



International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

..... **IFOAM CONFERENCE**
ON ORGANIC
GUARANTEE SYSTEMS

**International Harmonisation and Equivalence
in Organic Agriculture**

17 - 19 February 2002
Nuremberg, Germany

.....
IFOAM Basic Standards Day
(Sunday, 17 February)

The conference
**“International Harmonisation
and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture”**
(18-19 February)

.....
in cooperation with



Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations



UNCTAD
United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

with the support of

Messe Nürnberg / BioFach



The IFOAM Basic Standards Day

– a public stakeholder consultation of the 2nd draft of the IFOAM Basic Standards

The IFOAM Basic Standards Day offers all interested parties a platform to take part in the revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards.

The conference

“International Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture”

Organic standards and certification systems were developed at a time when “organic” was a niche sector barely worth considering. Increasingly, certification requirements and regulations are considered to be the major obstacle for a continuous and rapid development of the organic sector, especially for producers in developing countries. The organic market is confronted with hundreds of private sector standards and governmental / national regulations, two international standards for organic agriculture (Codex and IFOAM) and a number of accreditation systems. Lack of cooperation and “harmony” is a central problem.

The organisers expect the conference to:

- *Bring clarity to the current situation*
- *Identify and recommend models for interaction between the public and private sectors in the field of organic standards, conformity assessment (certification) and accreditation*
- *Develop a common understanding of the proper division of roles and duties between the public sector, the private sector and civil society organisations*
- *Initiate the development of a constructive and effective partnership between the private and the public sector*



Major parts of the conference will be held in form of interactive roundtable discussions.

The conference is organised by IFOAM. Communications and registration should be addressed to the IFOAM headoffice. Up-to-date conference information can be found on the web page:

www.ifoam.org

Participation

The conference offers all stakeholders a unique platform for constructive dialogues and for common efforts towards creative solutions.

Participants are expected to represent:

- *Governments (ministries/agencies from agriculture, trade and consumer protection)*
- *International organisations active in the field of standard setting and conformity assessment*
- *Organic farmers, traders, and their organisations*
- *Private sector standard-setting, certification and accreditation bodies*
- *Experts in standard-setting, certification and accreditation*
- *International NGOs (consumers, fair trade etc.)*

Language

The conference will be held in English.

Combine the conference with a visit to BioFach

The conference provides the unique opportunity to combine it with a visit to the world leading organic trade fair taking place in Nuremberg from 14 - 17 February. About 2000 exhibitors and 30.000 visitors from all over the world are expected. The fair presents the finest organic agriculture has to offer in all its diversity. For more information contact BioFach:

Fax: +49 (0)911-8606228

E-Mail: besucherinfo@nuernbergmesse.de

Webpage: www.biofach.de

IFOAM Basic Standards Day

February 17 (10:00 am – 6:00 pm)

- *Introduction to the IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS) and standards setting process*
- *Opportunity to comment on the current standards and the draft of the proposed new IBS*
- *Opportunity to contribute views about the future direction of the development of IBS*

IFOAM Conference “International Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture”

February 18 (9:00 am – 7:00 pm)

- *Overview of major national and international systems of standards and conformity assessment in the organic sector*
- *Two panels on “practical experiences” and on the “regulatory scene”*
- *Roundtables (running concurrently):*
 - *Constraints for small/disadvantaged producers in developing countries*
 - *International vs. national/local standards*
 - *National vs. international accreditation*

February 19 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm)

- *Existing models for private/governmental cooperation, within or outside the organic sector*
- *Equivalency between national government systems*
- *Roundtables (running concurrently):*
 - *Structures for regulation and certification in developing countries*
 - *Mechanisms for equivalence between private sector standards and governmental / national regulations*
 - *Division of roles between public and private sectors*
- *Conclusions and future actions*

International speakers will be from FAO, UNCTAD, IFOAM, EU, governments and private sector stakeholders.

A more detailed programme and updates are on the web page:
www.ifoam.org

Conference reader

A conference reader with chapters on the relevant topics will be published and is included in the registration fee. It also can be bought afterwards by those interested but not able to attend the conference.

Registration and fees

To facilitate proper organisation, we urge participants to pre-register (and save money!). **Deadline is 1 February 2002.** "Last minute" registration is possible during the BioFach trade fair at the IFOAM booth.

- *No registration fee is required for the IFOAM Basic Standards Day. (However, as the number of seats is limited, please pre-register.)*
- *The registration fee for the conference on International Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture is:
200 EURO (IFOAM Affiliates 150 EURO)
After pre-registration deadline (1 February 2002):
250 EURO (IFOAM Affiliates 200 EURO)*

**The fee includes conference reader, reception,
two lunch buffets and coffee breaks.**

Logistics and accommodation

With its own airport and good train connections, Nuremberg is easy to reach. Hotel reservations should be made well in advance as the city will be exceptionally crowded due to the BioFach trade fair. Accommodation arrangements can be made through:

Congress- und Tourismus-Zentrale Nürnberg

Frauentorgraben 3
D - 90443 Nürnberg

Tel. +49 (0)911-23360
Fax: +49 (0)911-2336166

E-mail: tourismus@nuernberg.de
Web: www.hotel.nuernberg.de

Registration Form

I wish to register for the following events (please check:)

- IFOAM Standards Day** (Sunday, 17 February, 2002)
- IFOAM Conference on "International Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture"** (18 – 19 February, 2002)

Mrs Mr First name:

Last name:

Organisation:

Street/P.O.Box:

Zip Code, City: Country:

Email:

Tel: Fax:

Registration Fee:

Before 1 February: 200 EURO 150 EURO (IFOAM Affiliate)
After 1 February: 250 EURO 200 EURO (IFOAM Affiliate)

Payment

- Credit Card**
 - Visa
 - Eurocard
 - American Express

Name as written on the card:

Credit Card Number: Expiry Date:

- By bank transfer** on receipt of invoice (only until 1 February)

Date: Signature:

Please fill out and return to:

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D-66636 Tholey-Theley, Germany

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Fax: +49-6853-91989-9

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