

# ISO FAR Newsletter no. 2, 2017

**Dear ISO FAR members and supporters.**

Thank you for your interest in our Newsletters. We regularly publish a variety of information on our activities and how they are promoting the uptake of organic around the world.

Here in ISO FAR, you will find an academically rigorous, interdisciplinary, and socially committed people that serves the needs of researchers, farmers, and other community members alike. Although the history of Organic Agriculture (OA) goes as far back in time as the first human being activity but focusing on its research based activities in the modern world where we are living is still young! Organic Agriculture is an “ethnical farming system” as well as “regulated farming system” which already stated by numbers of pioneers but in the coming generation of Organic 3.0 we need to contribute science more than before.

In ISO FAR, we learn so many things from each other and from various countries. Although [all members have open access to the ISO FAR scientific journal “Organic Agriculture - Springer”](#) , but we would like to ask you to share your knowledge and practical experiences with others and send us the valuable reports regarding to any progress and achievements on OA in your region.

Finally, the year 2017 has not only contained work. We had a well succeeds in different aspects as already reported in [ISO FAR Website](#) and in summary; this has been a good year for ISO FAR in all senses of the word.

Many thanks for all excellent contributions during the year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2018!

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

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### **Our New ISO FAR World Board, 2017-2020**

The ISO FAR General Assembly (8th November 2017) in India has elected a new World Board for the tenure 2017 to 2020.



### **Successful Scientific Track at the OWC 2017**

The Scientific Track at the Organic World Congress, November 9-11 2017 in New Delhi, India, contributed to the global discussion on Organic 3.0, and took the opportunity to answer some of the challenges in the context of the Indian subcontinent in particular.



### **Organic World Congress - Hope for the future: Conversion of a state happened in practice!**

The Indian state Sikkim in the Himalayas have worked to carry through its organic vision since 2003. Sikkim has converted to organic production! It requires a broad range of target directed actions and plans.



### **A fruitful Workshop on "ORGA - Journal of Organic Agriculture : Which editorial strategy for the future?"**

27 participants from different countries attended the workshop, which was arranged at the National Centre for Organic Farming in Ghaziabad on November 8, 2017 as a pre-conference for the 19th OWC.



### **Organic World Congress: The role of animals, seeds and new organic food systems**

Different challenges with – among others – animals and seed were some of the issues discussed at the OWC 2017. Also, during the pre-conference ‘Organic Food Systems 3.0’ new and innovative ideas about food systems were discussed.



### **IAHA-International Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry organized at NCOF, Ghaziabad (India) on 6-8 Nov, 2017**

The International Conference on the ROLE OF LIVESTOCK IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE - the Pre-Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry, was organized at the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad, India on 6-8 November 2017.



### **Proceedings from Organic World Congress**

You can now find the proceedings of the Scientific Track at [www.orgprints.org/32350](http://www.orgprints.org/32350) (Volume 1) and [www.orgprints.org/32352](http://www.orgprints.org/32352) (Volume 2).

We would like to encourage you to deposit your own paper and presentation/poster in Organic Eprints to increase the visibility of your paper. Find instructions of how to register s a user and deposit a paper here: <http://orgprints.org/29427/>



### **13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROJECTS IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA (OAPTIN)**

“Emerging Issues in Organic Agriculture for sustainable environment, health and economic development in Nigeria” was the theme of the Conference held on November 20 – 23, 2017 at Ibrahim Badamosi Babaginda University (IBBU), Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria.



### **4TH WEST AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE**

The Conference with the theme “Opportunity of niche creation for employment and investment” was successfully held in Bamako, Mali on Dec. 5 – 6, 2017 to appraise the development of organic agriculture in the sub-region and also marshal a way forward.

## Our New ISO FAR World Board, 2017-2020

The ISO FAR General Assembly (8<sup>th</sup> November 2017) in India has elected a new World Board for the tenure 2017 to 2020.



*The President is Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann; Prof. Dr. M. Reza Ardakani and Dr. Anne-Kristin Løes join him on the Executive Board as the Vice-President and Treasurer.*

The new board members from 11 countries and 4 continents are (in alphabetical order):

1. [Prof. Dr. M. Reza Ardakani](#), Iran
2. Dr. Khalid Azim, Morocco
3. [Dr. Stefano Canali](#), Italy
4. [Dr. Mahesh Chander](#), India
5. [Dr. Anne-Kristin Løes](#), Norway
6. Prof. Dr. Daniel Neuhoff, Germany
7. Dr. Jaakko Nuutila, Finland
8. [Prof. Dr. Victor I.O. Olowe](#), Nigeria
9. [Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann](#), Germany
10. Prof. Dr. Ewa Rembialkowska, Poland (Co-opted for the new Section on Food Quality)
11. Prof. Dr. Khaled Sassi, Tunisia
12. [Dr. Jessica Shade](#), USA
13. Prof. Dr. Raffaele Zanolini, Italy



We look forward to working together for the next three years and thank all outgoing ISO FAR members for their supports.



*Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke the founder and former President of ISO FAR with new elected Executive Board, 2017-2020*

## Successful Scientific Track at the OWC 2017

The Scientific Track at the Organic World Congress, November 9-11 2017 in New Delhi, India, contributed to the global discussion on Organic 3.0, and took the opportunity to answer some of the challenges in the context of the Indian subcontinent in particular. After a double-blind review, done by 120 reviewers from various disciplines in research institutions throughout the world, about 183 scientific papers from 50 countries were accepted. All the papers can be found in a two-volume proceedings in the database Organic E-prints: [www.orgprints.org/32350](http://www.orgprints.org/32350) (Volume 1) and [www.orgprints.org/32352](http://www.orgprints.org/32352) (Volume 2).

Against the backdrop of the global challenges, in the scientific track the discussions and presentations focused on the potential of organic farming, considering these topics:

1. Feeding the world (productivity, efficiency);
2. Minimizing food chain induced global changes (ecology);
3. Respect for ethical and cultural issues (ethics);
4. Improvement of the quality and health benefits of food (quality);
5. How to make organic prosper and be profitable (economics);
6. Better cooperation among global research communities (networking).

Research results were presented and discussed in 20 sessions of 1.5 hours each, linked to ordinary scientific disciplines such as soil, plant, animal, economics and social science.

68 papers were presented at poster sessions. ISOFAR gave prizes, composed of a diploma and 100 Euro, for the top 5 papers evaluated by a jury headed by Prof. Dr. Ewa Rembiałkowska (Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland) with collaboration Prof. Dr. Christian Vogl (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria); Dr. Jaakko Nuutila (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finland); Dr. Jochen Mayer (Agroscope, Department of Agroecology and Environment, Zürich, Switzerland); Prof. Carmelita Nidea Cervantes (Central Bicol State University of Agriculture, Philippines); Prof. Fasae Oladapo Ayokunle (University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria) and Prof. Oluyinka Benedicta Adewoyin (Federal University Oye-ekiti, Nigeria).

Criteria for poster evaluation were:

- Nice, logic lay-out
- Interesting results, of high relevance for organic agriculture
- Easy to read and understand the message
- Sound, reliable methods and science

### Awarded posters:

´ How reliable are microbial inoculants in agriculture for improving yield and nutrient use efficiency? A meta-analysis of field studies from 1981 to 2015.

Authors: Lukas Schütz, Andreas Gattinger, Matthias Meier, Adrian Müller, Thomas Boller, Paul Mäder, Natarajan Mathimaran (Switzerland)

´ Optimising organic soybean growth under reduced tillage by inline fertilisation with rock phosphate and elemental sulphur.

Authors: Sahar Brahim, Daniel Neuhoff, Ulrich Köpke (Germany)

´ Women in organic cocoa farming systems in Ghana: Empowered?

Authors: Irene Susana Egyir, Joseph Bandanaa, Joseph Clotey, G.K. Ofosu-Budu, Irene Kadzere, Christian Schader, Willem-Albert Toose, Bo Van Elzekker, Emelia Monney and Esther Agyekum (Switzerland – Ghana -Netherlands)

^ The content of bioactive compounds in blackcurrants from organic, biodynamic and conventional production in Poland.

Authors: Ewelina Hallmann, Dominika Średnicka-Tober, Renata Kazimierczak, Ewa Rembiałkowska (Poland)

^ Effects of companion crops on insect pest infestation, yield, and postharvest quality of cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) fruit.

Author: Oluyinka Benedicta Adewoyin (Nigeria)

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*Poster Jury Team*



*Poster Winners and ISO FAR Board Members*

# Organic World Congress - Hope for the future: Conversion of a state happened in practice!

The Indian state Sikkim in the Himalayas have worked to carry through its organic vision since 2003. Sikkim has converted to organic production! It requires a broad range of target directed actions and plans.

2017.11.15 | [Mette Vaarst](#)



*Chief Minister Pawan Chamling*

The final speech at the 19th Organic World Conference was held by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling from Sikkim. Sikkim is an Indian mountain state in the Himalayas, with climatic zones ranging from subtropical and to tundra in more than 8000 meters height.

Sikkim formulated an organic vision in 2003, and introduced policies for the conversion to fully organic. The first action plan was launched in 2003, where the phasing-out of chemicals was initiated, and where farmer educations and trainings were initiated. Since then, Sikkim have made five-year plans and have set up a clear governance-frame to support the conversion to organic farming and food systems.

The vision was not market driven, but rather driven by an urge to establish and maintain a healthy environment, a future for the next generations and a healthy population. This also mirrored a growing concern about a general over-use of pesticides and loss of biodiversity, and should also be seen in the light of the visible and concrete consequences of climate change. It was in other words the contribution of organic food and farming systems to public goods, which was highlighted and pushed the development.

Pawan Chamling raised a clear voice for the fact that conversion of a state to organic farming and food systems requires a governance framework, which guided the way in which the conversion could take place and be supported in a given context. The 12 points mentioned below were articulated learning points given in the speech (and should be read with the reservation that they were written down while he was speaking).



It was an encouraging, positive finalisation of a complex conference, where one of the common experiences was the experience of an enormous diversity within the organic sector and approaches.

### **Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's 12 important points in converting a state to organic food and farming systems:**

1. The government must take the responsibility to stop the use of chemicals
2. Food should not be produced in factory-farming, and the government must have a policy for not allowing these types of production where – in Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's words: 'if we put poison in, we get poison out'.
3. Active policy to minimize loss of soil and biodiversity
4. Prohibit burning, e.g. of straw and residuals left on the fields
5. Prohibit the use of plastic
6. Active policy to keep the trees and forests
7. Economic support of farmers during three years after they have stopped using chemicals
8. Establish programs for improving soil fertility, e.g. through compost and mulch
9. Encourage diversified production e.g. of vegetables, minimise grain production and production of crops that need chemicals to thrive,
10. Increase everybody's awareness and knowledge what organic farming actually does to save the environment: 'life saving and earth saving', and that the so-called green revolution caused more damage than benefits.
11. The government should take initiatives to save the biodiversity also in the flora and fauna of wildlife and nature,
12. The conversion to organic farming and food systems is a long process which requires governance, and active support at government level.

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### **Read more about the initiative and process in Sikkim:**

- Sikkim Organic Mission <http://www.sikkimorganicmission.gov.in/>
- Government of Sikkim, Organic Mission: <https://www.sikkim.gov.in/portal/portal/StatePortal/Government/SikkimOrganicMission>
- India TV: 'Fully organic' Sikkim produces 80,000 MT chemical-free vegetables in 2016-17: <http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india-fully-organic-sikkim-produces-80-000-mt-chemical-free-vegetables-in-2016-17-411673>
- Article from Journal of Innovative Research and Advanced Studies: [http://www.ijiras.com/2017/Vol\\_4-Issue\\_5/paper\\_30.pdf](http://www.ijiras.com/2017/Vol_4-Issue_5/paper_30.pdf)

# A Fruitful Workshop on "ORGA - Journal of Organic Agriculture : Which editorial strategy for the future?"

*Written by Anne-Kristin Løes, Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture*

**27 participants from different countries attended the workshop, which was arranged at the National Centre for Organic Farming in Ghaziabad on November 8, 2017 as a pre-conference for the 19<sup>th</sup> OWC.**

The Springer journal "Organic Agriculture" is the official journal of the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR). It is based on the definition of organic agriculture given by IFOAM. The journal provides a platform for sharing of knowledge on all aspects of organic agriculture and food systems. The journal was launched in 2011, and publishes four issues per year, each with 7-8 papers and 70-80 pages per issue. According to the statistics:

- 25 issues published until now
- 638 papers received and reviewed
- 199 papers accepted (published)

The acceptance rate has decreased from about 50 to 35%, which is a sign of increasing quality. The journal published 19 papers in 2011 and 29 in 2016. Minimum 25 papers per year must be published to be eligible for a Thompson-Reuters index. Authors and downloads are until now mostly coming from Europe and Asia.

To promote the successful progress the journal has had since 2011, the Editor-in-Chief (Gerold Rahmann) and Advisory Board of the journal decided to organize a workshop on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, one day before the 19<sup>th</sup> Organic World Congress in Delhi, India. Many editors, some active reviewers and other supporters of the journal were present, in order to discuss the future strategy. We need to further improve the quality of the journal, and to encourage more scientists to consider to submit their papers to Organic Agriculture.

Introductions were given by Professor Gerold Rahmann (Editor-in-Chief), Professor Raffaele Zanolli (Member of the Advisory Board) and Ilse A. Rasmussen (Chair of the Advisory Board). Their presentations are available upon request. They focused on the most important points to improve the aims of the journal, as well as the volume of citations, which is an important measure of a journal's impact.

- How to increase the quality of submissions, and increase recognition and citations?
- How to find more skilled reviewers? What to offer them?
- How to restructure the Editorial Board to improve balances with respect to gender, regional location, and to cover relevant disciplines? We need at least 15 members with a broad geographical distribution, and with good records of publications, to apply for a Thompson-Reuters index.

The impact factor of a journal is the average number of times per year articles from this journal published in the past two (or five) years have been cited in the Journal Citation report. All journals count equal, but only journals ranked by Thompson-Reuters are included in the report.

People were active in discussions about aim and scope of the journal. A common understanding was that the term "sustainability" could be considered removed from the scope.

In a process where each participants delivered one keyword, proposed aims were grouped into following terms:

- Systems approach, participatory research, multidisciplinary, co-innovation
- Above certification, tailored versus regulated agroecosystems, good for farming,
- High impact, scientific quality, good organic research, attract authors, share new results and ideas, encourage young scientists

The journal does not categorize papers. However, it was discussed that more review papers would be nice, as well as regional scale studies. Possibly, we could publish popularized key messages e.g. five power point slides per paper to be available as supplementary material.

The current scope covers arable crop production, vegetable production, soil fertility etc. The journal should have a global focus on organic agriculture and food systems. In a discussion of the need to amend this, new topics were proposed:

- Agrozooforestry, aquaculture, vermiculture
- Public health; consumer studies, food services, alternative marketing channels
- Environment, system resilience, functional biodiversity, regenerative agriculture

The participants were then divided into three groups, to discuss the journal from the perspective of an author, a reviewer or an editor.

To attract more authors, we may motivate young researchers who may have unpublished data and innovative results, but we need an impact factor first. Guidelines for authors should be improved. Authors should be informed about ISOFAR, and ISOFAR members about the importance of citing OA papers in their publications.

To attract more reviewers, we may reflect on possible reasons why people may decline to be a reviewer. In addition to revision being time consuming, it usually has no impact on the CV of the researcher. Another reason may be that the reviewer is not enough familiar with the topic, and that 2 weeks is a short time to decide. On the other hand, good reasons to accept being a reviewer could be that the reviewer gets to read the newest papers on their topic and get to know names of other researchers within their topic. It also helps them to become better authors. To attract more people's interest for reviews, we may launch a guide form for the reviewer to fill in, preferably accompanied by a "how to review"-guide. It is also important that the editor does not send really poor papers for review, and finds the most suitable reviewers. Some kind of feedback from the editor to the reviewer is also appropriate. "Monetary" incentives such as free membership of ISOFAR (includes free access to Organic Agriculture!) for a year after a certain number for reviews is another option, but easier to administrate may be to put up a prize to be given to one lucky out of all reviewers per year.

For editors, their first rule should be to never send a bad paper to a reviewer. If editors want to be informed about when a review is completed, to be able to check the review, they should tick for this option in the web-based editor menu. They are welcome to send an acknowledgement when a (good) review is completed. Former reviewers should be allowed to conduct a second review, when interested and required. To reduce the time needed for revision of each paper, the paper may be sent to more than two persons for review. Then, not-yet-responding candidates may be un-invited as soon as two have accepted. The journal really demands new editors. We need minimum five plant scientists; fruit and vegetables are currently not covered and we need more editors on arable and grassland cropping. For livestock, we need an editor for monogastrics, for ruminants and for aquaculture. Within socioeconomics, we miss an editor for farm management and food systems. Further, for food science, supply chain, processing methods, agroecology biodiversity and systems research. We could consider more than one Editor-in-chief. Most journals have three.

The advisory board, filled by the Editor-in-chief and two members of the ISOFAR board, has done a good job, communicating with Springer and following the development of the journal closely. Only the editorial board should be presented on the Springer website. The advisory board is related to the ISOFAR board, and may be presented on the ISOFAR website. Springer wants to host web conferences for the Editorial board. This is a nice offer that should be utilized.





# Organic World Congress: The role of animals, seeds and new organic food systems

Different challenges with – among others – animals and seed were some of the issues discussed at the OWC 2017. Also, during the pre-conference ‘Organic Food Systems 3.0’ new and innovative ideas about food systems were discussed.

2017.11.15 | [Mette Vaarst](#)



Mette Vaarst, Merete Studnitz and Ilse A. Rasmussen (from ICROFS) at OWC

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## This article contains:

- The role of animals in sustainable farming systems (Pre-conference 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Nov)
  - Challenges regarding seed diversity – a central topic for the organic movement
  - Organic food systems 3.0 (Pre-conference 8th Nov)
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## The role of animals in sustainable farming systems

Prior to the main OWC conference, a two-day pre-conference on the role of animals in sustainable farming systems took place. In addition to this, a one-day workshop about plant medicine in veterinary medicine took place. IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) organized both the pre-conference and workshop.

Breeds and breeding were topics that were often in focus over these days, e.g.:

- The relevance and importance of ensuring a diversity of breeds
- Breed for robustness, and as far as possible in ways, that they can fulfill more roles on a farm (e.g. that male animals are killed from birth, or given less priority at all times).

In addition, the importance of land-based animal agricultural systems was discussed, meaning that the number of animals should be in accordance with the land area, to meet sustainability goals in terms of ensuring system integration and avoid transportation of feed, live animals and products over long distances.

One of the new topics, which eventually got much attention during discussions both at the pre-conference and during the conference, were systems where animals migrate, e.g. pastoralist systems, nomadic systems, or through the use of communal land, common pastures, extensive grazing areas, or nature areas. It could also be transhumance systems, where animal herds and herders moved between more locations during the year cycle.

The discussion focused on how such systems could become part of organic systems. This discussion is relevant because many of the herds which have migrated, traditionally have had extremely important roles in terms of maintaining many of the globe's landscapes, e.g. with permanent natural grazing areas and forests. These landscapes are important because of their carbon sequestration and as such important when finding future climate solutions.

The connection between animals and humans was discussed in many different aspects: advisory service, animal welfare assessment, the need to take care of the animals, and the importance of traditional knowledge existing among many people, but often elders, hence threatening to get lost. This knowledge often include good guidelines and e.g. suggestions to handling disease.

During the pre-conference on animal husbandry, ICROFS had a poster from the ProGrOV project, led by ICROFS since 2011. ICROFS also contributed with a presentation about health

care, and facilitated one of the four discussion groups at the pre-conference (breeding and animal welfare).

Read more about the [ProGrOV-project](#)



## Challenges regarding seed diversity – a central topic for the organic movement

Our diversity of seed and plants in agriculture and horticulture is getting smaller and smaller with extreme speed, and action is very urgent. The loss of seed diversity was one of the fundamental points in many of the presentations at the 19th Organic World Conference, and it was very clear that it is a burning issue in India. A number of aspects were emphasized:

- The diversity is getting lost, and this makes our food poorer and less nutritious, and our agriculture becomes less resilient because we have less variety to choose between
- The culture – food and agricultural cultures – are getting lost with the seeds
- It has been a strong tradition for the majority of the world population to collect and exchange seeds, so that we always ensure that seeds and plants are locally adapted, and under continuous development in a local context.

Research points to the importance of keeping the diversity, and in many places of the world, we see social, economic and environmental negative consequences of what happens when ‘uniform seeds and plants’ replace the local and more robust varieties.

The Indian pioneer Vandana Shiva and the Navdania movement is one of India’s well-known initiatives for saving the diversity and control over seeds, and develop organic and sustainable farming systems in general. However, as it became very clear, India has a wealth of organizations and initiatives focusing on saving seeds.

There was an impressive rich and aesthetically beautiful – almost overwhelming – exhibition at the 19<sup>th</sup> OWC showing organizations, initiatives from all over India, working with seed and seed saving.





## Food systems 3.0

A pre-conference to the 19th OWC was about organic food systems, with the participation from all continents and more than 40 countries, including many of the states in India. With such a range of different places and people, one must expect many different models of organic food systems, and many different local solutions to global problems connected to our food systems.

This was exactly what this day entailed: widely different examples from different places on the globe, from small communities to entire regions that had converted their food production to organic, and now tried to make food systems work within the region.

The necessity to adopt our diet and food consumption to what can actually be produced in a given area – big or small – was emphasized several times, and research on diet showed that this was also quite in accordance with what could be characterized as ‘healthy diets’.

Some of the characteristics, which in addition to this could describe what could be called ‘an organic food system’, were:

- They have to be inclusive – that means, accessible for all irrespective of gender or social class
- Equity in all aspects
- The systems should reflect true costs and responsibility accounting
- There should be knowledge among consumers / citizens about ‘healthy diets’
- That there are strong relations between the different links in the ‘value chains’
- That the systems are transparent

This pre-conference was organized and coordinated by ‘Organic Food System Program’ (OFSP), which is an initiative acknowledged under the UN 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme: ‘Organic food systems as models and living laboratories for transformation processes towards sustainable food systems’.

The entire discussion about organic food systems is rapidly expanding – more and more people and movements see the importance to combine issues about our diets, or footprints and the way in which we produce and exchange food, as a greater picture. Partnership and involvement with OFSP can potentially give new exciting input to future relevant focus areas for research and partnerships. [Read more about the 19<sup>th</sup> Organic World Congress](#)



## IAHA-International Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry organized at NCOF, Ghaziabad (India) on 6-8 Nov, 2017



**The International Conference on the ROLE OF LIVESTOCK IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE - the Pre-Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry, was organized at the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad, India on 6-8 November 2017.**

It was linked to the 19<sup>th</sup> Organic World Congress, New Delhi from November 9-11, 2017. Over 80 participants from over 14 countries apart from over 35 students attended this conference. Mr. Otto Schmid, the Chair of IFOAM- Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA), from FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture), Switzerland made the introduction to the conference. The opening keynote addresses were made by Prof. Emeritus Donald M. Broom (University of Cambridge, UK), who spoke on "*Sustainability: the role of animal welfare and silvopastoral systems*" and Prof. Raymond Auerbach (Nelson Mandela University, South Africa), which spoke on "*Integrating sustainable and organic animal husbandry with efficient resource use in Africa*".

On the second day Dr. Florian Leiber, head of the animal research group at FiBL gave a key note speech on "*The sustainability dilemma in livestock feeding*".

The conference was a joint effort of the following institutions/organisations: ICAR-IVRI, FiBL, ANTHRA, NCOF, OFAI, IFOAM Organics International and IAHA. The conference sessions covered various dimensions of organic animal husbandry, which were moderated by Dr. Mahesh Chander (India), Otto Schmid (Switzerland) Nitya Ghotge (India), Angela Escosteguy (Brazil), Chris Atkinson (UK), Dr. Florian Leiber (Switzerland), Wytze Nauta (The Netherlands), Dr. Anita Idel (Germany), Bhavya Pande (India), Dr. Marc Benoit (France), Dr. Marion Johnson (New Zealand) and Merete Studnitz (Denmark). Apart from oral presentations, there were several poster presentations on diverse themes.

The papers presented (also those linked to posters), are published in a proceeding, which can be downloaded from the IAHA website: <https://www.ifoam.bio/en/sector-platforms/iaha-animal-husbandry-alliance>

Group discussions were organized, where recommendations for the further development and future research were formulated related to the following thematic areas:

1. Grazing and pastoralism;
2. Animal health;
3. Animal breeding and welfare;
4. Boosting organic livestock production.

These recommendations were discussed in a workshop at the Organic World Congress on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. The results of all the workshops and the presentations were summarized and have been acknowledged and accepted as recommendations at the General Assembly of IFOAM Organics International General Assembly on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Nov. in New Dehli. See IAHA Website above, where also presentations of the key note speakers will also be made available . The detailed minutes of the group discussions will be published in December 2017.

Several of the conference participants also visited an organic farm- Beejom Farm in NOIDA on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2017 which gave them a unique experience on the potential of medicinal plants for animal care, including the Indian ethnic food served at the farm. Ms. Nitya Ghotge gave an introduction to the use of specific medicinal plants for animals. Ms. Dr. Marion Johnson from New Zealand and Ms. Angela Escosteguy from Brazil made presentations on experiences and traditional knowledge of farmers in their countries. Their presentations can also be downloaded from IAHA Website.

Below are a collection of pictures with impressions from the IAHA-Preconference with photos from Mahesh Chander, Otto Schmid:







## **13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROJECTS IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA (OAPTIN)**

**“Emerging Issues in Organic Agriculture for sustainable environment, health and economic development in Nigeria”** was the theme of the Conference held on November 20 – 23, 2017 at Ibrahim Badamosi Babaginda University (IBBU), Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria.

The National Coordinator of OAPTIN and Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria (Prof. F.K Salako) who was ably represented by Prof. J.J. Atungwu and other national officers of OAPTIN paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor (Prof. M.N. Maiturare) of IBBU and thereafter took a group photograph with Chairman IBBU Governing Council (Dr. Suleiman ` Santuraki) and the Principal Officers of the University (Pic 1).

The highpoint of the Conference was the presentation of Vol. 5 of Journal of Organic Agriculture and Environment (JOAEN), the official journal of OAPTIN to IBBU Vice Chancellor (Pic. 2). The ceremony was attended by over 120 participants and after the programme some participants took a group photograph with the special guests (Pic 3)

A total of 55 abstracts covering different areas of organic agriculture, were accepted for presentation at the Conference. The keynote speech titled “Financial sustainability of organic agriculture in a smallholder agribusiness framework in Nigeria” was delivered by Prof. K.M Baba. Two lead papers on “Organic Agriculture for sound health” and “Writing sound scientific papers in organic agriculture” were presented by Profs. Sam Oluwalana and Victor Olowe, respectively.

There were also exhibitions of farm produce/products and organic farm inputs by farmers and input manufacturers, respectively. On day 3 of the Conference, participants visited El-Kareem Farm that specializes in crop, livestock and aquaculture production, and livestock feeds (Pic. 4). Participants saw three out of the six ostriches on the farm (Pic. 5). The farm is presently undergoing conversion to organic agriculture.

**Visit:** [www.oaptin.org](http://www.oaptin.org) [www.ibbu.edu.ng](http://www.ibbu.edu.ng)





*Photo:* Dr. Santuraki (Chairman IBBU Governing Council in black suit), Prof. M.N. Maiturare (Vice Chancellor, IBBU in brown dress), Principal Officers of IBBU and OAPTIN National Officers.



*Photo 2:* Presentation of Vol. 5 of JOAEN to the Vice Chancellor of IBBU





*Photo 3: Special guests and some Conference participants*



*Photo 4: Conference participants at El Kareem Farm*

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## **4TH WEST AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE**

The Conference with the theme **“Opportunity of niche creation for employment and investment”** was successfully held in Bamako, Mali on Dec. 5 – 6, 2017 to appraise the development of organic agriculture in the sub-region and also marshal a way forward.

Opening ceremony The Conference was attended by over 140 participants from fourteen countries: Mali, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. Renowned National, Regional and International Organisations such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), IFOAM-Organics International, FiBL, Swiss Agency for Development Corporation (SDC), African Organic Network (AfrONet) and National Organic Agriculture Movements in Africa (NOAMs) also participated at the Conference. West African Organic Network (WafONet) organised the Conference which was declared open by the representative of the Minister of Agriculture of Mali (Mr. Seidu Keita). During the opening ceremony, the representative of ECOWAS, Mr. Ernest Aubee informed that the Regional body has earmarked the sum of €8M for the development of ecological organic agriculture in five francophone member states namely: Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Togo and Burkina Faso. Furthermore, ECOWAS has directed the fifteen member states in the sub-region to factor in organic agriculture into their future plans, partner with relevant bodies in the continent and invest in agriculture budget of their states. Thereafter, a group photograph of participants was taken and the conference later continued.

### **Plenary session**

The plenary session featured the presentation of three papers titled “Global developments of organic agriculture and opportunities for west Africa” by Mr. Markus Abenz (IFOAM-Organics International), Organic agriculture development in west Africa: Successes, Challenges and Way forward by Dr. O. AdeOluwa (Nigeria) and Opportunities for organic agriculture development within ECOWAS by Mr. Ernest Aubee. After the lunch break, participants continued the session under three parallel groups namely i. Strategic production of cotton In west Africa sub region, ii. Climate change and ecological organic agriculture and iii. Institutionalization of Networks and Markets. Prof. Dr. Victor Olowe led a discussion on Climate Change, Ecological Organic Agriculture: Contribution of research in ecological and organic agriculture and food security, and poverty alleviation. Plenary session continued on Day 2 of the conference with feed backs from the three parallel groups. Thereafter, the conference communiqué draft was presented and discussed.

### **Closing ceremony**

The next hosting right of the Conference was awarded to Ghana against 2019. Chairman of EOA National Platform in Mali expressed his profound gratitude to all participants and the Conference was declared closed by the representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Mali. WafONet General Assembly

WafONet GA was chaired by Mr. Ernest Aubee (representative of ECOWAS) on Day 3 (Dec. 7, 2017) to discuss the following:

- a. ECOWAS engagement in ecological organic agriculture at the sub region
- b. Synthesis of progress reports by Country Lead Organisations (Senegal, Nigeria, Benin and Mali)
- c. West African cluster management
- d. Secretariat of EOA and its management in the sub region

The Board members of WarONet were tasked to achieve some stipulated milestones before Cameroun2018 (4African Organic Conference) and Ghana2019.

**Relevant links:**

[www.wafronet.bio](http://www.wafronet.bio) [www.afronet.bio](http://www.afronet.bio) [www.eoai-africa.org](http://www.eoai-africa.org)

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