

ISO FAR Newsletter no. 2, 2018

Dear ISO FAR Members and Supporters

Greeting from ISO FAR for beginning of summer and I hope this letter finds each of you having a wonderful season!

Firstly, I appreciated the energy and enthusiasm exhibited by all who attended in different relevant activities to scientific movement in Organic Agriculture. Secondly, I hope you will enjoy the second issue of the web-based ISO FAR newsletter in 2018. News are regularly published in our website, and a few times per year compiled into a newsletter submitted by e-mail as the reason and opportunity to keep in touch with all our members and supporters.

While the number of ISO FAR members is increasing with worldwide contribution, the important point for ISO FAR as a scientific association is its capacity and strength and not its size. We believe that public trust in scientists as sources of information is generally higher than it is for any other groups in the society. The ISO FAR website is the place of what we know and what is new in the world of scientific activities in Organic Agriculture created by organic scientists. Therefore, on behalf of ISO FAR I very much hope for continuing a fruitful partnership of all of us.

Regarding to the outcomes of the last vis-à-vis meeting of ISO FAR Board in Italy (25-26 June, 2018), ISO FAR became responsible for the proceedings of the 4th African Organic Conference which is going to be held in Cameroon November 5-8, 2018. Further, it was agreed to establish a scientific committee and board (steering group) for a scientific track in a national organic conference in Morocco in the autumn of 2019.

The current newsletter issue has become quite large, and it comprises interesting information from different countries such as Austria, Germany, Iran, Italy, Nigeria, Norway and USA. Several reports are included, as well as announcements of upcoming events which could be considered as the reasons for gathering and

sharing our knowledge and experiences. You may already realize that most of our activities are moved forward either by ISO FAR's members or by its Board Members at present. Special thanks to all those who actively contributed!

All [members have open access to our scientific Springer journal "Organic Agriculture"](#) which is a nice place to publish your next peer-reviewed paper! The [ISO FAR website](#) is also open for all ISO FAR members and supporters who wants to publish news about events, projects, networks, a country report and you are welcome to get in touch by e-mail (mreza.ardakani@gmail.com) to agree about details.

I wish you a pleasant summer holidays with sweet memories waiting to happen.

Sincerely Yours,

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

NEWS from ISOFAR:



Message from the president

Dear members and friends of ISOFAR,

I like to let you know some information about our activities in the first half of the year 2018



ISOFAR World Board Met in Italy

Linked to an international workshop on organic agriculture and agroecology, the ISOFAR world board met at Anacapri, Italy during June 25-26, 2018. 11 board members out of 13 were present to discuss the development of the society's own journal, Organic Agriculture (Springer) and plan further actions.



Successful GRAB-IT Workshop: Agroecology and Organic Agriculture

More than 100 participants from 23 countries came together for 3 days (June 27-29, 2018) to present and discuss new results in order to move organic agriculture forward. The event was interdisciplinary, with different topics represented in all sessions and an interesting mix of social and natural scientists



The EU-project Organic PLUS: Pathways to phase-out contentious inputs from organic agriculture in EU

The «Organic PLUS» project was kicked off in Padova, Italy on June 14-16, 2018 by coordinator Ulrich Schmutz from Coventry University (UK). 25 partners from 12 countries cooperate to use less antibiotics, toxic plant protection agents, peat, plastic and animal-derived fertilisers. A mapping of the actual use across Europe is the initial activity.



The United States Organic Confluences Conference looks at information transfer to organic farmers

The latest annual Organic Confluences Conference in the United States brings together organic researchers, farmers, policy-makers, and industry to examine how information is communicated to organic farmers.



University of Minnesota: Organic Agriculture in the Northern USA

Minnesota is one of the northernmost states in the USA, and a hotbed for organic agriculture research, emphasizing production in cold climates and a short growing season.



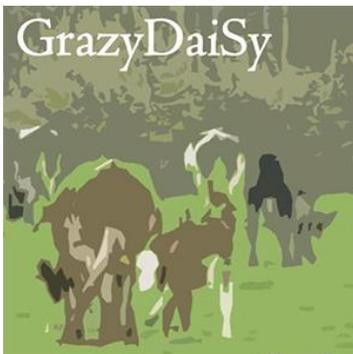
Steps writing sound scientific papers in Organic Agriculture

A total of forty one young and budding academics (young lecturers and graduate students) attended a one day Workshop on “Steps to writing sound scientific papers in Organic Agriculture” (March 13, 2018).

6th International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences (ICOAS)



The 6th International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences (ICOAS) will be held 7-9 November in Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria.



Innovative and sustainable grazing-based systems integrating cows and young stock

How can organic dairy cows stay with their mothers? How can we make more robust grazing strategies? How can animal health be supported, and medicine reduced, in organic dairy farming? GrazyDaiSy, a new CORE Organic Cofund project, will search for answers.



Developing pilot project on “Organic Aquaculture System” in Iran

The issue of organic production has attracted significant attention in Iran and positive measures have been taken in respect though further steps to catch up with the global pace of organic production mainly through filling the existing information gap.

Message from the president

Dear members and friends of ISOFAR,

I like to let you know some information about our activities in the first half of the year 2018. The board has met twice, one virtual, one vis-à-vis on Capri (before the GRAB-IT conference - the Italian conference of Organic Agriculture Researcher, which we supported). ISOFAR board members gave several oral and posters presentations. As president I was honored to give a keynote in the introduction of ISOFAR and our activities, to have more members and a clear agenda to be recognized as important network of scientists. The key message was, to work on challenges, not on regulation. That does mean, to have a clear commitment in the goals of Organic Agriculture, the understanding of future challenges of sustainable food security and safety, and the role to stimulate and initiate a science based discussion in the movement and the scientific community, as well as becoming a “Plan B” for politicians and stakeholders. We know, as scientists we are poor in resources, but rich in ideas and communication. We need more members throughout the world to become stronger as association.

The Capri board meeting was important to know each other better and to make a programme and agenda for our term till 2020: we like to make a special workshop 2019 in Morocco (in conjunction with an Organic Conference), to discuss the “how” we can help with Organic Agriculture to solve future challenges (the “why” was already published as result from a Korea workshop 2015). The results will be published as well in a special issue of Organic Agriculture in 2020 and the OWC. Together with representatives from Springer, our publisher, we have discussed the amendments in our Journal of Organic Agriculture, which we discussed and decided at our India workshop last November. The Journal is on a good track, 219 papers have already been published, the procedure of review is fine and in time. Springer is happy and we try to achieve the final step of recognition in an application for ISI this year.

With ISOFAR support the German government has decided to launch a call for “knowledge centres for Organic Agriculture”. This is important, because the foreseen 4 centres shall disseminate the knowledge of Organic Agriculture to farmers and consumers, not only as certified products, but as sustainable and local adapted production measures with increasing output for small scale and poor farms. The topic and informations can be found on the webpage.

ISOFAR is represented in the IFOAM world board. The changed of the goals and strategy of IFOAM, confirmed at the General Assembly in Dehli 2017, is called Organic 3.0. ISOFAR has initiated and followed the discussions since 2011, at the OWC11 in Seoul. ISOFAR is committed to support this idea with scientific work.

I invite you all to make Organic Agriculture stronger with research, to work on future challenges of the food system and to be active member of ISOFAR.

Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann
President of ISOFAR

ISO FAR World Board Met in Italy



ISO FAR board meeting held in Villa Orlandi belonged to University of Naples Federico II.

Linked to an international workshop on organic agriculture and agroecology, the ISO FAR world board met at Anacapri, Italy during June 25-26, 2018. 11 board members out of 13 were present to discuss the development of the society's own journal, *Organic Agriculture* (Springer) and plan further actions.

In Italy, many scientists are active within organic farming research, with a national network GRAB-IT established in 1986. An international workshop was conducted in Ancona in 1992. GRAB-IT decided to arrange a second workshop in 2018, with beautiful Capri island close to Naples as the venue. ISO FAR supported this event, and several board members combined the meeting with an active participation in the workshop, which made it easier to find funding for our travel costs.

For the ISO FAR board meeting, the members used the first day to update each other on activities relevant for our society, e.g. the planning of upcoming events. We also discussed the development of our journal *Organic Agriculture*, to prepare for a meeting between members of the journal advisory board the next day with senior adviser Melania Ruiz, Springer.

The next day, the board split to discuss the journal, or upcoming scientific events arranged or supported by ISO FAR. ISO FAR is responsible for the proceedings of the 4th African Organic Conference to be arranged in Cameroon November 5-8, 2018. Further, it was agreed to establish a scientific committee and board (steering group) for a scientific track in a national organic conference in Morocco in the autumn of 2019, and we had a broad discussion about the contents and direction of this track. Board member Khalid Azim is our contact person to this event.

Springer seems quite satisfied with the development of *Organic Agriculture* journal, and achieving an impact factor should be realistic in few years. A well balanced board of associated editors, with significant publishing records and a dedication to work for journal's progress is essential. Further, we need to improve with respect to visibility in social media. Board member Jessica Shade offered to manage a Twitter account on behalf of ISO FAR and the journal. ISO FAR members are welcome to use it when established— you will be notified.



ISOFAR – Springer: meeting with Springer senior adviser Melania Ruiz (chaired by Raffaele Zanolì).

The next vis-a-vis board meeting will likely be in Morocco in 2019.



Planning of upcoming events: Discussion of ISOFAR contribution with 4th African Organic Conference 2018 in Cameroon (chaired by Victor Olowe) and Morocco conference 2019 (chaired by Khalid Azim).

Successful GRAB-IT Workshop: Agroecology and Organic Agriculture



More than 100 participants from 23 countries came together for 3 days (June 27-29, 2018) to present and discuss new results in order to move organic agriculture forward. The event was interdisciplinary, with different topics represented in all sessions and an interesting mix of social and natural scientists. A main headline was how agroecological principles and theory may be better utilised in developing certified organic food and farming. A follow-up workshop is planned in 2020.

The international workshop, «Agroecology and Organic Agriculture as a Response to Global Challenges», was arranged with beautiful Capri island as a venue, during June 27-29, 2018. With orange necklaces, the participants were easy to identify among the many tourists in the narrow streets of Anacapri village. Many young researchers were present, and a broad range of Italian universities were represented, demonstrating the important role of agroecology and organic agriculture in this country. The network of organically oriented researchers in Italy, GRAB-IT (Gruppo Ricerca Agricoltura Biologica), arranged the event in cooperation with the nearby University of Naples Federico II and the scientific association Centro di Portici which also endorsed by ISOFAR.

At the opening session, Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann (ISOFAR President) presented ISOFAR aims and missions to the participants and encouraged them to join the Society. Several dedicated and reputable international scientists participated as invited plenary speakers, such as Alexander Wezel (ISARA, Lyon, former president of the association Agroecology Europe), Erik Steen Jensen (SLU, Sweden), Ulrich Hamm (Witzenhausen University, Germany), Elena Mente (University of Thessaly,

Greece). The current Agroecology Europe president, Paola Migliorini, who is also in the Board of GRAB-IT, was active during the whole workshop, contributed to explain many interlinkages between these two fields of science. It was generally agreed that we should cooperate more closely in future.

A topic that created much interest was the session on circular economy, where several speakers warned against the risk that even if this way of designing activities may seem truly sustainable, the actual effect of transforming resource use to renewable instead of finite inputs may be an even harder exploitation of natural land, resources and habitats, unless we concurrently reduce our activities significantly.

Long-term experiments were the topic for a Special Session, and positive results on soil C sequestration by reducing soil tillage and introducing cover crops were reported from various locations, ranging from Iowa (US) to Kazakhstan. Part of the session was dedicated to the launching of the European Long Term Experiments Network. The special session was sponsored by the Italian Research Council for Agriculture and Economics (CREA) and the Italian Ministry of Agriculture (MiPAAF); at its end an invitation was launched to participate in an application for a COST action on networking of long-term experiments which will be endorsed by ISOFAR and Agroecology Europe. Marion Cassagrande (ITAB, France) is the contact person, and may be approached via marion.cassagrande@itab.asso.fr

Appropriate attention was also given to consumer research, wine consumption which was the topic of another special session as well as organic aquaculture. An apero-poster session was organised so that the authors got a significant attention while socialising and getting to know other participants.

Some ISOFAR Board members made oral (Raffaele Zanolli, Stefano Canali, Anne-Kristin Loes and Victor Olowe) and poster (Khalid Azim) presentations at the workshop. The high point of the workshop was the selection and award of the papers of three best papers in which the paper of Anne- Kristin Loes was among them.

Selected papers from the event will be published in Organic Agriculture and other relevant journals.

The President of GRAB-IT (Prof. Raffaele Zanolli) announced the next international workshop which will be held in Italy in 2020 (in Pollenzo near Turin, at the Università di Scienze Gastronomiche, the “Slow Food University”, just after the Terramadre/Slow Food exhibition in Turin) which jointly organised by GRAB-IT, RIRAB (the Italian network for organic food and farming research) and other associations and movements involved in agroecology and slow food concert promotion.

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EU-project Organic PLUS: Pathways to phase-out contentious inputs from organic agriculture in Europe



Photo: The Organic PLUS-team comprises 25 partners from 12 countries across Europe: Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The «Organic PLUS» project was kicked off in Padova, Italy on June 14-16, 2018 by coordinator Ulrich Schmutz from Coventry University (UK). 25 partners from 12 countries cooperate to use less antibiotics, toxic plant protection agents, peat, plastic and animal-derived fertilisers. A mapping of the actual use across Europe is the initial activity.

All partners were present among the 44 participants of the kick-off meeting. Intensive networking and thorough discussions are required to achieve the best project results. During 3 days, we also enjoyed Italian hospitality and visited several producers of high quality organic food.

The project has six work packages (WP) and a separate WP on Ethics. The WPs on Livestock, Plants and Soil will map the use of contentious inputs, and look out for alternatives. In other WPs, current and possible future solutions will be assessed both from a consumers' perspective (WP Impact), and by modelling to ensure that the phasing-out of one solution actually implies better and more sustainable alternatives (WP Model). Lots of experimental studies will be carried out, in different livestock productions and several horticultural productions such as potato, tomato, aubergine and olives.

Contentious inputs of special interest in Organic PLUS are peat, soil-covering plastic, animal derived fertilisers, copper, sulphur and mineral oil for plant protection, antibiotics, non-organic bedding material and synthetic vitamins for livestock.



Organic cows need high-quality feed to produce high-quality milk for parmesan cheese.

A total funding of 4.1 million Euro will be received from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Stakeholders are welcome to subscribe to the projects' newsletter, and engage in the discussions about best methods for phasing out contentious inputs, and improve the integrity of organic agriculture.

ISO FAR board members are active in the international advisory board, and as work package leader. ISO FAR board members; Reza Ardakani (Iran), Mahesh Chander (India) and former ISO FAR president Sang Mok Sohn (S. Korea) was present as the members of the projects' group of international advisors as well as Marine Dorais (Canada) and Raymond Auerbach (S. Africa). An international advisory board will assure the project's results are relevant in a global perspective. Also, Anne-Kristin Løes Treasurer (Norway) leads a work package on soil and fertility aspects, studying mainly horticultural crops.



From left: ISOFAR board members Reza Ardakani, Anne-Kristin Løes and Mahesh Chander visiting the organic farm “Hombre” close to Padova, Italy during the kick-off meeting of the Organic PLUS project. In this farm, high-quality parmesan cheese is produced from the milk of about 200 dairy cows.

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Relevant links

www.organic-plus.net
<https://www.coventry.ac.uk/primary-news/project-investigates-using-alternatives-to-potentially-damaging-plastic-mulch-in-farming->

The United States Organic Confluences Conference Looks at Information Transfer to Organic Farmers

The latest annual Organic Confluences Conference in the United States brings together organic researchers, farmers, policy-makers, and industry to examine how information is communicated to organic farmers.

This year's annual Organic Confluences Conference was held by the Organic Center, eOrganic, and the United States Department of Agriculture on May 21-22, 2018 in Washington D.C., United States. The conference is attended by a wide diversity of stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, industry members, policy makers, educators, among others. This year the conference will focus on how best practices and technologies are communicated to organic producers – taking a deep look into successful, innovative techniques, as well as how to improve and connect current strategies for transferring knowledge to organic farmers.

Organic farmers are expected to farm in a sustainable manner using techniques that decrease the use of off-farm inputs, reduce resource consumption, increase biodiversity, and preserve productivity while simultaneously tackling a diverse array of on-farm challenges including fertility management, weed and pest control and agro-economic challenges such as yield constraints, crop failure and supply chain shortages. While organic and conventional farmers face many of the same agronomic concerns and rely on technical assistance and educational support to help them maintain successful operations, organic farming is fundamentally different from conventional farming. Because the majority of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are prohibited from use in organic, organic producers must instead rely on complex biological processes in lieu of chemical inputs. This dichotomy between the needs of organic growers and the conventional farming community has constrained the ability of the traditional extension system to successfully communicate and collaborate with organic farmers. While this is problematic for all organic farmers it can put new and transitioning organic farmers at a particular disadvantage.

While the existing body of literature provides a clear picture of the educational challenges faced by organic farmers 10 and 20 years ago, the last decade seen very little formal evaluation of the effectiveness of extension and education for organic farmers in the U.S., creating a significant knowledge gap. The Organic Confluences Conference addressed this knowledge gap through panels, case studies and discussions, while providing a venue for scientists, farmers, policymakers and organic stakeholders to assess barriers to knowledge transfer in the organic community.

The Conference included the following sessions:

Extension: Past, Present and Future

This panel examined the history of the Extension system in the United States in the context of organic, and look at where organic Extension stands today.

Public-Private Partnerships

Industry can have an important role in ensuring that organic farmers have the knowledge and technology they need to succeed. This panel highlighted a few such partnerships, and discussed their importance in the technology transfer landscape.

Importance of Communication Among Diverse Stakeholders

Because the organic sector includes farmers from a wide variety of backgrounds, it is important that knowledge transfer techniques do not exclude underrepresented groups in the organic farming community. This panel explored the importance of inclusive communication in the organic sector.

Assessing the effectiveness of extension requirements in organic agriculture research funding

Funding requirements for education and extension are a driving force behind much of the organic information transfer to farmers. This panel explored those requirements, their efficacy, and how researchers have incorporated them into current and past organic research projects.

Information Transfer to Transitioning and Split Operations

To succeed as a sector, organic must be able to recruit farmers that are new to organic techniques, and be amenable to farmers who are interested in producing both organic and conventional products. This panel examined ways that extension and other information transfer can connect with farmers who currently use conventional techniques without alienating them.

Innovation in Information Transfer

In addition to the above panels, the conference included a lightning-session where stakeholders shared innovative programs for information transfer. This session included short presentations from a wide diversity of individuals actively engaged in education and extension with organic farmers.

Synthesis Discussion and Development of Recommendations

One of the most successful parts of the Organic Confluences Conference is the engagement of attendees. Stakeholders who attended this year's Confluences Summit participated in small group discussions targeted at tackling the challenges addressed in the conference, and helped develop recommendations for improving the outlook for organic as a whole. This is one of the only venues where stakeholders from all parts of the organic sector can converge and address issues that need cross-sector input and involvement to overcome large-scale challenges.

Recommendations derived from discussions among attendees included additional networks at the national level, partnered with region and crop-specific information. Attendees highlighted the need for increased farmer participation and ownership of research and extension activities. Discussion outcomes also detailed the role of technology in information-sharing among organic farmers.

Meanwhile, The Organic Center has prepared a White Paper from discussions emanating from the 2017 Organic Confluences: Making Research Count. Entitled “Making Organic Research Count: Outcomes from the 2017 Organic Confluences Summit,” it can be downloaded [here](#)

More information about this year’s Summit and The Organic Center is available on [The Center’s website](#).



Dr. Alex Racelis of University of the Texas Rio Grande Valley discusses diversity in organic farming



Dr. Mathieu Ngouajio, of the United States Department of Agriculture, discusses extension requirements in USDA funded grants



ISOFAR Board

Member, Prof. Dr. Victor I.O. Olowe, Nigeria attended the conference as a participant, and is pictured here with the Director of Science Programs for the Organic Center and ISOFAR Board Member, Dr. Jessica Shade, and Associate Director of Science Programs at the Organic Center, Dr. Tracy Misiewicz

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Dr. Jessica Shade, The Organic Center

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University of Minnesota – Organic Agriculture in the Northern USA

Minnesota is one of the northernmost states in the USA, and a hotbed for organic agriculture research, emphasizing production in cold climates and a short growing season.

The University of Minnesota (UMN) is one of the most recognized public agriculture universities in the USA, with over 40,000 students learning together in a largely urban setting. The UMN Organic Program is a global leader in organic research, education, and community engagement. Recent research efforts take advantage of our northern location to develop new knowledge that ultimately helps farmers successfully grow organic crops in our challenging (and changing) climate.

Organic agriculture research at UMN is multidisciplinary, with projects ranging from soil science, to plant pathology, agronomy, animal science and entomology. In 2014 two new faculty members were hired in Horticultural Science to meet the growing demand for organic agriculture expertise in our region. Dr. Mary Rogers' research program focuses on ecological strategies to improve production of vegetables and fruit, and Dr. Julie Grossman's program works to improve soil fertility on organic farms via improved understanding of plant-soil-microbe interactions.

High tunnels are relatively inexpensive, greenhouse-like structures that allow growers to extend the season, control the environment, and increase crop yield and quality. Currently, both Rogers' and Grossman's programs have active projects to better understand the role of high tunnels in organic production in northern climates. Spotted wing drosophila is a recent invasive pest that causes great damage to fruit and is especially worrisome to organic producers since few control options are available. Recent results from the Roger's lab show that high tunnels may be modified with fine mesh netting, rather than the standard plastic, to exclude these invasive pests. This option may be particularly promising to protect high value berry crops in our region. High-tunnel production may be characterized by increased productivity, but due to intense cultivation strategies, they also pose many challenges for sustainability, soil health, and environmental quality. Recent research efforts in the Grossman lab have worked with organic growers to identify and trial legume cover crops that fit within existing high tunnel vegetable rotations. Thanks to a new 1.5 million USDA grant, this work has now expanded to include a collaboration between soil scientists, economists and horticulturalists across the U.S. This new project will evaluate the effect of legume cover crops on soil microbial and nutrient cycling properties across a north-south U.S. transect from Minnesota to Kentucky, where high tunnels are prevalent. Results of this work will help high tunnel producers across the U.S. improve soil health while maintaining productivity and their bottom-line.

The University of Minnesota Organic Program has additional research efforts underway in diverse departments. Examples of these efforts include those in Plant Pathology to understand the effect of black rot on cabbage and verticillium wilt, in Soil Science to investigate how the manure rule - requiring waiting periods prior to crop harvest - affects soil pathogens, in Horticulture to identify summer cover crop options to improve soil quality in organic vegetable rotations, and in Agronomy develop new lucrative perennial grain rotations to ease the strain on farmers during the transition period. The UMN also continues to be a leader in organic milk production research, with researcher Dr. Bradley Heins at the helm. This program is improving organic dairy farms to provide nutritionally enhanced milk for consumers and using pastured chickens to control flies on organic dairy cattle.

Building on our research program, our 6 acre (2.5 ha) Cornercopia Student Organic Farm is a critical component of the Organic Program, providing a space for knowledge sharing and student experiential learning opportunities. We continue to offer a full-semester course in organic production, as well as a spring and summer apprenticeship program for those interested in an advanced leadership opportunity. New in 2018, the UMN Organic Program has launched an expansion plan for Cornercopia called Northgate Commons. Northgate will be a physical gathering space for students, including a venue for outdoor classes and workshops, a kitchen garden, and an area to showcase novel edible plants and innovative growing techniques. The site will be a community space for students and adult learners within the University and beyond to learn about sustainable agriculture and food production through hands-on and experiential learning.



Organic dairy research focuses on herd quality and milk improvement



High tunnels are a growing part of the Minnesota landscape, but struggle with soil fertility issues



Summer cover crops help occupy empty niches of horticultural crop rotations and can improve soil nutrient cycling properties

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Steps to writing sound scientific papers in Organic Agriculture

A total of forty one young and budding academics (young lecturers and graduate students) attended a one day Workshop on “Steps to writing sound scientific papers in Organic Agriculture” (March 13, 2018).



Cross section of participants at the Workshop

Participants were drawn from Nigerian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) such as University of Ibadan, Ibadan; Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB); Osun State University (LAUTECH), Osogbo; Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso; Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAU); Abia State University, Umuahia and Kwara State University, Ilorin amongst others. The workshop was aimed at addressing the immediate and remote causes of high rate of rejection of manuscripts emanating from the tropics by the Organic Agriculture Journal with a view to teaching the participants how to write publishable articles in high impact factor journals.

The workshop was organised under the auspices of the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (formerly NOAN) at the Department of Agronomy, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. The main resource person was Prof. Victor Olowe (FUNAAB). The workshop underscored the need to publish in high quality scientific journals, discussed extensively the reasons for high rejection rate of papers from the tropics, shared the recommended format for paper preparation, deliberated on the minimum expected requirements before a paper can be accepted for publication

and finally highlighted the various steps to writing sound scientific papers. The modalities for writing Conference papers and preparing Conference posters were also discussed at the workshop. Highpoint of the workshop was the practical session during which the participants reviewed two abstracts of published articles, learnt how best to respond to reviewers' comments and the need to promptly return reviewed manuscripts.

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6th International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences (ICOAS)

The 6th International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences (ICOAS) will be held 7 – 9 November 2018 in Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria.

ICOAS brings together scientists, advisors, entrepreneurs, policy makers, associations, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders to meet and discuss latest research results and developments in organic agriculture in Central and Eastern European countries.

ICOAS will take place in two main parts – the two-day [Scientific Conference](#), followed by the [Organic Policy Summit](#).

The [call for abstracts](#) as well as [call for session proposals](#) is now open. Interested applicants must submit an abstract no later than **15 June 2018**.

For more information, please visit below links:

<http://icoas2018.org/>

<http://www.fibl.org/en/service-en/news-archive/news/article/icoas-call-for-abstracts-startet.html>

Developing pilot project on “Organic Aquaculture System” in Iran

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Welcoming address by Dr. M. Reza Ardakani, Executive Manager of the Workshop. 105 participants from different disciplines such as aquaculture producers (individual or in cooperatives), post graduate students, faculty members, scientists from different research institutes, private and governmental authorities attended in this 2 days workshop.

Aquaculture production in Iran increased rapidly from 3 219 tones in 1978 to 371 840 tones in 2014, representing approximately 39.2 percent of the total fish production. This proportion is expected to increase during the fifth sixth-year plan which began in 2017 to 45.5 percent. Aquaculture systems distribution and characteristics in Iran are based on warm water fish culture, cold water fish culture (rainbow trout), shrimp culture and culture-based fisheries. On the other hand, the issue of organic production has attracted significant attention in Iran and positive measures have been taken in respect though further steps to catch up with the global pace of organic production mainly through filling the existing information gap.

Two IFOAM- International Self Organized Sector Platforms; IFOAM-IRAN and IFOAM Aquaculture organized a workshop on “Organic Aquaculture” in order to develop and promote production and marketing of organic aquaculture products in Iran which sponsored and supported by Iran Organic Association (IOA); Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Mines, Industries and Agriculture; Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute (IFRSRI); Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO)- Ministry of Agriculture and numbers of other governmental authorities and private sectors.

During the opening ceremony, Deputy Head of IFO, Dr. Hossein Abdulhay stated that aquaculture production is common in all provinces and Iran worlds ranked is the first for rainbow trout, sixteen in shrimp and also among top 10 countries for caviar production. **Dr. Hans Stefan Bergleiter** on behalf of IFOAM Aquaculture and Naturland Co. from Germany and **Dr. Jaakko Nuutila**, ISOFAR Board Member and Research Scientist at Natural Resources Institute Finland were the resource persons for this workshop which held 8- 9 May 2018 in Tehran- Iran.



Dr. Hans Stefan Bergleiter stated the most important technical issues, standards and regulations for developing organic aquaculture.



Dr. Jaakko Nuutila focused on organic food systems and the role of organic aquaculture and its effects on value chains with presenting two case studies in Vietnam and Slovenia.

The topics focused on:

- Economical, ecological and social implications of aquaculture products
- The EU regulation and private standards for organic aquaculture/ Legal norms and guidelines / official and private standards
- Perspectives of organic aquaculture production
- Conversion problems, risk assessment and evaluation
- Specific organic aquaculture fields: shrimp, trout, microalgae, plus a view to recirculation aquaculture and integrated multitrophic aquaculture (IMTA)
- Quality management and assurance in organic aquaculture
- Inspection and certification processes
- Labelling/ packaging and marketing
- Case studies and value chains

The outcome of this workshop: In order to accelerate of acquiring modern sciences, practices and techniques in Organic Aquaculture production systems, for the first step, IFSRI is going to create a group of experts to develop the practical guidelines for organic aquaculture in Iran for all producers (cooperatives and private sectors) and for different types of products with considering a pilot project in a research station at Mazandaran Province in North of Iran, close to Caspian Sea.



Closing Ceremony

انجمن ارگانیک ایران با مشارکت اتاق بازرگانی تهران و موسسه تحقیقاتی علوم شیلاتی کشور برگزار می کند:

کارگاه آموزشی - ترویجی آبزی پروری ارگانیک

۱۸ و ۱۹ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۷
تهران - ایران

Workshop on Organic Aquaculture

8-9 May 2018 Tehran - Iran

www.iranorganic.org www.ifoamiran.org

مکان برگزاری: اتاق بازرگانی - صابو، معادن و کشاورزی تهران خیابان خاندان امیندوایی (وزرا) - روبروی خیابان بهشت و پلک - شماره ۸۲ پلاک ۴
پارکداز گزاهیمانه معین

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Also visit: <https://www.ifoam.bio/en/regional-bodies/ifoam-iran>



How can organic dairy calves stay with their mothers?
How can we make more robust grazing strategies?
How can animal health be supported and medicine use significantly reduced in organic dairy farming?

The newly launched CORE Organic Cofund project 'GrazyDaiSy' aims to give relevant answers to these burning questions. The research project involves 15 partners from 8 European countries. Organic animal rearing focuses on allowing animals to meet natural requirements, and considering a systems approach. There are still many knowledge gaps and areas where common practice do not match the organic principles fully – for example separating cows and calves just after birth.

Research focus:

- Calf-cow togetherness
- Mixed age groups in robust innovative grazing systems
- Reduction of antibiotic use

GrazyDaiSy investigates how to manage mixed age groups of cattle, including rearing calves with their dams. We focus on maintaining a high level of animal health, thereby, minimizing the need for medication. Furthermore, we focus on implementation of resilient grazing strategies to improve animal performance and decrease impacts on the ecosystem on and around the farm. However, we also address the special challenges of keeping older and younger animals together on grass.

On-farm research in a diverse European landscape

We work with farmers on-farm, and we see our focus areas in each their local context, taking a systems approach. We cover most European climate zones, from the coldest North to the hottest South.

Read more: <http://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/research-projects/grazydaizy/>



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Eesti Maaülikool
www.emu.ee
EMU Estonian University of Life Sciences



GrazyDaiSy

Innovative and sustainable grazing-based systems
integrating cows and young stock



GrazyDaiSy partners:

- Aarhus University, Denmark
- National Research Institute of Animal Production, Poland
- Louis Bolk Institute, The Netherlands
- ONIRIS, INRA, France
- Uludag University, Turkey
- Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- University of Hohenheim, Germany
- Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia
- Demeter e.V., Germany
- Wageningen Livestock Research, The Netherlands
- Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture, Norway
- Organic Denmark, Denmark
- Them Co-operative Dairy Company, Denmark
- General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies / Sheep Breeding Research Institute, Turkey
- Bioland Beratung GmbH, Germany

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