



IFOAM – Organics International

General Assembly Report 2024

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Welcome

Dear members,

Reflecting on the past three years, our journey has been one of resilience and determination. We have faced an economic crisis, the lingering consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a significant lack of funding. Yet, despite these formidable challenges, the organic sector and our organization have shown remarkable fortitude. We have weathered the storm and have come out stronger. We have navigated through uncertainties with unwavering commitment, ensuring that our mission to promote organic farming and its regenerative outcomes remains steadfast and impactful.

This General Assembly holds the potential to be a pivotal moment in our organization's future. Your active participation is not just welcomed but essential. It is through our collective efforts that we can shape the direction of IFOAM - Organics International, ensuring we are well-equipped to tackle upcoming challenges and seize new opportunities. Your voices, ideas, and votes are crucial in steering our course towards a more resilient and organic future. Together, we have the power to make significant strides and implement changes that will resonate for years to come.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the tireless work of our dedicated staff, whose efforts often go well beyond the call of duty. The extra commitment from the World Board, whose members have shown remarkable dedication and leadership during these trying times. Moreover, the unwavering support and empathy from our extensive network has been nothing short of inspiring. You all have not only navigated complex challenges but also championed initiatives to secure additional resources, foster international collaborations, and advocate for our cause on global platforms. Your dedication fuels our progress and reinforces our collective resolve. It is this spirit of collaboration and mutual support that makes our community strong and vibrant.

As we look ahead, we have an incredible opportunity to unite and reaffirm organic's leadership in addressing the multifaceted challenges our world faces. From climate change and biodiversity loss to food security and public health, organic agriculture offers viable solutions. By fostering innovation, advocating for policy changes, and promoting sustainable and regenerative practices, we can lead the way in creating a healthier planet. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our donors, supporters, and the entire organic community for their invaluable contributions. I eagerly look forward to seeing you at the General Assembly in December, and I warmly invite our partners to join us in this critical endeavor.

Thank you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "K. Mapusua".

Karen Mapusua
President

Dear members,

As an outsider who has long admired IFOAM – Organics International, I have always seen this organization as a beacon of leadership, a collective of dreamers dedicated to a vital cause. This organisation has stood at the forefront of the organic movement, championing principles that resonate deeply with many around the world. When I took on the role in January, I saw not just a challenge, but a profound opportunity to help steer the organisation back to its core mission—strengthening the organic sector through the principles of health, care, fairness, and ecology.

Upon stepping into my role, I quickly realized the magnitude of the challenges we face. Financial crises, high turnover, and a lack of engagement were apparent. Yet, within these challenges, I saw a unique chance to rejuvenate our mission. The unwavering support of the World Board and the support of the members I met with have energized me. The World Board has stood by me, trusting my vision and leadership to guide IFOAM – Organics International to where it needs to be. Our staff's inspiring commitment, their relentless dedication to the organisation, continues to surprise and motivate me every day.

One of our principles is care. This has been reflected in the warm-hearted, welcoming energy from our partners who see us not just for its historical achievements but for its potential future impact. The dedication of members, supporters and my colleagues in the head office embodies the essence of care, working tirelessly and evoking the principles that define us. Despite the challenges, our spirit is unbroken, and our resolve is a source of constant inspiration.

We must also reflect on fairness—a principle that underscores the importance of justice and equity in our work. Patience is required as we rebuild our organisation under the strategic guidance of the World Board. A collaborative approach in our network is crucial and the cornerstone for progress in the coming years.

I am inspired by the proactive outreach from members and partners who believe in IFOAM – Organics International's pivotal role in the global organic movement. The near future looks promising, with new initiatives on the horizon that will place organic agriculture in the spotlight. This is a chance we will not miss. By embracing the interconnectedness of our efforts and fostering innovation, we can create a future where organic principles are at the forefront of sustainable development.

Thank you for your trust and dedication. Together, we will navigate these challenges and emerge stronger, reaffirming IFOAM – Organics International's leadership in the organic sector.



Ravi R. Prasad
Executive Director



What to Expect

What to Expect

General Assembly Timeline



APRIL

- **Submission Deadline**

This marks the deadline for all members to submit proposals, motions, and other necessary documentation for inclusion in the General Assembly (GA) report. The submissions gathered during this phase form the foundation of the topics to be discussed and voted on at the upcoming GA. It is crucial to meet this deadline to ensure thorough review and proper inclusion in the final report.



OCTOBER

- **Publish the GA Report**

The General Assembly report is published, providing all members with a comprehensive overview of the motions, proposals, and key agenda items to be addressed at the GA. This report ensures transparency, allowing members ample time to review, reflect, and prepare for discussions. The timely publication supports informed decision-making ahead of the assembly.



DECEMBER

- **General Assembly**

The General Assembly convenes, bringing together members to discuss, debate, and vote on the motions outlined in the report. This milestone is the culmination of months of preparation and serves as the primary forum for member participation in the decision-making process of the organization, shaping its future direction.

Any questions?

Please reach out to ga@ifoam.bio.

What to Expect

Agenda

Day 1 // December 5, 2024

Opening

Opening address by the IFOAM - Organics International president
Announcement of the GA Chairs and Officers
Approval of the agenda
In Memoriam
Approval of the minutes of GA 2021

Reports 2021 – 2024

Clarify questions
World Board discharge

Outlook 2024 – 2027 *

Clarify questions
Approval of tentative budget 2024 – 2027

Elections

World Board elections – Round 1
Announcement of results World Board elections 1
Appointment of Internal Auditors
World Board elections – Round 2
Announcement of WB election results

Hosting OWC/GA 2027

Proposals
Voting – Round 1 – Round 2

World Board motions

Member motions – part I

Outlook for Day 2

Closing Day 1

Please note: This agenda is subject to change, and a final version will be published closer to the event.

* More information will be shared at a later date, before the General Assembly takes place.

Day 2 // December 6, 2024

New EB announcement

Member motions - part 2

Celebrations and Closure

Farewell

Assignment of IFOAM Ambassadors

IFOAM – Organics International Recognition awards

Closure

Closing of GA

Comment from the Executive Director, Ravi R. Prasad, on Submissions in the Upcoming General Assembly

Dear Members,

I am looking forward to meeting with you all, many of you, for the first time since I took over this assignment in January this year. These nine months have been a great learning curve for me and throughout this period I have had the privilege to meet and be inspired by many of our members. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the processes for the selection of motions and some insights into the steps we have taken to ensure that the motions, candidates, and bids presented reflect the highest quality and the strategic needs of our organization.

In line with the recommendations of our internal auditors, the World Board has meticulously screened the motions submitted by members. This thorough screening process is designed to enhance the relevance and feasibility of the motions brought forward, ensuring that they align with the strategic goals of IFOAM and can be realistically implemented. This would help us ensure that the IFOAM – Organics International head office can implement these without mobilizing funds or stretching the capacities of the existing human capital. This approach has been adopted for members' motions, World Board motions, World Board candidates, and the Organic World Congress (OWC) bids.

We received a total of 16 member motions, 3 World Board motions, 23 nominations for the World Board, and 6 OWC bids. Having reviewed the motions from members and engaging them in a conversation to better frame or drop their initiative, we have now been able to narrow down the number of members' motions that will be presented to the GA. Similarly, we will also be presenting the OWC bids that have fulfilled most of the criteria to be considered by the GA. Of the nominations for the WB, we have narrowed the number down to 18 based on their nomination documents and fulfillment of all the criteria. We now have an impressive roster of candidates for the World Board, strategic and impactful motions, and promising, financially viable bids for the OWC. I am confident that all the processes we put in place to ensure robust motions and candidates will contribute to a productive and forward-looking General Assembly, fostering progress and innovation within our organization.

You all are aware that the World Board initiated a Governance Reforms process and set up a Governance Reforms Taskforce chaired by Andre Leu and facilitated by an external consultant. It was an inclusive process with members of the taskforce representing all stakeholders of the IFOAM network. The report will be made available to you by the World Board, prior to the GA and there will be a discussion on it during the meeting.

Your commitment and thoughtful contributions are crucial, and we look forward to a robust and meaningful discussion at the Assembly.

Thank you for your continued dedication, guidance and support.

Warm regards,

Ravi R. Prasad
Executive Director

What to Expect

Join the General Assembly Motion Bazaar

The IFOAM - Organics International GA Bazaar is an engaging event scheduled for December 4 in Taiwan, set one day before the General Assembly (GA). This interactive session is designed to help members gain a thorough understanding of the motions that will be discussed and voted on during the GA. Attendees will have the chance to engage directly with motioners at designated booths, ask questions, and exchange ideas. This setup aims to foster a collaborative environment where doubts can be clarified, and issues resolved before the formal discussions at the General Assembly.

Additionally, the Bazaar provides a platform for World Board (WB) candidates and Organic World Congress (OWC) bidders to present their ideas and engage with members. The event promotes transparency and active participation, ensuring that all members are well-informed about the motions shaping the future of IFOAM - Organics International. The objectives include facilitating an understanding of the motions, WB elections, and OWC bids, providing a direct interaction platform, encouraging dialogue, and defining friendly amendments to motions.

The organization and logistics of the event are meticulously planned to ensure a smooth flow. The venue will feature a large conference hall with multiple booths, each equipped with presentation materials. Motioners and bidders will be briefed beforehand and provided with templates and guidelines for their presentations. The event will include registration, an opening session by Karen Mapusua, interactive presentations, and opportunities for informal discussions during refreshment breaks.

On-site support and a feedback mechanism will be available to assist all our members and gather their input on the motions and the event itself.

Interested in joining the event?

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/241825063926358>

Engage.
Understand.
Shape the Future.

What to Expect

How to Use Your Proxy Vote for the General Assembly

If you are unable to join us in person for the upcoming General Assembly during the Organic World Congress in Taiwan, you can still participate by delegating your vote through a proxy. Here's how you can ensure your voice is heard:

1. Receiving Your Voting Code

In the first weeks of October, you will receive an email containing access to your unique voting code. This code is now visible in IFOAM's [Member Area](#).

2. Registering Your Vote

To register your vote:

- Log in to the [Member Area](#) using your credentials.
- Navigate to the "General Assembly" tab.
- Go to the "Voter Registration" section.
- Select the individual who will vote on behalf of your organization from the drop-down menu. If the correct person is not listed, you can update the contact details in the Member Area.

3. Delegating Your Vote to Another Member

If no one from your organisation is available to vote, you may delegate your vote by sharing your voting code with another IFOAM member who will vote on your behalf. [Enter the member area](#) and follow the steps.

4. Voting as a Proxy for Another Organization

If you have agreed to vote on behalf of another organization:

- Go to the "Vote as Proxy on Behalf of Another Organization" section in the member area.
- Enter the voting code provided by that organization.
- Select your name from the drop-down menu next to the voting code field.
- You can register to vote for up to five organizations as a proxy.

5. Editing Your Vote

If you make an error or need to change your vote assignment, simply click "Unassign" next to the respective entry in the "Registered Votes" section. This will allow you to correct the information.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the IFOAM Secretariat at membership@ifoam.bio.

Thank you for participating and ensuring your vote is counted!

A large, stylized, light brown illustration of a hand holding a smartphone, set against a darker brown background. The hand is positioned vertically, with the thumb at the bottom and the index finger at the top, holding a rectangular smartphone. The background features abstract, flowing shapes in various shades of brown.

World Board Motions

Introduction to World Board Motions

World Board Motions are proposals put forward by the World Board to guide the strategic direction, policies, and operational focus of IFOAM - Organics International.

These motions are crucial for implementing changes and ensuring that the organization remains responsive to global trends and challenges infor organic agriculture as well as keeping the governance structure of the IFOAM Network up to date.

Voting Process for the World Board Motions:

1. Proposal Development: The World Board develops motions based on strategic needs, member feedback, and emerging issues in organic agriculture.

2. Dissemination: Proposed motions are circulated to the membership ahead of the General Assembly, allowing members to review and discuss them.

3. Debate: At the General Assembly, members have the opportunity to debate and discuss the merits of each motion. Amendments can be proposed during this stage.

4. Voting: Members vote on each motion, usually through a show of voting cards. For a motion to pass, it typically requires a simple majority. Each member organization has an equal vote, and if a member can't attend the General Assembly, a proxy vote can be generated via the [member area](#).

5. Implementation: Approved motions are then implemented by the World Board and the staff, guiding the organization's actions and priorities.

6. Reporting: The World Board reports back to the membership in the next General Assembly.

W01

Strengthening Impact of General Assembly Motions

DESCRIPTION: The General Assembly of IFOAM – Organics International agrees to amend the motion submission process so that motions include a tentative implementation plan and clarify the role and level of commitment of the motioner in achieving the goal of the proposed motion.

OBJECTIVES: The main objectives of this motion are to ensure that motions made to the General Assembly are achievable, implementable and contribute to building a stronger partnership with members on motion implementation. This will strengthen member-staff collaboration and give more opportunities for members to engage in IFOAM – Organics International work.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES: Motions presented to the GA will include information on how the member presenting the motion will assist in achieving or implementing the proposed motion. For example:

- a. Provision of expert technical advice to the IFOAM – Organics International office on the substance of the motion, and/or in technical working groups required.
- b. Leadership or facilitation of member processes required to achieve the motion in collaboration with the IFOAM – Organics International Office.
- c. Budgetary support for actioning the motion.

The motion should include a description of any work already undertaken by the member presenting the motion in relation to the substance of the motion.

RATIONALE: IFOAM-Organics International's democratic process is unique and valuable ensuring members can be directly involved in steering the organisation and in developing strategic directions and identifying priority actions for the organisation. The General Assembly motion process is a core element of this. The intent of this motion is to strengthen ownership of motions by members and enhance membership engagement in IFOAM-Organics International beyond the GA.

Experience has shown that the organisation has found it challenging to effectively implement member motions where the resources – human, financial, or technical – have not been available within the existing staff team. Requiring proposed motions to include information about the supporting resources available to assist with implementation of motions will help contribute to members' assessment of the feasibility of proposed motions. This will ultimately improve the successful implementation of the motions that are supported by members at the General Assembly.

W02

Motions' process better reflecting member priorities

DESCRIPTION: The General Assembly of IFOAM – Organics International instructs the World Board to establish a motions process to better reflect members priorities and provide a stronger basis for member assessment of motions. This process should include:

- **Motion impact analysis in relation to IFOAM – Organics International strategy,**
- **Motion viability analysis in relation to IFOAM – Organics International financial and staffing realities,**
- **Creating greater opportunity for online discussion of motions before the General Assembly,**
- **Voting procedures, where members can rank motions priority in relation to each other.**

OBJECTIVES: The motion will establish a motions process that allows members to put weight on motions of greatest importance to them to better reflect member priorities. Members will also gain access to better information on motion impacts in relation to IFOAM – Organics International objectives and strategy, and the motion viability in relation to IFOAMs financial and staffing realities. Finally, the motion will improve member opportunities for dialogue and clarifications regarding motions before the General Assembly. A weighted voting method will allow members to prioritize motions (including both Member and World Board motions) so that all motions are prioritized by members in relation to each other as guidance to implementation.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Development of a voting procedure for motions, where members can rank motions priority in relation to each other.
- Enhanced focus in motion proposals on the impact in relation to IFOAM's strategic objectives (in the IFOAM strategy, which reflect member consultations) and the financial consequences of the proposal.
- Establishment of stronger online options for clarifications on motions and dialogue among members before each General Assembly.

RATIONALE: The current model for member motions process is not providing members with an adequate assessment of motion impacts or an opportunity to indicate which motions are most important for them. Furthermore, it is also important to improve dialogue among members regarding motions.

We experience that:

- **The motions process gives no sense of members priorities among the many motions.** The current method, voting motions up or down individually, does not require members to make a considered choice among different motions. There is a tendency to vote "yes" for all motions, whether "must have" or "well, I am not against it." There is no cost to a yes.
- **Internal Auditors point out that choices on motions have no relation to IFOAMs financial realities.** Our internal auditors point to motions passed in 2021 with a price tag of 300K, noting that "the GA ends with a volume of adopted motions without the appropriate means to implement them." There is a need to increase the feasibility of motions overall.
- **WB recognized the importance of member debate and ownership of motions.** This requires dialogue and member influence on prioritization.

This motion will enhance financial sustainability and responsibility. It will also allow the WB and team to focus on actions of highest priority to our members, including core objectives in our strategy, as defined by member consultations

PRICE TAG: 4000 Euro (30 days of coordination)

W03

Building a fit for the future IFOAM structure and governance

DESCRIPTION: The General Assembly of IFOAM – Organics International instructs the World Board to work out a concrete proposal for IFOAM – Organics International governance, ensuring that governance structures reflect the needs and contributions of all regions and self-organized structures and improve and reform IFOAM – Organics International governance to make it fit for future challenges.

For this endeavor, the World Board will appoint and establish a diverse and committed Governance Advisory Board, or a similar structure, representative of the organic movement. The Governance Advisory Board will ensure that members, at least one representative from each regional body and each sector platform, have the opportunity to be represented. This Advisory Board should also include independent governance experts to provide advice and propose a roadmap and options for longer-term reforms in the structure and governance of our organisation.

The General Assembly of IFOAM – Organics International instructs the World Board to organize an extraordinary GA (digital or physical) within 18 months focusing on ratifying the transition plan to a new governance model, ensuring that membership, regional bodies, self-organized structures, and sector platforms are equitably represented in governance decisions.

In addition, the General Assembly instructs the World Board to prioritize the development of robust communication channels between the global office, regional bodies, and other member structures, ensuring that information flow is streamlined and that members are fully and timely informed of the process and transparency is ensured.

OBJECTIVES: “To structure membership and governance to better reflect the diversity and development of the organic movement and sector, applying the principle of subsidiarity, equity, and inclusion.” ([IFOAM strategy 2024-2034](#))

This will ensure that IFOAM is fit for the future, remains relevant, and is able to lead growth of the organic movement globally.

**SUGGESTED
ACTIVITIES:**

1. The governance work should include:
 - Reviewing all current proposals and concepts produced in the last WB terms by relevant task forces, regional bodies and WB.
 - An assessment and state of play of different regions, sectors and member groups within IFOAM - Organics International.
 - Investigating alternate models for member engagement in diverse parts of the world
 - Clarification of roles and responsibilities between the global head office, regional bodies, sector platforms, and self-organized structures, ensuring a cohesive, non-competitive collaboration framework that allows each body to operate effectively.
 - Viability analysis of the governance reform, with attention to the financial and staffing realities of both the head office and regional bodies.
 - Up to two options for future governance models that reflect the spirit, intention and elements of the 2024 governance proposals from IFOAM Regional Bodies, and members.
 - A detailed plan for potential future structures and governance, including a roadmap for transition.
 - A motion for decision for the extraordinary GA to be held within 18 months.

W03

Continued

2. The World Board will also act now on some more immediate challenges and recommendations emerging from the governance consultation and work in the Governance Task Force:

- Improving coordination and collaboration in our network, related to global advocacy, initiatives (Academy) and challenges, amplifying our collective impact and clarifying roles including through improving support to and function of the Network Council
- Decide on updated rules of procedure for the improved functioning of our network
- Strengthening capacity in the network
- Attracting and supporting leaders from across our network to ensure broad and inclusive representation of the global organic community in internal and external representation, working to remove barriers to participation.
- Improving communication with members from the IFOAM – Organics International World Board and office
- Strengthening accountability for these actions by office and World Board members and other appointed responsible persons/network members.

RATIONALE:

Coming out of our 50th Anniversary and with a new strategy that outlines the vision for a future membership governance structure that ‘better reflects the diversity and development of the organic movement and sector, applying the principles of subsidiarity, equity and inclusion.’ the WB was looking to build a strong ship that will take us forward for the next 50 years.

In 2024, the World Board designated a Governance Reform Task Force to assess governance challenges and develop reform proposals. The Task Force represented all the stakeholder groups in our structure: regional bodies, members who are only members of IFOAM OI or from areas without regional bodies, INOFO; the sector platforms, and the World Board.

This was an inclusive, open, and transparent consultative process, where approx. 20% of the membership engaged in facilitated consultation sessions. Our regional bodies in Asia, Europe and Mediterranean contributed proposals for reform with concrete proposals for an alternative governance model based on a revised World Board election process.

The consultant’s report presented three pathways 1) doing nothing, 2) adopting any number of incremental reforms from a menu developed by the Task Force, and 3) launching a lengthier and more comprehensive governance reform process. The Task force presented consensus recommendations, without dissent, and one member provided supplemental recommendations. In both cases there was agreement that there was a need for “more time to carefully reconsider what, in fact, needs to be changed and why.” The World Board concurs and supports the Chair’s recommendation of appointing an Advisory Board on governance reform that can provide a detailed plan as recommendation to WB and the General Assembly.

Documents attached: [IFOAM Governance Options Paper](#); [Governance Task Force – Chair Report](#).

PRICE TAG:

To be developed, based on the GA’s decision.

W04**Establishment of role of Treasurer within the IFOAM-Organics International World Board**

DESCRIPTION: The General Assembly of IFOAM – Organics International instructs the World Board to amend the Statutes to establish the role of Treasurer. The amendment should enable the World Board to coopt a member to undertake this role should the elected World Board members not have the requisite financial skills and experience.

OBJECTIVES: To strengthen fiscal oversight of IFOAM-Organics International's operations, provide support to the Executive Director and ensure the World Board is provided with robust financial analysis and advice.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES: Incoming World Board to amend the statutes in line with the Motion.
Incoming World Board to act on the intent of the Motion through appointing or co-opting a Treasurer immediately.

RATIONALE: After managing the financial crisis during this term and seeing the cycles of financial ups and downs for the organisation over the past decades the World Board sort to strengthen the governing bodies fiscal oversight of the organisation's operations.

It was recognised that the role of Treasurer is critical, as is having a person with the right skills sets and experience in that role.

As part of the World Boards efforts to professionalise and ensure more robust and transparent financial governance, the current Board appointed a member with the requisite skills to take on a Treasury role. We believe it should be formally part of the World Board composition going forward.

It is recognised that as the World Board is elected that there is no guarantee that every World Board will have an elected member with the necessary financial skills and experience so recommend that the ability to co-opt for the role also be formalised.

PRICE TAG: If the Treasurer is appointed from elected WB members for the term cost is 0 (zero)

If co-opted costs will increase due to additional travel costs for one person to attend face to face WB meetings each year.



Member Motions

Introduction to Member Motions

Member Motions are proposals submitted by IFOAM members to address specific issues of strategic relevance, suggest changes, or introduce new initiatives within the organization.

These motions reflect the grassroots engagement of IFOAM's diverse membership and ensure that the voices of all members are heard and considered.

Voting Process for the Member Motions:

1. Submission: When Members submit motions, the office ensures that each submission meets all necessary requirements. The World Board (WB) then evaluates the motions, providing feedback to the motioners. Throughout this process, both the office and the WB support motioners in adapting, adjusting, or, if necessary, withdrawing their motions. Once finalized, the motions are formally presented to the General Assembly (GA) for consideration.

2. Review: Submitted motions are reviewed for compliance and feasibility. They are then compiled and shared with the entire membership prior to the General Assembly.

3. Discussion: During the General Assembly, members present and discuss each motion. This discussion period allows for clarifications, debates, and potential amendments to the motions.

4. Voting: Members vote on each motion, usually through a show of voting cards. For a motion to pass, it typically requires a simple majority. Each member organization has an equal vote, and if a member can't attend the General Assembly, a proxy vote can be generated via the [member area](#).

5. Implementation: Approved motions are then implemented by the World Board and the staff, guiding the organization's actions and priorities.

6. Reporting: The World Board reports back to the membership in the next General Assembly.

M01

The international organic movement is committed to remaining GMO-free and excludes gene editing (GE)

Submitted by: Sarah Compson, Soil Association, UK

DESCRIPTION: There is increasing pressure to introduce new GMOs produced by gene editing techniques into food and farming systems. Greater collaboration across the organic movement is needed to:

- **Ensure organic agricultural production remains free of all GMOs**
- **Advocate for strict regulation of all GMOs, including labelling & traceability**
- **Advocate for a systems-based approach to innovation & sustainability.**

OBJECTIVES: To collaborate & coordinate global efforts to address the growing threat posed by new GMOs and protect the right of farmers, food producers, and consumers to choose food and farming that is GMO-free.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Actively support and engage with Regional Bodies, Sector Platforms and members advocating on this topic, to ensure alignment and effective sharing of knowledge and resources and support capacity building.
2. Support the work of the IFOAM Seeds Platform, for instance by and promoting the 'Global Safety & Risk Assessment Protocol for New Genomic Technologies'.
3. Represent the position of the organic movement in global policy and advocacy activities, and support members in their own advocacy activities on this matter, including by preparing clear policy briefs.

HOW IS IT RELATED TO IFOAM'S STRATEGY? The motion equips members with competencies, tools, and community in relation to a key issue for the movement, and ensures IFOAM is taking global leadership on this vital issue.

RATIONALE: GMOs are a red-line issue for the organic movement. The motion ensures the organisation plays a leading role in mobilising and assisting members to both resist and mitigate the introduction of new GMOs.

PRICE TAG: 30,000 euro

PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES? Philanthropic funders or organic businesses who understand the threats and risks posed by GMOs, including in relation to potential impacts on organic trade and market viability.

WB RESPONSE: **Vote in favour.**

M02

Organic/Agroecology development cooperation with members

Submitted by: Markus Arbenz, FiBL, Switzerland

DESCRIPTION:	Development cooperation is an important tool for organic development in low income countries. IFOAM – Organics International shall further engage with donors and use the opportunities however avoid competing with members in the global South and in the global North. IFOAM – Organics International develops an own code of conduct to foster best practice, cooperation and synergies.
OBJECTIVES:	Sensitive collaboration with the huge opportunity to use ODA for organic development. Develop best practice for the benefit of organic development in the Global South and be abreast of trends.
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:	Develop and own code of conduct to avoid member competition and foster collaboration and use of synergies.
HOW IS IT RELATED TO IFOAM'S STRATEGY?	Objective 3, bulding a sustainable future of IFOAM – Organics International
RATIONALE:	Most of the funds of IFOAM – Organics International in the last 10 years came from ODA (Official Development Assistance) and supported the assistance of IFOAM – Organics International's members in low income countries. Some IFOAM – Organics International projects had a high impact. Other actors including members (e.g. KOAN, NOGAMU, INOFO, SAT, Naturland, Organic Denmark, Helvetas, Biovision/BVAT, FiBL, Organic consultancies etc.) do the same. ODA and organic development were promoted at the OWC 2011(Korea) and 2014 (Turkey) and the support volume for Organic and Agroecology development increases continuously.
PRICE TAG:	0 euro
PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES?	This motion does not ask for budget, but for good policy to use ODA and to be sensitive with members bidding for same opportunities
WB RESPONSE:	The WB appreciates the motion and believes that this is already part of the new strategy Objective 2, Empowered Organics Worldwide sub strategy 5: To empower members and allies. The WB would like to note that IFOAM will be working on its governance reform process and so developments such as a code of conduct would need to be done in the context of larger reforms, but also IFOAM-Organics International can't directly influence the guidelines of the other network bodies, such as Regional Bodies or Sector Platforms, as they have their own independent governance systems.

The World Board proposes to vote against.

M03

Install an IFOAM membership web forumSubmitted by: *Gerd Schnepel, La Iniciativa Ecoagrícola del Sureste, Nicaragua*

DESCRIPTION: The proposal is to instruct IFOAM – Organics International to install a discussion, information and exchange forum on the Internet – primarily for the membership – in order to remedy the deficit that the current communication is organised very "top-down" and consists almost exclusively of only consumable success stories about organic agriculture.

OBJECTIVES: The aim of the motion is to provide IFOAM – Organics International's membership with a place for discussion, member-initiated mutual information and exchange of experience and opinions.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Call for the formation of a working group – first and for some time consisting of volunteers – of people experienced or knowledgeable in web forum construction and the possible diversity of approaches.
2. Several (e.g. Zoom) conferences of the membership to collect and contribute suggestions and ideas on the content and methodology of the forum, moderated by the working group.
3. Permanent, periodic evaluation and information towards the membership and WB will be an obligation by the moderation group.
4. Acquisition of appropriate web forum software.
5. Launch of the forum with a number of prepared threads on important current topics.

HOW IS IT RELATED TO IFOAM'S STRATEGY?

Vision, mission and all three "we will" intentions could be considerably strengthened by a broad, permanent democratic formation of opinion and decisions in which everyone can participate. The participatory life of the federation, its expansion, its strategy building, the progress of organic agriculture worldwide are all only realistically conceivable if the local and national movements actively participate and see themselves as a world movement, underpinning IFOAM – Organics International's right to act as such.

The "new strategy" cannot solely be developed and supported (for 10 years!) by our Board; this must be done by the whole membership, constantly participating, democratically and openly and transparently organised.

RATIONALE: There is no simple level at which IFOAM – Organics International members can enter into dialogue. There are centrally communicated information reports, videos, etc., which are almost exclusively success stories, and mostly convey content that the consuming membership agrees with anyway.

Horizontally, the forum should offer the opportunity to discuss even controversial topics, to work together on all kinds of negative issues in organic farming and its self-organisation, to enable the exchange of opinions and ideas from the grassroots, to contribute to democratic decision-making beyond every 3 years of GA and to make IFOAM – Organics International a "WE" instead of a distant kind of institution "back there" in Bonn. Even regionalisation has hardly changed this; it is often a repetition of the world structure at regional level.

The forum should offer open and closed (e.g. producer forums, product or climate-defined etc.) spaces; WB and head office should constantly take note of what appears there and contribute to it. Example: Something like the lively exchange, criticism and strategy initiative "Real Organic" in the USA is currently not possible at IFOAM – Organics International level. The forum is also intended to remedy this.

Protection against dilution, infiltration and "hostile takeover" must be effectively built into the reality of the forum.

M03

Continued

PRICE TAG: 3210 euro

**PROPOSED
FUNDING
SOURCES?**

Only software purchase, Zoom fees, comprehensive initial information of the membership by the head office are initial costs. The work itself is to be carried out on a voluntary and honorary basis for quite some time.

It is possible to accept and solicit paid advertising, but only from the entire organic sector.

Donations of any size are encouraged from the users.

**WB
RESPONSE:**

The WB recognizes the urgent need to strengthen communication with and within our membership. Nevertheless, the effects of the pandemic and our financial crisis have slowed down the process and forced us to rethink what would be the best way to make it happen with the limited resources at our disposal. The [new IFOAM-Organics International Strategy](#) particularly Objective 1, sub strategy 2: To convene inclusive conversations, aims to address this gap in our communications through activities such as: developing a multilingual website and expanded social media; creating regular events for members and stakeholder engagement; and enhancing communication between the World Board and members.

The World Board proposes to vote against.

M04

Strategic Relevance of Sector Platforms

Submitted by: Markus Arbenz, FiBL, Switzerland

DESCRIPTION:	IFOAM – Organics International considers its Sector Platforms with the same relevance as its Regional Bodies, including in its strategic consideration and in providing rights (e.g. voting right, budget etc.).
OBJECTIVES:	Give Sector Platforms equal relevance as Regional Bodies.
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:	Review own policies, rights and budget allocations internally and towards the outside and act accordingly.
HOW IS IT RELATED TO IFOAM'S STRATEGY?	To Objectives 1 and 2, empower and lead organics
RATIONALE:	There is no doubt that the IFOAM Self Organized Structures (SOS) are very important for IFOAM OI, which is expressed among others in the Governance Task Force. The SoS reflect very well that there are regional concerns and subject matter concerns which need to be dealt with. The Regional Bodies are well integrated and have e.g. a voting right at the GA, and get budget support. However, apart from INOFO, the other 5 sector platforms are considered less strategic even though they contribute invaluable knowledge for position building (e.g. for seeds, smallholder farmers, animal husbandry, Apiculture, Aquaculture, Technology&Innovation etc.) that is required to bring in substance to the global organic debate and representation.
PRICE TAG:	0 euro
PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES?	We don't ask primarily for additional budget, but for equal priority in budget allocation, when it comes to regions and sectors. E.g. voting rights are not a question of budget.
WB RESPONSE:	<p>The World Board appreciates the engagement and proposals from members and regional bodies on the governance issue. Though the World Board finds some elements in the proposal to be overly prescriptive and limiting on the scope and impact of IFOAM – Organics International's work, the intentions here, for strengthening governance, improving movement coordination and clarifying roles and responsibilities in relation to our regional bodies and sector platforms resonate deeply with the World Board. While the consultative process in 2024 did not find wide support for the specific model proposed, the World Board will, as described in the World Board motion on governance, act now on several of the described needs, and incorporate these contributions in the proposed work in the Governance Advisory Board, ensuring that one or more models for future governance reflect the spirit, intentions and substance of the regional proposals.</p> <p>The World Board proposes to vote against.</p>

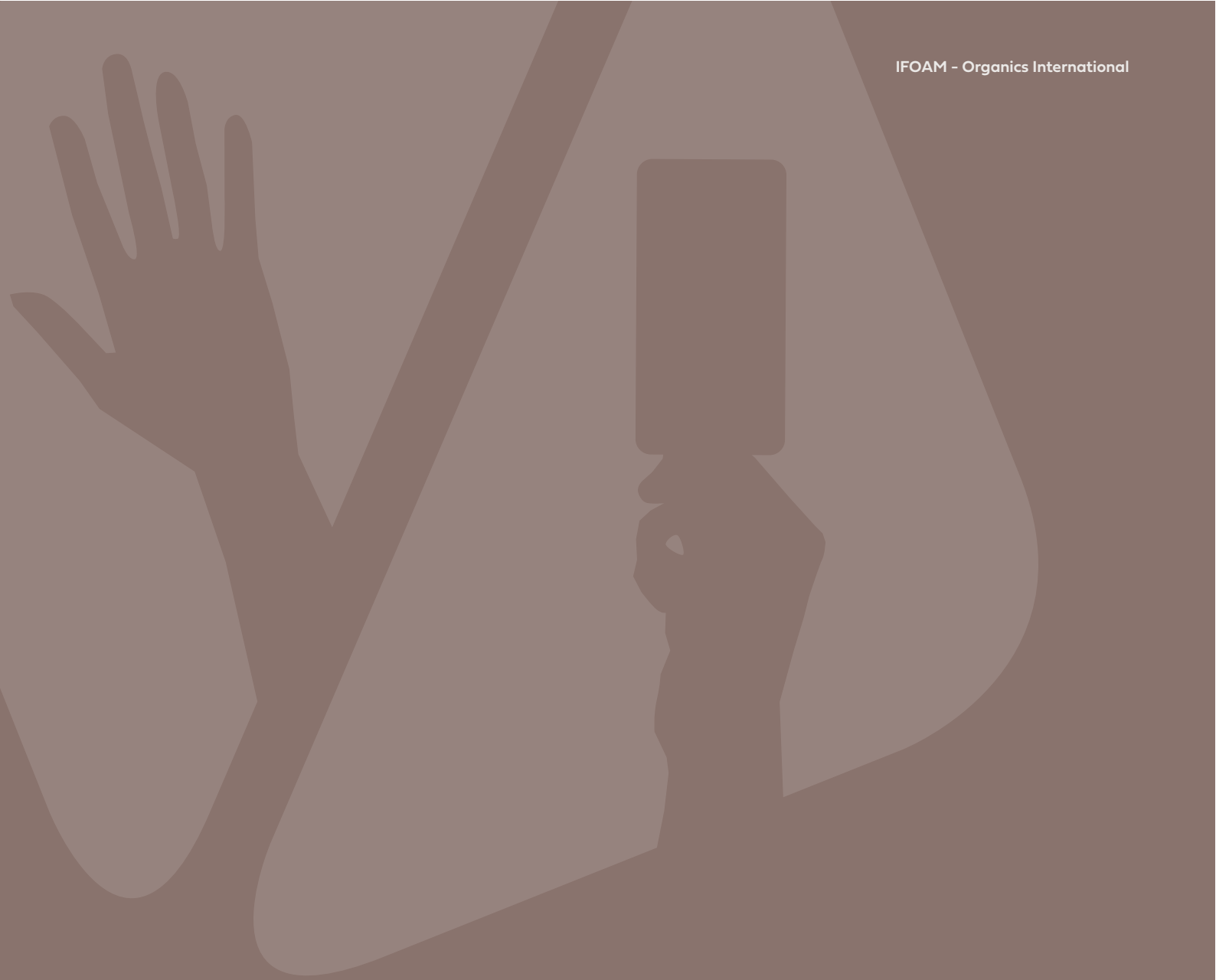
M05

Think Tanking for global organic leadership

Submitted by: Markus Arbenz, FiBL, Switzerland

DESCRIPTION:	IFOAM – Organics International resumes organic thought leadership in issues relevant to global organic positioning and advocacy. For this purpose, it leads controversial discussions of members' interest and issues background and position papers for organic development worldwide.
OBJECTIVES:	IFOAM – Organics International becomes a thought leader again. It leads (among others) together with its stakeholders through developing clear, convincing and deep diving content for inspiring ideas and organic positions.
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:	Build a group with the purpose of taking care of think tank projects. A little "Organic Club of Rome": The successor of SOAAN.
HOW IS IT RELATED TO IFOAM'S STRATEGY?	Objective 2: Lead the organic movement globally. It is a vessel to take on future oriented topics and to assure global coordination and content leadership
RATIONALE:	Science and practice come up with many innovative technologies that are also relevant for the organic development. However, not all inventions are in line with the Principle of Care (e.g. some breeding technologies) or new developments may be of special interest for the organic development (e.g. true cost accounting). IFOAM – Organics International shall take up new developments including in the technical (e.g. breeding technologies, production of synthetic meat), in the social (e.g. social criteria compliance, gender/youth) and political (e.g. true cost accounting, land or seed tenureship, soil carbon or biodiversity offsetting certificates for smallholder farmers) spheres and publish e.g. annually well legitimated papers for advocacy worldwide. IFOAM – Organics International used to be successful with RTOACC (Round Table of Organic Agriculture and Climate Change) and the SOAAN (Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network) think tank that has developed and promoted best practices of organic agriculture, Organic 3.0 and other IFOAM – Organics International landmarks.
PRICE TAG:	100,000 euro
PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES?	It finances these think tank activities through special own projects for each think tank issue (e.g. artificial meat) for which a budget is fundraised e.g. with crowd and other funding activities with leading organic institutions and individuals.
WB RESPONSE:	The WB appreciates the motion and shares the aspiration for further discussion platforms. However, the WB doesn't believe this is needed as a motion because it is already part of the new strategy under Objective 1; Global Leadership of the Organic Movement and would welcome ideas and other experts on how to implement it to ensure its success.

The World Board proposes to vote against.



World Board Elections

Introduction to World Board Candidate Elections

The World Board candidate elections are a pivotal process within IFOAM - Organics International, aimed at selecting the leadership that will guide the organization.

The World Board is responsible for strategic decision-making and ensuring that IFOAM's mission and objectives are effectively pursued. Candidates for the World Board are nominated from within the membership and are individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to the principles of organic agriculture and sustainable development.

Voting Process for the World Board:

1. Nomination: Candidates are nominated by the membership of IFOAM. Each member can nominate individuals who meet the criteria set forth by the organization. A World Board Candidate must be endorsed by five (5) different active members.

2. Candidate Profiles: Profiles of the nominated candidates are shared with the members, providing information on their background, experience, and vision for the future of IFOAM.

3. Voting: During the General Assembly, each member organization is entitled to cast votes. World Board candidates are selected by the highest number of votes collected in a voting round. Only ten (10) World Board members will be selected. If there's a tie between candidates or the remaining places in the 10 World Board member limit is not met, a second round should be arranged to fill in the remaining positions.

Each member organization has an equal vote, and if a member can't attend the General Assembly, a proxy vote can be generated via the [member area](#).

4. Election Results: The candidates who receive the highest number of votes are elected to the World Board. This result is announced during the General Assembly and will be communicated to the membership in the following weeks.

Nomination Committee - Chair's Report

It has been an honor to chair the Nomination Committee for the second time. The committee has a vital role, as we need to get our best people on to the World Board to lead us into the future.

The following people volunteered their time, knowledge and expertise to be on the committee:

- Marian Blom, Europe (For the second time)
- Eston Mgala, Africa
- Shaikh Tanveer Hossain, Asia
- Vanessa Ramirez, Latin America
- Caroline Möller, Australasia and Pacific
- André Leu, Chair

Jennifer had to resign when she decided to renominate for the World Board to ensure no conflicts of interest. Andrés González, Communications and Membership Manager from IFOAM - Organics International's office in Bonn, was the coordinator. Julia Lernoud, Vice President, was our liaison with the Executive Board. We held online meetings combined with numerous email discussions.

The role of the Nomination Committee is to present a list of candidates for the election of the World Board in December 2024 in Taiwan. The nomination committee's task is to identify people from different regions and sectors capable of fulfilling the role of World Board Member.

This task was very challenging for us as the entire World Board was nominated for re-election in 2024. This World Board has done a great job helping save IFOAM OI. They have done much more than what could have been expected from them. We appreciate that they want to continue in this role to consolidate and implement the reforms initiated in 2021-2024. Their joint reelection made it difficult for us to find new candidates prepared to run for the election. The current board members' names are known and have good reputations, which is to their advantage; consequently, the place for newcomers is smaller. We were concerned about the fairness of encouraging good candidates to nominate when there is only a slight chance of them being elected. Most people we contacted declined to nominate for this reason.

Every candidate on this list will be good for the World Board. In December this year, you, as the General Assembly, our highest body, will have the most critical job of carefully selecting the 10 best people to form our World Board. I know from experience that the General Assembly takes this role very seriously and gets it right—true democracy in action.

I want to thank all the committee members as well as Andrés González, from the international office and Julia Lernoud from the Executive Board for all the time and effort they have put into doing this for all of us. On behalf of the Nomination Committee, I want to thank the wonderful people who have committed to being candidates for the World Board and wish them the best.

On behalf of the Nomination Committee,

Best regards,

André Leu, Chair
22-05-2024



Overview of WB Candidacies



Meet your World Board candidates running for 2024-2027!

Each candidate was asked to supply
a statement in their own words.

Name	Gender	Country	Remarks	Page
Alberto Berton	Male	Italy	New candidate	32
Sarah Compson	Female	United Kingdom	World Board Member since 2021	33
Hueiwen Chin	Female	Taiwan	New candidate	34
Choitresh Kumar Ganguly	Male	India	World Board Member since 2017	35
Bernward Geier	Male	Germany	New candidate	36
Paul Holmbeck	Male	Denmark	World Board Member since 2021	37
Julia Lernoud	Female	Argentina	World Board Member since 2017	38
Karen Mapusua	Female	Fiji	World Board Member since 2017	39
Shamika Mone	Female	India	World Board Member since 2021	40
Fortunate Nyakanda	Female	Zimbabwe	World Board Member since 2021	41
Khaled Sassi	Male	Tunisia	New candidate	42
Marco Schlüter	Male	Germany	World Board Member since 2021	43
Amber Sciligo	Female	USA	New candidate	44
Juan Pablo Sciurano	Male	Argentina	New candidate	45
Stefanie Rae Swanepoel	Female	South Africa	New candidate	46
Jennifer Taylor	Female	USA	World Board Member since 2021	47
Edgardo - Boyet - Uychiat	Male	Philippines	New candidate	48



Alberto Berton

Italy

Organisation: BIOECO DI ALBERTO BERTON

Job Title: Sales agent

Sector: Italian Organic food / bulk merchandising equipment

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I founded Bioeco in 1999 by my passion for the bioeconomics (of Georgescu- Roegen) and the intention to apply this ecological vision to change the food system.

For 25 years I deal with the promotion of Italian organic products (mainly cheeses) and the development of retail equipment for bulk products.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I am a bioeconomist and I have dedicated my professional activity to the development of the organic food system and the reduction of waste. I am passionate about studies and research on bioeconomy, environmental history, agroecology, and organic agriculture. I strongly believe in the importance of international cooperation for the development of organic agriculture and agroecology in the world. I would like to share my experience and knowledge in organic farming and participate more actively in the development of the organic movement.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

The objective on which I would like to put the emphasis is "Lead the organic movement globally". I think that the organic

movement must go beyond its market dimension by (re)placing organic farming at the heart of agricultural and environmental policies.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

Direct knowledge of organic farming and husbandry,

Long expertise in the construction of organic supply chains,

Long expertise in historical-environmental studies and scientific dissemination.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

The challenge is that of genetic improvement in organic farming with traditional methods (crossing and selections) and new tools and technology.

The problem is to distinguish technologies consistent with the principles of organic farming from technologies that are not consistent with these principles, such as those oriented to the creation of old and new GMOs (including Crispr CAS).

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

Experience and skills in managing net-

works of organic producers

Knowledge and confidence in some of the most important organic Italian and European operators.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

As WB member, I would propose the support for public research aimed at serving organic farmers, distributors and consumers and I would strive to bring the organic movement closer to environmental and food movements, especially thinking to younger generations.

Sarah Compson

United Kingdom

Organisation: Soil Association

Job Title: Director - Standards Innovation

Sector: Charity



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I'm a positive and proactive person and work as Director of Standards Innovation at the Soil Association. I and my team help to shape regulation as well as craft standards that bring organic principles into practice. The Soil Association undertakes a portfolio of activities to drive systems change.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

Having been an active member of the World Board for the past three years, I have a deep understanding of the challenges the organisation has faced, the opportunities that lie ahead of us, and a drive to make our new strategy come to life for the benefit of our members and the wider world. The next few years will be pivotal and it's crucial that organic is well-positioned as an answer to the crises of our times. I'm constantly inspired by our members, and want to use my skills in convening, communication and bringing ideas to life, for the benefit of the world-wide organic movement.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

Having played an active role in consulting on and developing IFOAM's new strategy during my current World Board term, I would love the chance to support and steer its roll-out and maximise its impact. All the objectives are important and interlinked, but my skills, experience and knowledge are most relevant to objective 2, especially in relation to policy and guar-

antee topics. We need markets to develop in ways that match our principles, and this include standards and certification systems that work for farmers and communities and lead to positive transformation for all.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

1. Collaborative and inclusive approach with a strong track record working in diverse groups to build consensus. Also, not afraid to make hard decisions or defend the sector.
2. Long experience in the organic movement, with relevant expertise and competencies, particularly in relation to putting principles into practice through standards.
3. A willingness and desire to be an active member of the World Board, serve the movement and advocate for the organic sector on the world stage.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

New GM breeding techniques represent both ideological and technical challenges for the organic sector. I have played an active role in the discourse and response to developments in the UK and Europe and understand the threats that such new technologies pose. At a time when we urgently need transformative change of our agricultural systems, the promotion of new GM is a distraction from real innovation, which is often farmer-led and designed to serve the real needs of the food system rather than corporate interests. I

also believe the precautionary principle should be our guiding star.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

As a director of a long-established charity, I have experience with a wide-range of funding streams, including trusts and foundations, philanthropy, individual and corporate membership. I understand the challenges and opportunities associated with multiple funding streams and the need to get the balance right to ensure good financial health. As a current World Board member, I helped steer IFOAM OI through its recent financial difficulties and am fully aware of the organisation's funding situation and the importance of ensuring a long-term sustainable model for the organisation.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

IFOAM's greatest strength is its members - the organisation can play a powerful role as a convener, bringing together and sharing the knowledge and skills of members, demonstrating policy in action, showing that the organic movement is delivering what the world needs. I also believe that we need to engage in difficult conversations, enter mainstream dialogue and be bold in demonstrating the solutions that our movement has within it. This is something I would relish doing. The youth are our future - we must also do more to uplift their voices, and I'd like to play my part in making that happen.



Hueiwen (Mag) Chin

Taiwan

Organisation: Association of Taiwanese Indigenous Peoples's Development

Job Title: Secretary General

Sector: Indigenous agriculture promotion

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

We have established the "Tribal E-Shop" platform since 2005 which reduces costs and risks for farmers by PGS which revitalizes local knowledge, ecology, and identity. I am also a Ph.D. candidate of Bio-industry Communication and Development, National Taiwan University in Taiwan.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I have over 20 years of extensive experience dedicated to the development and service of indigenous communities. The assets, farming techniques, wisdom, and cultural expressions of indigenous peoples are crucial tools for maintaining biodiversity and combating climate change. If elected to the World Board, I will be in a better position to able to boost the development of organic agriculture in my country as well as in Asia. My new role will give me access to meetings with central and local governments and opportunities of meeting with diverse local and regional stakeholders.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I would emphasize "empowering organic worldwide" by leveraging my experience with PGS for integrating organic agriculture into everyday life, making it accessible and promoting active actor participation. Strengthening community connections through PGS will not only empower local farmers but also enhance regional and development within global organic network. Additionally, I am committed to preserving cultural heritage and promoting

diversity, ensuring that traditional knowledge and practices are incorporated into organic farming, enriching the sector and fostering resilient communities.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

1. Facilitate the exchange of organic farming practices among indigenous peoples: Connecting and collaborating with indigenous farmers' organizations worldwide will foster greater interaction and exchange between indigenous farmers and small-scale farmers.

2. Advance the development of PGS: establishing a PGS exchange platform, which includes both an organizer's platform and a farmer's platform, will be beneficial.

3. Promote local governments in Asia and organizations to participate in the organic movement: Assist local governments to promote organic district projects in Asia.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

GMOs can never be the solution to the current food and climate crises, as they inherently conflict with the four basic organic agriculture principles. While technological innovations such as molecular biotechnology can play a supportive role, they can never replace the importance of traditional breeding methods.

Conversely, participatory breeding systems should be more widely promoted. By involving diverse stakeholders in the breeding process, we can better address market demands, farmers' practices and

techniques, and local environmental conditions.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

In Asia, many local governments are increasingly committed to protecting the land, preserving culture, promoting development, safeguarding the well-being of their people and willing to support the development of organic agriculture.

With my network and relationships with local governments and organic agriculture advocates in Asia, I can bridge these development projects with IFOAM-Organics International. It can help facilitate the initiation and implementation of organic projects, ensuring that the financial resources are effectively allocated and utilized to promote organic agriculture.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

First, by linking local ecological knowledge from indigenous farmers with the organic farming movement, we can find potential solutions to the increasingly severe climate change problem.

Second, the facilitator's platform of PGS will allow facilitators from various regions to meet and learn from each other, while the farmer's platform will strengthen the exchange of production techniques.

Most importantly, encouraging more governments and organizations to join IFOAM, and integrating PGS into the IFOAM Family of Standards, will help realize a true IFOAM Family.

Choitresh Kumar Ganguly (Bablu)

India

Organisation: The Timbaktu Collective

Job Title: Executive Director

Sector: Social work / Farmer



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

Co-Founder-Chairperson Timbaktu Collective working with 40,000 families; Founder of Timbaktu intentional community - sustainable living; Promoted 9 producer owned cooperatives; Most relevant is Dharani Farmers' Co-operative, IFOAM member with 2,042 PGS certified members, growing food on 10,568 acres.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I have profound faith in the Organic movement and life sustaining agriculture. I believe in its relevance and capacity to nourish and regenerate optimal food & ecosystems, to strengthen the socio-economic status of small and marginal farmers, to confront and mitigate climate change and promote equitable & just relationships between farmers, consumers, traders, investors & public institutions.

I am sure that by joining the World Board I shall be able to contribute to all the above aspects of the organic movement.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

Of the three, I intend to put emphasis on the third objective, "build a sustainable future for IFOAM - Organics International"

because at this point in time that is the most important both for the organisation and the movement.

However, as a member of the WB, I will not ignore the other two "empower organic worldwide" and "lead the organic movement globally" as both are equally important and needed.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

My world wide connections;
My capacity to mobilise opinion;
My knowledge off and relationship with small holder farmers.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

There should be no compromise with regards to GM and all the related techniques and methods. None of these are life sustaining and will harm the denizens of the world. It is our duty to stand up firm against these and see to it that the principles and the basic tenets of Organic Agriculture are not trampled upon.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I have been raising funds for the past 45 years for my work and also the networks I have been involved with. I am rather good

at raising financial resources. Unfortunately all my work has been in the South and in India. However, I have good relations with international NGOs and can put in a word where needed. I am also a very good at proposal writing and budgeting whenever required.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

Within our movement, we need to engage more actively and deeply with the small holder food farmers and their organisations, through our networks, especially in the South, to bring the needed changes in agricultural policies and schemes in their respective countries and regions.

We need to spread the knowledge of Organic Agriculture and its principles to those countries that have not yet adopted Organic Agriculture and developed a policy for it, as a viable system of agriculture and support them to transform their food systems and offer them the various training programmes developed by IFOAM.



Bernward Geier

Palatine (German tribe) & Global citizen

Organisation: COLABORA - Let's work together

Job Title: Director

Sector: Communication/Media, Events and much more

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I am since half a century activist in & for the international organic movement. I am a passionate & experienced networker & since over 50 years journalist as well book author/editor & film maker. I have lectured & moderated in over 100 countries & (co-) organized over 50 international events.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I started in the early eighties to work for IFOAM & was appointed 1986 as Director of IFOAM devoting more than 18 years a lot of passion & energy to IFOAM so that our movement grew not only organically, but dynamically. Since ca. 20 years I have been a very active member e.g. serving with pleasure as ambassador. I feel I have a lot to give (also back) to IFOAM & its members, who gave me so long their trust, which despite a lot of work and challenges gave me lot of satisfaction & happiness. I am not guided by any self-interest unless you call my urge to serve a motive of self-interest.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I'm a 100 % behind the vision & mission of IFOAM & the three objectives. Yet I see no real new strategic plan, as all 3 "new" objectives have been guiding the federation since its foundation. With my 100% organic world vision I would engage of course for more organic & Board member function automatically means to take leadership for the organic movement. My emphasis would be on the 3rd objective

to build a sustainable future for IFOAM in times of enduring crisis. The financial crisis overshadows & limits far too much the performance and thus for far too long the global impact of IFOAM.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

For me it's not about bringing 3 top competences to the WB, but rather a balanced mix of a range of competencies. I am all my life rather a generalist than a specialist, which enabled me to develop a broad range of competencies.

As I am requested to name 3 top runners:

-I would bring a huge amount of "organic" experience on many levels to the WB

-I have substantial mediator & vast diplomatic experience to achieve goals yet I consider as strength that I can be straight forward instead of beating around the bush

-My cultural sensitivity communication skills are of good use for representation

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

I have no doubt that the so-called new GM breeding techniques are not really new. Well, CRISPR CAS as technology is new, but the essence of this is the same as with the old GMO technology- especially with regard to threats. The challenge we have is to make sure that this is commonly understood, because then it's rather easy to maintain the worldwide resistance to GMO. The organic sector has to and will meet the challenge not to be misguided by false promises that Crispr CAS has potential for organic agriculture. It contra-

dicts as much as old GMO what organic stays for fundamentally.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I'm well aware of the key role sound finances play for the future IFOAM & the organic movement. I have a lot of fundraising experience & with my many decades in the organic movement & the privilege of serving IFOAM I have also an impressive worldwide network. This I have tapped successfully to help IFOAM significantly to ease the financial crisis. A major contribution serving in the WB would be to design and develop attractive projects as appealing „products“ donors & sponsors want to support. I know that here is a wide field that can be cultivated, as I am doing that with COLABORA a lot.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

Engaging for transformation on many levels has been & is center stage in my life. A 100 % organic world is not only possible, but necessary. For transformation we need to assure that the organic movement is balancing interests well & be engaged in strategic partnerships with like minded organizations & movements. I see more than ever the need for more influence in the political arena, where I have a lot of experience & connections. I will continue to keep an eye on the danger to sacrifice our organic principles & the essence of our organic basic standards on the altar of market expansion.

Paul Holmbeck

Denmark

Organisation: Holmbeck EcoConsult

Job Title: Director

Sector: Advisor on Organic Policy and Market Development



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I advise leaders in government, organic organisations and supply chains in organic policy and market development. Most recently on new organic strategies in the The Netherlands, Canada, Uganda and the new National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (Tanzania) and Agroecology Coalition strategy.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

When I ran for the WB in 2021, I promised to work for 1) positioning organics in global debates; 2) Supporting our members in their work for organic farmers, policy, markets and capacity building and 3) fundraising & economic stability. I have done so. All three are also pillars of our new strategy. We mobilized effectively to address IFOAM's economic crisis, a nearly fatal situation. But we are not out of the weeds yet. IFOAM is not yet realizing its potential in global agenda-setting, support for members or funding. If I have member support, I am willing to serve again, pursuing these goals.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I will, as I have in the WB term 2021-24, put substantial energy into all three key objectives. I will continue to 1) contribute to strengthening members worldwide (in advocacy, farmer training efforts, market development ...) by playing an active role in upscaling the Global Academy and by supporting members directly; 2) contribute to IFOAM's work to position organics in global fora and policy making, as well

as national policy initiatives for organics; and 3) contribute to a robust and sustainable IFOAM via fundraising, partnerships and strengthening staff skill-sets and member value.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

- 1) I bring an active, strategic & collaborative approach to decision making, building on the great diversity of competencies in the World Board.
- 2) To organizational development, I bring proven skills in fundraising, capacity building and partnerships.
- 3) And to our strategic focus on global policy and support to our members, I bring decades of hands-on experience with organizational leadership and lobby work in a transformative NGO, Organic Denmark, and experience advising organisations on 4 continents in policy development, advocacy, coalition building, fundraising and market development.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

NGTs are repackaged GMOs, and as a platform for more lenient regulation and getting GMOs approved, even in organic farming. We must continue to counter this effort, and show respect for consumers' deep skepticism. Having been co-lead in the fight for the original GMO ban in EU organics, most GM arguments are not new. We must ensure total transparency on NGTs to protect organic farmers & consumers' right to choose. And we must secure protection of indigenous seeds and development of organic varieties to ensure continued improvement of organic

farmers' results, competitiveness and food sovereignty.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I bring experience in leading successful fundraising initiatives directed towards foundations, governments, commercial actors and agricultural funds, winning support for impactful organic training, market development, research and advocacy initiatives. In IFOAM I have contributed to an assessment of fundraising competencies, provided training and was active in the acute and successful fundraising effort for IFOAM in 2021-22, while also recruiting new members. If re-elected, I will continue to support the new ED and staff in these efforts, not least regarding the member-oriented Global Academy.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

Transformation in agriculture requires a combination of solid policy, market pathways and empowerment of front-line organisations leading in all levers of change. Together, these 3 factors change farmer mindsets and incentives, create and spread knowledge and increase influence of both smallholder farmers, communities, civil society organisations and progressive actors in supply chains that together can make change. Strengthening this mobilization and collaboration will at the same time generate value for our members and revitalize our movement as a coordinated, impactful force for change.



Julia Lernoud

Argentina

Organisation: Young Organics Global Network

Job Title: Co-president

Sector: Organic youth and organic entrepreneurship

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I'm a very passionate and committed person. In the different organizations I have worked, I have given my 100%. With YOGN, we celebrated our 3rd Organic Youth Global Summit; at my family company, I have brought organic to new scenes, such as international music festivals. I love to open new paths!

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I see IFOAM not only as an organization with members around the world, for me IFOAM is the organic movement, a movement trying to create a better life not only for us but for the whole of the planet. I see IFOAM in all its members!

We have faced difficult challenges in the last years, now it's time to take the organic movement to the world, out of our comfort zone. Address the problems that we know we have and that we can fix. I will work for an organic movement that is connected, strong, reaching new places. A movement that adapts and plays an important role in this complex world around us.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I believe that all three objectives are crucial. However, we first need to put our house in order to then lead the change. The third objective, "Building a sustainable future for the organization" focuses on this, strengthening our organization from within. There is a lot of work to be done, we need a strong business model, our movement has grown, and we need to profes-

sionalize and ensure close communication with all members. Then we will be able to truly lead the transformative change we want to see and the world desperately needs.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

I believe that all three objectives are crucial. However, we first need to put our house in order to then lead the change. The third objective, "Building a sustainable future for the organization" focuses on this, strengthening our organization from within. There is a lot of work to be done, we need a strong business model, our movement has grown, and we need to professionalize and ensure close communication with all members. Then we will be able to truly lead the transformative change we want to see and the world desperately needs.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

I believe we need to bring awareness that GMs haven't delivered what they promised, and that blind faith should no longer be put on them. The organic sector needs to communicate this failure and at the same time show how organic practices have had an actual beneficial impact across the world. Show how organic has regenerated destroyed landscapes and built fair and economically sustainable value chains. Show that the path is true sustainability and not technological shortcuts with unknown negative impacts.

What experience and skills can you

bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I have been working and investing a lot of energy over the last years trying to improve how IFOAM reaches and retain its members to try to expand our reach and increase our membership and representation, which will increase our income. Furthermore, together with the WB and many IFOAM members we had managed to raise funds to financially stabilize the organization; this shows how if we want, we can, especially if we work together. Now, with the news strategy we need to work on developing a strong business model that works for IFOAM.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

As a young woman from the global south, I see as one of my roles to keep bringing to the table the voices of sometime unheard communities and actors. The organic movement has strong tools to truly transform our agricultural and food systems. I would like to keep working on bring transparency and equal participation of all actors across the globe.

Karen Mapusua

Fiji

Organisation: Pacific Community

Job Title: Director Land Resources Division

Sector: Agriculture and forestry



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I provide strategic leadership to a large team serving 22 countries, mobilising resources to support the transition to organic and agroecological farming, forestry and food systems for improved health, nutrition, livelihoods and resilience in the Pacific Islands

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

Meeting members and seeing the amazing work being done and their commitment had been a huge motivator for me through the last term and I want to continue to serve the members, and build our organisation so IFOAM Organics International can be the change in the world we want to see, so we can lead. The WB also worked hard to turn the IFOAM ship around, it was very challenging, but we now have a way forward and I feel responsible to make sure that the WB finishes the job it started and we build IFOAM a strong base and clear direction for the next 50 years.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

My emphasis-Objective 1. Global leadership of the organic movement. In particular leading transformative change and to convene inclusive conversations and build partnerships. The world needs examples of success and impact in taking on the crisis we face, we can provide that and demonstrate leadership by example and leadership through strategic partnerships.

We can also lead by example in creating an empowered and inclusive membership and establishing pathways to leadership for youth – this is critical in a world that is increasingly polarised, and where power is based in fewer and fewer hands

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

- The ability to listen to members, partners and stakeholders and to bring that to bear on the decisions the World Board needs to make to ensure our organisation is inclusive and trusted.
- An ability to represent our organisation and build relationships across stakeholder groups and advocate effectively in international for a such as climate negotiations
- Ability to lead strategically and make hard decisions when needed, demonstrated by the many complex decisions needed to keep IFOAM viable during the last World Board term

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

We are seeing weakening of regulations triggering a domino effect, we also see influencers of policy promoting these technologies using issues such as nutrition and climate adaptation. At the same time public knowledge and understanding of the new terms and technologies is weak and there is a relatively low level of public discourse on issues and risks. We need to ACTIVELY galvanize and lead the key sectors – environment, health, agriculture, scientists, economists – and governments that are standing firm- to work together

raise public awareness and push the precautionary principle.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I have extensive experience in developing projects directly benefiting farmers and including cost structures that enable retention of higher levels of project funds for core organisational purposes. I'm most familiar with donors in the Oceania region but have had success accessing global programs like Green Climate Fund. But we must balance project income with other sources, to have more flexible funding to respond to members priorities and achieve objectives. We need sponsors, donations and partnerships – while practicing strong due diligence to ensure we aren't co-opted for greenwashing.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

While we collaborate with sustainable agriculture movements, we need clear messaging of organics points of difference, solutions, evidence, examples and tools. We must reflect on our own standards and positions and ensure we are staying true to the Principles, setting a benchmark for best agricultural, social and environmental practice. As a WB member I will be a guardian of this, supporter of the farmers role, and ensure IFOAM Organics Internationals plans and strategies are developed participatorily, aspirational, clear, and measurable so we continue to build evidence based influence.



Shamika Mone

India

Organisation: Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations (INOFO)

Job Title: President

Sector: Organic Farmers

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

As President, with support from the Board and Council, led the transformation of INOFO from a loose network to a structured membership-based entity with a defined vision and mission. We boosted global - regional meeting frequency and established governance protocols for continuity beyond my term.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I am a researcher turned organic farmer by choice originally from central state of India. If elected as the WB member, I will continue to bring the challenges and experiences of the marginalized small-holder organic family farmers and the solutions that they offer to the global issues of climate change and land degradation through their enormous think tanks of traditional indigenous knowledge systems at the advocacy platforms to further mainstream the organic movement through IFOAM Organics Int. I do offer my strong commitment, experience, and full support of my organizations INOFO and OFAI.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I like to work on variety of points under all the objectives. But priority wise I will choose Objective 1 on Global leadership of the organic movement, especially Strategy 1 To lead transformative change and Strategy 4 To innovate and support organic guarantee systems. Then in Objective 2 on Empowered organics worldwide, especially Strategy 5 To empower

members and allies and then Objective 3 on Financial and organizational stability, especially Strategy 9 To restructure membership & governance as these are the areas of interest for INOFO and where I see my skillsets getting used.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

Traditional and modern organic farming knowledge systems: Through my experiences on my farm, OFAI, and INOFO.

Resiliency: By having a clear vision and the resilience to achieve that under challenging times.

Decision-making: Good decision-making to move forward with stability and vigor.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

I have not updated myself with enough research on the latest GM breeding techniques, such as Crispr CAS, hence cannot form any strong opinion at the moment. Have seen some news articles from both sides - in favor and opposition of these technologies. Most of the organic movement is against all GM techniques - old and new and hence we continue to ban any GM technologies from our organic farming promotion works nationally and internationally. We would need a simplified awareness session to make a strong opinion on the topic. Would surely look into upgrading myself in near future.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

If IFOAM-Organics International works hand in hand with the Sector Platforms (SPs) especially the Organic Farmers SP - INOFO, it will facilitate bringing back the rooted credibility that IFOAM once had. Through INOFO, we can not only create visibility but can make a sizable impact on the ground where members would once again see the benefits of membership fees and help gain momentum through the Academy and new Membership/ Governance models that strengthen all SPs and RBs.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

Real transformation in agriculture is possible ONLY when farmers get a fair price for their products to cover their cost of production and earn a decent living standard, which is their birthright as any other human being. Within our movement as well this applies by giving fair chance, fair representation and fair recognition to organic farmers from policy formulations to project plans and implementation. They should be involved eye to eye level with any other stakeholder in the organic value chain from the beginning as equal partners and not just beneficiaries of the projects at the end.

Fortunate Nyakanda

Zimbabwe

Organisation: Zimbabwe Organic Producers and Promoters Association

Job Title: Executive Director

Sector: National Organic Movement



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I am an founder and executive Director of Zimbabwe organic movement. I contributed to develop the sector in different capacities; farmer capacity, development of and capacity building on organic standards and compliance including engagement of policy makers for supportive policies.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

Raised by farming parents, trained professionally as an agriculturist, I experienced firsthand damage to health & ecosystem due to conventional agriculture practices. I saw livelihoods eroded and lost I could not sit and watch, that's why I took action to educate farmers, start an organic movement to which I have contributed for 30 years. It's time to make contributions and influence at higher level. In the last tenure of WB I contributed to development of a new strategy that I believe will be a game changer. Seeking for re election I want to contribute to application of this strategy.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

If reelected I would want to put more emphasis on empowering organic worldwide. This is because I feel that empowerment at all levels will lead to the development of the organic sector. My main emphasis would be empowerment of regions. Coming from a region that is not yet well developed in terms of organic agriculture yet has great potential, I feel that different regions have different challenges and

needs. Therefore empowerment of regions especially those trailing behind can lead to improvement and better contribution to the development of the organic sector worldwide.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

1. Knowledge of organic networks in Africa and experience of having worked with them, knowing what needs to be done to grow the organic movement in Africa
2. Knowledge and experience of having worked with organic practitioners in Africa and knowledge of their constraints and strengths. How to harness the strengths in developing the organic movement

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

Gene editing, in whatever way is a violation of nature and it is ethically wrong and is a violation of the organic principles. Future consequences of gene editing are unknown and it could have consequences on health of wellbeing of future generations and environment. This may end up destroying natural genetic materials which may have future consequences on plant diversity and may open the world to a set of new problems.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

Africa has organic practitioners (individuals farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers), who are interested and can become members of IFOAM_Organics International. What has been the missing link is

a good value proposition to win these to be members. A good value proposition would also help to bring back past members to reactivate their membership. With my experience working in Africa and the networks that I have built I can help to develop a lucrative value proposition for membership in Africa.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

-That there should be increased collaboration and building synergies, working with likeminded organization where opportunities arises.

-Taking a value chain approach to organic agriculture development is very important in the transformation ensuring that all areas are addressed.

In this regard in the spirit of empowering, engaging policy makers at national, regional and sub-regional levels will ensure supportive policies from grassroots up.



Khaled Sassi

Tunisia

Organisation: Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia

Job Title: Head of the General Directorate of Organic Agriculture sector in Tunisia (DGAB)

Sector: Organic Agriculture (OA)

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

As a Head of the DGAB, I supervise 24 regional divisions of OA. My contribution is focused on the elaboration of strategies of national OA development with my team and all national partners, the development of organic market and the supervision and audit of the control and certification system.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

As a representative of the African continent, I am deeply motivated to contribute to the global organic movement. My extensive experience in OA motivates me to drive transformative change. I will have the opportunity to stimulate, motivate and energize all partners to continue supporting the exponential organic growth worldwide. North-South and South-South cooperation, especially with Africa, Asia and Latin America, will be of crucial importance. I will contribute to providing global visibility by highlighting Tunisian, African and continental organic experiences, innovations and knowledge.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I would like to focus in my work for IFOAM - Organics International on Objective 1: Empower organic worldwide because my experiences working in higher agricultural institutes, in the Technical Center of Organic Agriculture (CTAB) of Tunisia and in the General Directorate of Organic Agriculture (DGAB), combined with my edu-

cation in agronomy and the organic network that I know whether at the national, regional, continental or global level qualify me to contribute to developing and improving organic agriculture, policies and markets worldwide.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

One of my core competencies is leadership in education and capacity building within the OA sector.

Research and innovation are critical to advancing OA, and my expertise in this area is a significant asset.

My strategic management skills and experience in international collaboration are crucial competencies for a World Board member.

In conclusion, my leadership in education and capacity building, expertise in research and innovation, and strategic management and international collaboration are key competencies that I bring to the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International.

Where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

I am preoccupied with new terms, such as agroecology and regenerative, that have become popular but are less binding. In essence, we are all born out of the same preoccupation with the industrialization of agriculture. We should not be divided by those who are against us. I am also worried about disadvantaged people, for instance, women and youth who are suffering from climate change or armed conflicts, or about smallholder farmers who can't get access to organic

markets in Europe because of increasing bureaucratic hurdles..

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

In Africa and around the world, I know of several potential foundations that could be major donors for financing IFOAM-Organics International. As a teacher-researcher, I coordinated several international projects financed by donors within the framework of international cooperation, these same donors could give great support to IFOAM-Organics International.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

1. Promoting Research and Innovation
Advance research and innovation in OA to develop sustainable farming practices
2. Strengthening Policy Advocacy and Frameworks
Influence global and regional policies to support and expand OA
3. Enhancing Market Development
Expand markets for organic products to ensure fair prices and stable demand
4. Capacity Building and Education
Equip farmers and stakeholders with the knowledge needed to practice and promote OA
5. Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability
Position OA as a key solution to climate change and environmental degradation

Marco Schlüter

Germany

Organisation: Naturland e.V

Job Title: Managing Director International Affairs and Strategy

Sector: Farmer Association



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

Raised in Hamburg Germany, my path led me into the organic movement with almost 30 years experience in different stations. In 2018 I joined Naturland where I currently serve in the leadership board being responsible for the internationalisation of the organisation and management of 5 teams.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

When I joined the WB in 2021, we were from day one in crisis with an organization threatened in its existence. I could witness the crisis from inside and contribute to the organizations consolidation as interims ED from Aug 22-Jan 24. Together with our members, regional bodies and the World board we put IFOAM back on its legs. With a new strategy, a new ED and with finances resolved the organization has all the potential for growth and impactful actions for a worldwide food transformation. I am not finished yet to support IFOAM back on its way to new strengths. And finally, I want some fun!

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

Any World board member needs to embrace IFOAM OI strategy including all three levers and to continuously develop it further. If asked about my specific contribution I can bring in my experience on different levels. However, due to my strong involvement in the organization's financial and strategic consolidation and governance issues in the previous WB term I see

my main contribution in pillar 3 (Building a sustainable future for IFOAM – OI) as well in the overall strategy implementation. This would be a logic continuation of my current input to rebuild the organization.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

- Strategic thinking
- Excellent understanding of the organic movement and worldwide network
- Deep understanding of Finance

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

The biggest challenge will be to maintain organic value chains GM free as industry tries to bypass government legislations claiming the new breeding techniques as "non GM". We must keep pressure high so that policy ensures a proper detection and labeling regime of such techniques. In the COVID crises the world has witnessed biotechnology to help developing effective vaccines. Whilst this might lead to bigger acceptance in world societies the organic sector must highlight the risks of the green biotechnology that cannot be controlled acting in an open environment versus a laboratory environment.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

- 1) Building up and leading IFOAM Organic Europe as organisation for almost 13 years developing a strong financial basis
- 2) Executive MbA in France deepening financial understanding
- 3) Various experience in donor and sponsor acquisition

4) Insights about IFOAM OI as interims ED and treasurer

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

The global challenges have become more real than ever thought. The world needs a functioning organic movement bringing in its capacity to build bridges, to showcase alternatives to the current self-destruction system and as living example that self-initiative at local level can make a difference. The organic movement is strong if its regional, global and sector level act hand in hand. Here, I am committed to contribute to a good functioning and governed IFOAM Ecosystem.



Amber Sciligo

USA

Organisation: The Organic Center

Job Title: Director of Science Programs

Sector: NGO

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I direct projects associated with convening, conducting, and communicating research related to organic agriculture. For 15 years, I have collaborated with researchers, industry, farmers, and policymakers to develop a diverse portfolio of organic research and communication tools.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I dream of a world where every person has access to food grown without harmful chemicals and the ability to successfully grow what they want, without harmful chemical tools. Much of my professional work revolves around building communities and connectivity of networks to work toward this dream. I see enormous potential for IFOAM Organics when all sector platforms can work synchronously and collaboratively. I realize this may be an unrealistic ask in the short term, but a long-term goal of achieving this level of cooperation will indeed advance the global organic movement faster and stronger.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I would emphasize the goal "Lead the organic movement globally" because this is a key area of my professional work. While my efforts have focused on improving networks and collaborations to advance the organic movement in the U.S., my focus has expanded in the past 3 years to include global partners. I've made this shift because I see enormous value in increas-

ing knowledge across all organic stakeholders everywhere in the world. This can help us combine helpful resources, and collectively seek new resources, and perhaps most importantly, build diplomacy at a time when global tension is high.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

1. Strategic development including fund-raising skills
2. Strong work ethic with ambition and efficiency (I get things done!)
3. Experience serving on advisory committees, councils, Boards of Directors.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

While a food system that relies on GM products continues to undermine the organic sector and sustainable foods systems broadly, the organic brand will continue to be challenged by threats to its integrity where regulation and oversight cannot prevent the infiltration of GM products. Beyond GM seeds and plant breeding, technological advances in GM that can be applied to pest management and livestock production may cause unintentional, harmful consequences, particularly without extensive testing and regulation.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

For the past 14 years I have spent a substantial proportion of my career soliciting

funds from various sources: competitive grants (public and private), cooperative agreements, donations, and sponsorships. I have co-authored over 50 grant proposals, and have lead or co-lead 24 successful proposals that have acquired \$22M in funding. I would offer my skills and available time to pursue grants and other financial resources.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

I propose creating pathways for increased communication between all sector platforms. Once we better understand each other's missions, goals and primary activities, we can identify opportunities for alignment, complementarity and collaboration. Then, working cooperatively across all sectors, we must set measurable goals with action plans that can be feasibly implemented with roles clearly defined. Where fundraising is needed, we must work collectively to identify and seek opportunities.

Juan Pablo Sciurano

Argentina - Italy

Organisation: Different Institutions and Projects

Job Title: Consultant, Researcher and Professor

Sector: NGO - Research



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I am a Sociologist and Phd. in Economy and management of innovation and sustainability, specialized in International Cooperation and rural development. Since 2002 I've been supporting different organic agriculture processes in Europe, Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I am fervently convinced that the principles of health, ecology, fairness, and care linked to organic production should guide the processes on food systems as well as to contribute on non food ones like textiles, cosmetics and tourism. These principles come together in the quality of life, our relation with nature and in the sustainability of the limited resources for our planet. For years I have been collaborating with IFOAM members in different territories promoting these principles and it would be a great honor to be able to do so by committing to the board.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I would emphasize with the goal "Empower organic worldwide ". In the last 20 years I have collaborated with different IFOAM regional bodies and members on this goal. I see in this sense the rising of Organic-districts, where i'm directly involved, as an important boost for developing competencies and tools needed to upscale organic agriculture, policies and markets worldwide.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

I would emphasize with the goal "Empower organic worldwide ". In the last 20 years I have collaborated with different IFOAM regional bodies and members on this goal. I see in this sense the rising of Organic-districts, where i'm directly involved, as an important boost for developing competencies and tools needed to upscale organic agriculture, policies and markets worldwide.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

The current absence of regulation for new GM breeding technics in many parts of the world create a risk for breeders, farmers and consumers since precautionary measures and proceedings are not considered.

Challenges are different and require a set of actions from the organic sector: call on regulators to ensure transparency and traceability for safeguarding consumers and producers and positive actions for promoting the development of local seeds, enabling participatory breeding processes and advocating for the values of origin, variety and health on food diets.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I believe that public, private and social organization financing must be integrated and balanced, with complementarity between top down and bottom up practices. I have the experience of having partici-

pated directly in the presentation, of more than a hundred financed proposals for projects and initiatives linked to organic production in a large number of countries and donors ranging from Public municipal, regional and national authorities to multilateral and United Nations, private companies and foundations.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

The risk of fragmentation and compartmentalization of organic knowledge and practices might weaken the movement and dilute the possible impacts that it proposes.

Getting a real transformation in agriculture based organic principles requires a deep engagement between practices, research and movement.

I propose to evolve the processes of interaction and communication between these 3 interconnected dimensions from collaborative, effective and good governed processes, intended to channel the efforts from the different members and actors into a common strategical direction.



Stefanie Rae Swanepoel

South Africa

Organisation: African Earth Rights

Job Title: Founder and Director

Sector: Sustainability Strategic Communications

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

I founded African Earth Rights, a communications consultancy, that works directly and through partnerships in multi-country sustainability programmes. I am also a founder of Mycelium Colab, a cooperative with 50 regenerative communications experts that work to change narratives of the future.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

It is my life's work to help bring about fair food systems that can deliver chemical-free, environmentally friendly, nutritious and appropriate food for all, linked to the cultures of the people within them. I work in different spaces in this regard, as an advocacy researcher, a writer, a teacher, a multi-country project and communications manager, a mentor to small-scale farmers, a founder of a PGS group, as examples. I would like the opportunity to strengthen relationships at regional and international levels to support emergence of stronger on-the-ground agency to transform food systems.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I would like to focus on objective 3 - the structuring of the membership and governance model, upskilling of teams and further developing of competencies and flagship products because I believe that this supports the attainment of the other two objectives. A strong, agile and capacitated organisation will support efforts to raise IFOAM's profile at all levels and it

support regional bodies in driving transformation on the ground. IFOAM-Organics International needs to represent and actively support the objectives and aspirations of its members.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

I am a strategic thinker, able to see opportunities and threats, and find ways to navigate through these in various contexts.

My work focuses on building relationships to ensure the success of programmes and projects. I believe that relationships built on trust and respect help to drive transformation in the sector.

I have 30 years of communication experience, both in developing contextual communication strategies and in delivering communication outputs. Communication is an essential strength in any organisation to keep alignment with visions and values.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

Artificial intelligence, digital modelling, big data and computation stimulations, gene editing (CRISPR and TALENS) and synthetic biology, are challenging because of ownership models (through patents, etc.) that generates profits through extraction and the farming model in which gene-edited seeds are used. This model encourages monocropping, chemical inputs and orientation towards markets over food security. It encourages farmer dependency and marginalises traditional knowledge

and cultures. We need to inform people and encourage holistic systems thinking to combat these challenges.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

IFOAM needs both operational and project funding. This requires the packaging of funding opportunities in a way that supports both funding needs. I have experience in identifying both projects and potential funders, in proposal writing to unlock funding and in project design and oversight to ensure that donor needs are met but that activities serve needs on the ground. At a regional level, I believe there is great scope for increasing funding flows for work packages on specific aspects (PGS as an example) and for unlocking climate change financing related to soil health and fertility.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

I believe that the wisdom, knowledge and experience of how to drive transformation in both food systems and the IFOAM movement sits within regional and national IFOAM bodies. A regular and inclusive consultative process undertaken with these stakeholders (regional bodies, NOAMs, INOFO convenors, ambassadors) would identify key aspects to focus on in the short-term and it would generate agency in these on-the-ground stakeholders and their organisations to drive transformation of systems. It would also help inform the global IFOAM positioning and provide authenticity to the movement.

Jennifer Taylor

USA

Organisation: Lola Hampton-Frank Pinder Center for Agroecology

Job Title: Organic farmer, Professor

Sector: IFOAM North America



Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

Organic farmer, professor. Made significant contributions to advance organic farming systems, IFOAM Principles with underserved farmers. Secured \$6.5M to empower indigenous, women, and youth with organic practices, benefits, and market access. Advocate for policies enabling inclusion in organics.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

As a Black Indigenous organic small farmer, indigenous agroecology-organic farming & the IFOAM Principles are central. At Florida A&M Univ., I empower underserved farmers with these practices, training, & access to organic.

I am motivated to: Empower/lead the global organic movement; Promote the Principles & engage diverse stakeholders; Advocate for inclusive organic agriculture, ensuring underserved farmers (small, indigenous, women, and youth) access to resources & technical assistance to succeed; & Collaborate with regional bodies/allies to build a thriving global organic movement.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

I am passionate about deliberate activities that empower & lead local & global organic change - that sure up a thriving future for IFOAM - OI.

I am excited to work promoting the benefits of the Principles and agroecology-organic farming systems that enable regeneration and wellbeing; and Build

public awareness & equip global policies to enable organic change. I will work to support & drive regional and sector capacity building with members & allies; and participatory capacity building with indigenous, women, and youth farmers to grow an inclusive movement & benefits for all human beings..

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

My three top competencies that I bring to the World Board include: Ability to empower and lead; Practice and apply the principles of organic agriculture; Develop and evaluate participatory capacity building, and diversity and inclusion with marginalized communities, small farmers, indigenous, women, and youth farmers; and Align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the International Nyeleni Process.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

Organic life is in the organic seed.

Organic seed saving is at the core of nutritious food sovereignty, small farm resilience, and organic food security.

The challenge is to engage effective deliberate actions and policies supporting organic seed sovereignty and the right of organic and agroecology farmers to save their seed.

Empowering farmers with information, training, and supportive policies is key to safeguarding organic farms.

The organic movement should view the

techniques of genetic engineering, such as Crispr CAS with the same restraints as GMOs, and remain GMO free.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

Membership is central to the future of IFOAM-OI. I will continue to work to gain member support and participation. In the past term I worked to engage members and member fees. I assisted in the effective transfer of funds and collaborative activities with IFOAM-Organics International.

I have a successful history in developing funded grant proposals, over the past three years I have been awarded 6.5M for capacity building with underserved farmers. I am willing to assist and drive future collaborative approved grant strategies to strengthen capacity and add financial resources.

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

IFOAM Organics International is the largest organic organization in the world. A real transformative future will be enhanced by IFOAM-OI's ability to engage and work together with and - support the needs and challenges of IFOAM-OI regional bodies, sector platforms, and allies; drive deliberate actions and policies designed to empower and assist organic farming communities - inclusive of underserved small farmers, indigenous farmers, women and youth farmers, and their communities; and grow the organic movement and organic marketplace based on the principles of organic agriculture.



Edgardo (boyet) Uychiat

Philippines

Organisation: Negros Island Sustainable and Agricultural and Rural Development Foundation Inc.

Job Title: President

Sector: Non-Government Organization

Describe yourself and your contribution to your organisation in one paragraph

For the past few decades, we have collaborated with the local organic farmers from production to processing to market access. NISARD in 2005 promoting organic farming for our small family farmers in Negros Occidental and Oriental, two provinces in Negros Island to unite to address poverty.

What is your motivation to join the World Board?

I want to connect the dots between IFOAM-Organics International's and aligning with IFOAM regional bodies to globalize regional movements. Expansion of indigenous peoples' work, which is primarily focused on organic farming and environmental protection, to become a global agenda. Additionally, to create global business platform between nations and establish an international marketplace for organic trade.

From IFOAM's new strategy, what would you like to focus on?

Objective 2

I believe that the main asset of IFOAM – Organic International is its membership spread out in almost 130 countries all over the world. This is the strength of IFOAM and the basis of its foundation. The members should stand united as One and we should work to expand the network through building new partnerships with local and central governments and with like minded movements.

I have seen the splendid growth of the ALGOA. These two organizations grew in size

with the pro-active establishment of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts and the Young Organics-Global Network.

What 3 main competencies would you bring to the World Board?

1. I have the complete understanding of what to be undertaken to improve IFOAM Organic International.
2. Working with local and national governments for organic agriculture support, building relationships, and utilizing resources. Encouraging small farmers, youth, and indigenous communities.
3. Advocates for the integration of biodiversity conservation into the organic movement, citing successful education campaigns on the importance of organic agriculture in environmental conservation.

Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques, where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

As a WB member promote for natural methods, avoiding GMOs, pesticides, and fertilizers to promote biodiversity and sustainable production. They stress the need for stringent regulations, buffer zones, and water contaminants between organic and GMO fields. Technological advancements like gene editing may confuse farmers, raising questions about classification, regulation, control, and propagation of non-GMO crops.

IFOAM must align its research group, TIPI, and other institutes to counter GMO growth, balance environmental and health risks, and promoting science-based arguments against GMO crops.

What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I would like to emphasize the following Build on what we have at the present – improve membership outreach and benefits to our members

Implement One Membership as soon as possible

Utilizing Organic Ambassadors per country or region who will support our campaigns and fundraising activities.

Going into long-term partnerships (minimum five years) with local and central governments to develop organic programs

Access funds for research

Access grants from philanthropic organizations and foundations

Partnerships and alliances with NGOs

How could you trigger a real transformation in agriculture and within our movement?

The real transformation in organic agriculture involve comprehensive shifts in agricultural practices, methodologies and policies adapted to the ever-changing climate and environment. There is also a need for a transformative change of mindsets towards climate sustainability, resiliency of the farmers and equity for all stakeholders. I would promote the following as IFOAM WB member:

1. Regenerative Agriculture and farming practices which resort and regenerates the ecosystem.
2. Holistic farming practices and management which considers social, ecological and economic factors.

A stylized, monochromatic illustration in a muted brown tone serves as the background. It depicts the profile of a person's head and shoulders. The person's right hand is raised, with fingers spread, as if gesturing or voting. In their left hand, they hold a smartphone, which is oriented vertically. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and modern.

Bids for the Organic World Congress 2027

Bids for the Organic World Congress / GA 2027

The Organic World Congress (OWC) is a premier global event, bringing together stakeholders from across the organic sector to discuss, share, and advance organic agriculture practices. Hosting the OWC is a prestigious opportunity for member organisations to showcase their region's achievements in organic farming and to foster international collaboration.

Meet your bidders to host the OWC2027!

[Australia](#)
[The Philippines](#)

Bidding Process for the Organic World Congress:

1. Call for Bids: IFOAM – Organics International issues a call for bids to host the OWC. Member organizations interested in hosting the event are invited to submit their proposals.

2. Proposal Submission: Interested organizations submit detailed bids outlining their capacity to host the event, including venue details, logistical arrangements, including the membership of the respective country or region into the event, financial plans, and local organic sector strengths.

3. Evaluation: The submitted bids are evaluated by the World Board based on a set of criteria, including organizational capacity, accessibility, financial feasibility, and the potential impact on the local and global organic community.

4. Presentation: Shortlisted candidates are invited to present their bids at the General Assembly and during the GA Bazaar. This presentation provides an opportunity for members to ask questions and seek clarifications.

5. Voting: Following the presentations, member organizations vote to select the host for the upcoming OWC. Two bids receiving the highest number of votes go into a second round of voting. The next OWC host is chosen by obtaining a majority of votes during the General Assembly.

Each member organization has an equal vote, and if a member can't attend the General Assembly, a proxy vote can be generated via the [member area](#). The voting process ensures that the selection is democratic and reflective of the membership's collective decision.

6. Announcement: The winning bid is announced during the General Assembly, and the selected organization begins preparations to host the next OWC, with support and oversight from IFOAM – Organics International and by signing a respective contract.



WORLD ORGANIC CONGRESS BRISBANE

**Moving forward together
organics can feed the
world sustainably!**



Through hosting the World Organic Congress in our region we can create a catalyst for increased international consolidation and organic collaboration. Our bid to host the Organic World Congress in Brisbane, Australia, is a bid for regional Oceania.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ORGANICS

We hope that this Oceania World Congress can fill a void in IFOAM regional influence - representing a major new step toward the development of a formal regional body to help fulfil the IFOAM mandate to create a truly global network for organic agriculture.

Organic agriculture as a pathway to addressing many issues. This bid is about providing the support and coordination that will help lift our region from a traditional provider of raw commodities to a major supplier of high-quality value-added produce to the growing markets of our near neighbours in South East Asia, China, Japan and Korea - as well as the rest of the world.

OCEANIA

- Made up of 24 independent countries and territories
- A vast region straddling the East, West, Northern and Southern hemispheres
- Covers 20% of the world's surface area
- Home to twice the certified organic farmland of Europe, and five times that of Asia
- Over 21,000 organic producers managing a total of 36 million hectares of certified farmland

BRISBANE - AN IDYLIC SUBTROPICAL DESTINATION

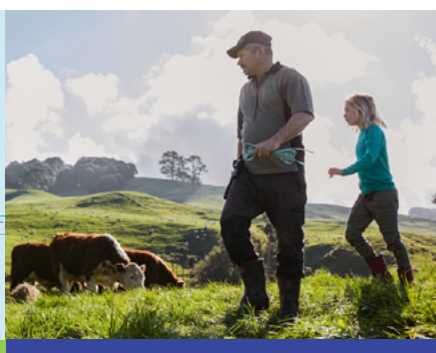
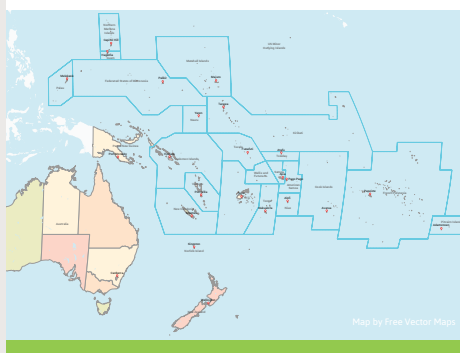
- Iconic Australian experiences at your fingertips with islands, rainforests, and day trips within easy reach, including the internationally famous Australia Zoo
- Direct and affordable flights from Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, New Guinea, New Zealand and most of the Pacific region

AUSTRALIA AND THE OCEANIA REGION

- Includes every type of agriculture providing diverse opportunity for strong scientific content and organic tours
- Australia is the home of permaculture, a centre for regional certification services and a significant market for the region
- The Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea are an exciting and creative organic frontier delivering new and exotic products from clouded mountain tops, steamy tropical gardens and the cleanest oceans in the world

THE OCEANIA BID COMMITTEE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

Please contact our chair, Simone Tully for further information on our bid. simone@aomgroup.com.au





ORGANIC REGENERATES



WHY NEGROS OCCIDENTAL?

The Optimal Venue to Host the 2027 IFOAM ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS

Negros Occidental is one of the provinces that make up Negros Island and is located near the central part of the Philippine Archipelago with a population of over 2.6 million.

Known as the sugar capital of the Philippines, the province has exported its organic muscovado, a non-centrifugal sugar, to Japan, South Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Austria, France and organic rice to Switzerland since 1980's.

Only Province with an Anti-GMO Legislation - the first in the Philippines

In 2007, a landmark legislation known as Provincial Ordinance No. 007, S. of 2007 was passed banning the entry, importation, introduction, planting, growing, selling, and trading of Genetically Modified Plants and Animals and imposes stringent measures towards the protection of Bio diversity and the attainment of the status of Negros as an Organic Food Island.

Longest Continuation of an Annual Organic Farmers Festival

In 2006, the 1st Negros Island Organic Farmers Festival was launched, and the annual festival has been graced by many international guests including the Presidents of IFOAM-Organics International and Slowfood International.

Strong Advocacy for Biodiversity Conservation

Negros Occidental is a national awardee for its strong advocacy on biodiversity conservation with Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) that have become the favorite tourism destinations. The Negros Occidental Coastal Wetland Conservation Area was declared as the 7th RAMSAR site with a habitat of globally threatened species like the Hawksbill; Green and Olive Ridley Sea turtles; Irrawaddy dolphins and over 70 species of water birds; extensive mangroves and mudflats serving as feeding grounds for thousands of migratory birds.

Seat of Regional Organic Cooperation in Asia

Negros Occidental has been the seat of IFOAM-Organics Asia since December 6th, 2019, with its base in Bacolod City, focusing on activities in Southeast Asia and within the Philippines such as the monitoring the development of PGS, advocacy, and capacity-building programs.

Easy Access & Abundant Amenities

The province is accessible by regular flights from Manila International Airport (50 minutes) and from Cebu International Airport (30 minutes). There are more than 8 four-star hotels and 54 three-star hotels of international standards and other eco-friendly hotels to provide you with every comfort during your stay.

Vote for Negros Occidental and You will be Helping Us to...

- To make Negros Occidental the foremost Organic Province in the Philippines and in Asia!
- To mainstream Organic Agriculture in the Province and the Philippines!
- To continue to work against GMOs in the Philippines!
- To boost the increase the number of PGS certifications that is ongoing nationwide!
- To increase public awareness on the importance of transformation to an Organic Lifestyle!
- To restore pride in farming and due respect to our Organic Farmers, our Superheroes!
- To reaffirm once again the Principles of Organic Agriculture of Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care!

Come to Negros Occidental, the Land of Festivals, and Experience our Unique Culture, Food and Hospitality!



contact: Gov. Eugenio Jose V. Lacson
 website: <https://www.negros-occ.gov.ph>
 Email: govnegocc@gmail.com

biofach.com



BIOFACH

into organic

Save the date

11.-14.2.2025

Nürnberg, Germany

International patron



National supporting organization

BOLW

Organizer
NürnbergMesse

Admission for trade visitors only

General Assembly Report 2024

IFOAM - Organics International
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