounting, using it as a lens and methodology for sustainably shaping agriculture and food systems.

This will serve as a basis to monitor and improve the performance of organic production systems, substantiate our messages on the benefits of organic agriculture, and enable the organic movement to advocate for policies that promote truly sustainable food and farming systems.



Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs) wedding cake from Azote Images for Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2016. Rockström, J.; Sukhdev, P. How food connects all the SDGs. Opening key note speech at the 2016 EAT Forum.

## Participatory Systems for Inclusive Local Food Systems

**Participatory Guarantee Systems are built on well-functioning social processes, underpinned by trust and a committed, informed, and supportive consumer base. They continue to be one of our recommended tools to foster sustainable development.**

In 2019, we consolidated and published global statistics on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) as well as numerous other resources, like the publication 'Why Invest in Participatory Guarantee Systems' in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); a revision of our policy brief 'How Governments Can Recognize and Support Participatory Guarantee Systems' and of our PGS Guidelines 'How to Develop and Manage Participatory Guarantee Systems for Organic Agriculture'; and the animated video 'PGS and Sustainable Local Food Systems'.

These efforts were supplemented by tailored, technical PGS support, provided at the request of local partners in the context of development cooperation and donor-funded projects. In total 10 countries across West Africa (Benin, Togo, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe, Burkina Faso), Europe (Italy, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic), and Asia (Japan) were supported by these efforts. Representatives from several mountainous countries, including India, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, and Panama also benefited from PGS training through our cooperation in the FAO Mountain Partnership.



PGS activities of the OM4D project, Togo



Field visit as part of a PGS mission, Benin

The Organic Markets for Development (OM4D) project saw PGS initiatives kick off in all target countries. In Ghana, newly PGS-certified organic farmers were able to display their products for the first time at the West African Organic Conference 'Life for All', an event that brought together over 300 participants from across the continent. This was also the first opportunity for coordinators of PGS initiatives in Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana, and São Tomé and Príncipe to meet and exchange experiences on how to implement PGS as an affordable alternative to third party certification for domestic markets.

Thanks to the implementation of the EATingCRAFT project - the first transnational project on PGS in Europe - we have partnered with several European Civil Society Organisations working on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), supporting the development of new PGS initiatives and spreading the benefits of this approach to new countries.

PGS have seen increased recognition: there are now 10 countries with fully implemented regulations for organic agriculture that recognize PGS as guarantee systems to ensure the organic quality of products. We are following the developments in countries that are currently drafting regulations, to provide advice for inclusive legal frameworks and to support our affiliates in their advocacy efforts.

Going forward, we will continue to act as the global organic knowledge center on PGS, fostering a better understanding of their functioning and benefits and encouraging an increased interaction between all stakeholders.

## Promoting Pro-Planet Policies

**Awareness-raising, capacity-building, and multi-stakeholder processes are some of the approaches we use to reach policy-makers and improve the quality of national organic standards, policies, and regulations.**

In 2019, we continued our efforts to promote effective supporting policies for organic agriculture on the basis of our **Global Policy Toolkit on Public Support to Organic Agriculture**.

In cooperation with the World Future Council, we compiled and published research on organic and agroecological policies in the Himalaya Region, where many states have come to be outstanding examples of pro-organic policies. The study, titled **'The Mainstreaming of Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in the Himalaya Region. Policy Contexts in Bhutan, India and Nepal'**, is a follow-up of our work, showcasing existing political support for organic farming and agroecology. It brings new insights on the current institutional efforts and limitations of mainstreaming sustainable agriculture across the Himalaya Region, with a focus on Bhutan, India, and Nepal. By showing successful examples, we aim to inspire policy-makers to consider alternative, organic, and agroecological policy pathways.

In the Republic of Korea, we co-organized with IFOAM Asia the **'ALGOA+4 International Summit on Organic Agriculture Policy'**, during which successful organic policies from across the world were promoted to an international audience.

Further, we put our international expertise to work by providing training to national organic stakeholders and policymakers in Togo, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, and several Indian states to facilitate their efforts to develop national organic standards, policies, and regulations.

In Togo, a policy workshop implemented on behalf of the Green Innovation Centre project brought together 36 parti-

cipants from different stakeholder groups to support the country's government goal of converting fully to organic agriculture by 2030. We supported those efforts by guiding the process of developing a roadmap for the development of a National Organic Sector Strategy.

Applicants for approval in the IFOAM Family of Standards, e.g. Senegal (FENAB) and Bhutan (Ministry of Agriculture), continue benefitting from our expertise, with both public and private organic standards being improved to ensure that they are the best possible fit for their national context.



Louise Luttkholt (Executive Director), Peggy Miars (President) and Mayor Lee Cha Young

## Pro-People Policies to Ensure Inclusiveness

**Changes in policies or regulations in certain markets can be felt by smallholder farmers elsewhere. It is of utmost importance to ensure that negative factors are mitigated and farmers' interests are adequately represented.**



Food market, Ecuador

In 2019, the bulk of our policy efforts concentrated on group certification requirements - particularly those being discussed in the new EU organic regulation development where we were in close contact with the IFOAM Organics Europe to align our approaches. Group certification is the main approach for the organic certification of smallholder farms in developing countries. It is used to certify millions of farms worldwide, hence the importance of getting the certification requirements right: If we can alleviate market access, we can encourage more to go organic with the opportunity to earn the organic premium.

Following the publication of the new EU organic regulations in May 2018, the EU Commission plans to develop further



Crop improvement by young woman farmer (courtesy of INOFO)

guidance for group certification, which will also allow for group certification in the EU. This was a timely moment for IFOAM – Organics International to launch a multi-stakeholder process to refine group certification requirements and advocate for meaningful and doable requirements in the upcoming EU organic regulation. We did so through an online stakeholder consultation survey, followed by an international multi-stakeholder workshop and the submission of briefing papers and position papers to the EU policymakers. These efforts continued in 2020.

# 9

# Financial Statement & Thanks

## Financial Note

IFOAM - Organics International has grown substantially over the last years. Despite this growth, 2019 was a financially challenging year. It became obvious that we need new tools to responsibly handle future growth. Under the operational leadership of the Executive Director, we have therefore embarked on an overhaul of our financial management system. This involves a change in how we do our year-end close and audit. We voluntarily moved from a statement and verification on income and expenditure to a year-end closing and audit according to legal German accounting standards. Due to these higher accounting standards, we see a one-time negative effect from provisions for expenditures related to the financial year.

This transition will continue in 2020 where we anticipate that the combination of much-needed change and the COVID 19 pandemic will lead to a negative financial result. Nevertheless, the Board consciously decided to continue improving our financial management system as the organization has sufficient reserves to facilitate these critical investments. We believe the benefits will be felt in the day-to-day operations of our office as well as by our membership and partners.

We plan to complete the update of our financial management system by the end of 2021 so that we are ready to celebrate the 50th birthday of IFOAM – Organics International with you in 2022!



Peggy Miars, President

## Balance Sheet

ASSETS IN €	12/31/2019
<b>A. FIXED ASSETS</b>	
<b>I. Intangible assets</b>	
Purchased concessions, industrial property and similar rights and assets, and licenses in such rights and assets	<b>23.367,61</b>
<b>II. Tangible assets</b>	
Operating and office equipment	27.531,51
<b>III. Financial assets</b>	
Other long-term equity investments	17.568,00
<b>B. CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
<b>I. Inventories</b>	
Finished goods and merchandise	5.000,00
<b>II. Receivables and other assets</b>	
1. Trade receivables	152.632,39
2. Other assets	264.549,70
	<b>417.182,09</b>
<b>III. Cash on hand and bank balances</b>	2.379.695,06
	<b>2.870.344,27</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES IN €</b>	<b>12/31/2019</b>
<b>A. Equity</b>	
I. Earmarked reserves	393.288,46
II. Cumulative losses brought forward	-6.854,63
	<b>386.433,83</b>
<b>B. Provisions</b>	
I. Tax provisions	12.900,00
II. Other provisions	109.245,72
	<b>122.145,72</b>
<b>C. Liabilities</b>	
I. Trade payables	2.248,60
II. Other liabilities	2.300.248,34
of which taxes: € 12.323,33	
	<b>2.302.496,94</b>
<b>D. Deferred income</b>	<b>59.267,78</b>
	<b>2.870.344,27</b>

## Income Statement

for the Period from January 1 through December 31, 2019

IN €	2019
1. Grants	2.503.510,25
2. Member contributions	361.220,75
3. Sales revenue	163.831,38
4. Other operating income	801.068,23
	<b>3.829.630,61</b>
5. Expenses for project funding	-1.700.353,66
6. Personnel expenses	
A. Wages and salaries	1.181.416,42
B. Social security, pension & other benefits	241.312,91
	-1.422.729,33
7. Amortization and depreciation of fixed intangible and tangible assets	-7.977,05
8. Other operating expenses	-1.018.065,63
9. Other interest and similar income	23,94
10. Net income or loss before taxes	-319.471,12
11. Taxes on income	-42.634,73
12. Net income or loss after taxes	-362.105,85
13. Other taxes	-24.722,40
14. Net loss for the financial year	-386.828,25
15. Unappropriated retained earnings brought forward from prior year	139.973,62
16. Withdrawals from the earmarked reserves	736.663,07
17. Transfer to the earmarked reserves	-496.663,07
18. Cumulative losses brought forward	-6.854,63

## Annual Salary Scheme

The wage ratio is 3.59 (highest/lowest)

CATEGORY	MIN	STANDARD	MAX
Staff	27.000	32.000	52.000
Head of department special expert	51.000	61.500	72.000
Executive director	65.000	81.750	98.500

### Transactions to Related Parties 2019:

In 2019 we identified 4 cases of transactions to first grade relatives (2) and former staff members (2) with the total amount of 8.592 €, e.g. for IT & communication services or strategic advice. In addition, we transferred project funds to 7 Affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International as project partners with the amount of 735.096 €. In total 743.688 € were transferred to 11 related parties in 2019.

### CO<sub>2</sub> Compensation:

In 2019 we compensated for 227 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Finances of Self-Organized Structures

	INCOME IN €	EXPENDITURES IN €	RESERVES IN €		INCOME IN €	EXPENDITURES IN €	RESERVES IN €
<b>REGIONAL BODIES</b>				<b>SECTOR PLATFORMS</b>			
IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo	7.500	9.381	5.591	IFOAM Aquaculture Forum	NO INCOME OR EXPENDITURES		
IFOAM America Latina	0	0	0	IFOAM Apiculture Forum			
IFOAM Organics Europe	1.650.000	1.610.000	40.000	IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance			
IFOAM Euro-Asia	0	0	0	IFOAM Seeds Platform			
IFOAM North America	11.742	12.024	7.015	TUPI			
IFOAM Organics Asia	378.973	370.414	8.559	INOFO			
IFOAM Southern African Network	645	645	0	<b>RELATED ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
<b>NATIONAL BODIES</b>				bioC	60.706	55.719	32.386
IFOAM France	5.700	7.894	13.154	IOAS	1.217.270	1.159.950	775.125
IFOAM IRAN	0	0	0				
IFOAM Japan	12.350	5.417	9.826				

## Donors

Over 500.000 €	250.000-500.000 €	50.000-160.000 €	10.000-50.000 €	1.000-10.000 €
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, The Netherlands SEQUA gGmbH {BMZ funds}, Germany State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Switzerland Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, {BMZ funds}, Germany EU Commission, Belgium	Biovision Africa Trust - (BVAT), Kenya European Environmental Bureau (EEB), {EU Commission funds}, Belgium Neuapostolische Kirche-Karitativ e.V., Germany Rural Development Administration (RDA), South Korea	Asian Development Bank, Philippines Rare (USA) {BMU funds, Germany} IOAS, USA Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL), {SDC & Mercator Foundation funds}, Switzerland	AUGA Group, Lithuania Beijing Organic & Beyond Corporation, China Ekoagros, Lithuania IFOAM Organics Europe, Belgium Rapunzel Naturkost AG, Germany

## Clients

50.000-100.000 €	5.000-20.000 €	1.000-5.000 €	100 - 1.000 €
Nürnberg Messe GmbH, Germany	Agriculture & Finance Consultants (AFC) {BMEL funds}, Germany Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany Asian Productivity Organization, Japan Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Armenia Office EcorNaturasi, Italy Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Italy	BioSuisse, Switzerland DOGTARBESBIR, {EU Commission funds}, Turkey FENAB, Senegal Foundation of Organic Agriculture Certification, Thailand ICCOA, India Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Germany IOIA, USA Middle East Organic & Natural Product Expo, UAE Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Senegal PAN Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation, India Slow food, Italy	Biocyclic Network Services Ltd., Cyprus California Certified Organic Farmers, USA Diayutai Food Technology Co.Ltd., China EcoWellness, Germany The International Analog Forestry Network, Costa Rica LHMK ENTERPRISE B.V., Netherlands MASIPAG, Philippines Namibian Organic Association, Namibia Nature & Progrès, France Qualitätsgemeinschaft Biomineralwasser, Germany Sunshine Earth Inc., China Vietnam PGS, Vietnam

### In kind contributions:

Food & Drinks supply: Alaryk, Bionade, Byodo Naturkost GmbH, Ecovin, Guayapi, Lebensbaum, Neumarkter Lammsbräu, Rapunzel, Riedenburger Brauhaus.  
 Hosting Youth Forum participants: Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA)  
 World Board travel and accommodation: Frank Eyhorn  
 Legal Advice: Hanspeter Schmidt  
 Office rent: City of Bonn

Strategic Partners

**BIOFACH**  
into organic

**FiBL**

**WE THANK ALL OUR AFFILIATES, DONORS, CLIENTS, SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS!**





FROM ITS ROOTS,  
organic inspires life.

## SAVE THE DATES

2021

6-7 SEPTEMBER **PRE-CONFERENCES**

7 SEPTEMBER **OPENING CEREMONY**  
(IN THE EVENING)

8-10 SEPTEMBER **CONFERENCES**



**Organic World  
Congress 2021**

FRANCE

**SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> TO 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 IN RENNES**  
COUVENT DES JACOBINS • CONFERENCE CENTRE

*90 minutes from Paris*



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