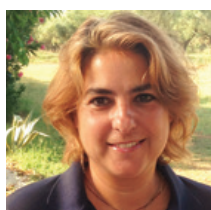




vol. 1

IFOAM Agribiomediterraneo Newsletter



Dear IFOAM ABM members,
friends and affiliates,

The Mediterranean Regional Department of IFOAM, IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo, has the honor and the pleasure to celebrate its 25th anniversary! It was a vision which became a reality! A challenge which became a perspective! All of us, in different ways, we worked for the enhancement and the establishment of the organic reality in the Mediterranean.

In the middle of September at Vignola, Italy will take place the International Conference of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo "Agroecology for organic agriculture in the Mediterranean" and the Celebration of its 25th anniversary. We invite the organic world to be part and share his scientific, social, environmental knowledge and experiences.

Go organic, go Mediterranean, go smiling!

Charikleia Minotou
President of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo

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Celebrating 25 years from the first conference





IFOAM is a membership organisation with members from countries all over the world. The goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture:

principle of **health** principle of **ecology**
principle of **fairness** principle of **care**

IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo Regional Group coordinates the activities of IFOAM-member organizations in the Med Region.

Agribiomediterraneo (ABM) is an official Regional Group of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement (IFOAM). The history of AgriBioMediterraneo goes back to 1990 starting with the first meeting held in Vignola (Mo), Italy.

IFOAM-ABM members come from three different continents (Africa, Asia, Europe) and 16 Mediterranean countries, bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Charikleia Minotou (Greece), charmini@otenet.gr

VICE PRESIDENTS

Drazen Lusic (Croatia), lusicd@medri.hr

Paola Migliorini (Italy), p.migliorini@unisg.it

WORKING GROUP COORDINATORS

TRAINING

Karen Hoberg (Spain), KarenHoberg@natureco.es

MARKETING

Onn Chen (Israel), onnc@ranfp.com

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Xhevaire Dulja (Albania), xhevid@yahoo.com

STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION

Konstantinos Dimitriadis (Greece), k.dimitriadis@dionet.gr

Bahaa Mostafa Awad (Egypt), coae@tedata.net.eg

The Organic Agriculture (OA) worldwide constitutes an important sector for the rural development in a sustainable way.



The last decades OA records an increase, as the food chain changed the priorities and support and promote healthy, qualitative and with environmental friendly profile products. OA in the Mediterranean would be a perspective for the sustainable rural development and the production of unique Mediterranean products.



The connection of OA with an alternative rural development could also offer the possibility to enforce agro-eco tourism based in the precious environment of the Mediterranean Area and people's mentality.

The strategic plan of AgriBioMediterraneo IFOAM (ABM), for the period 2014-2017, is based on the mission and values of IFOAM and on a Mediterranean vision that OA combines tradition, innovation, science and sustainability.

VISION AND GOALS ABM

Adoption of organic agriculture in the Mediterranean as a system which combines tradition, innovation, science and sustainable rural development through:

- Promotion and dissemination of the importance of Organic Agriculture
- Enhancement of the increase of the Organic Agriculture
- Enforcement of the creation of a new holistic and effective attitude for the protection and preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Connection of the organic agriculture with social benefits
- Enforcement of an alternative rural development

Mission ABM

Provide an organic Mediterranean model which will be sustainable and viable for people and for agricultural and environmental ecosystems.

Strategy ABM

Enforce the food and livestock production and support the promotion of the quality and the trade value of products and services.

INTERVIEW **ERIO RICCHI**

Vignola Councillor for Agriculture, Environment, Energy & Civil Protection

Why you chose to bring the Secretariat of ABM in Vignola?

Let's first give thanks to the new administration that has made this possible, an administration made up of a coalition of civic lists, united by a program with a strong environmentalist print. The principles guiding the coalition program in terms of agriculture development were clearly identified with the organic agriculture. My dream is to be able to bring together the agricultural tradition of the territory with the innovation brought by the organic. Emilia Romagna at regional level follows the same principles, with objectives of increasing organic agriculture in the region by double its territory presence.

Returning to the original question, Vignola has always been very important for the organic movement in Italy, we find the experimental field of AIAB and is always here that 25 years ago ABM had its baptism. We believe therefore that it is very important to renew contacts between the local administration, the offices AIAB and ABM Secretariat. Vignola awakens with a bio and ecological footprint.

What do you expect from these three years of the secretariat?

I expect Vignola become a crossroads of international experiences and then repurchases its historical role that has always distinguished itself throughout its history. I wish that this opportunity could encourage new meetings and new initiatives. In this sense we are already organizing an international conference for 25 of ABM to be held in Vignola and we are already well advanced in negotiations with various local organization, as the Foundation of Vignola, the ER Region (Department of Agriculture). We aim to organize conferences every year in order to make more and more live and profitable this agreement.



Why is there the need to bring Organic in the world?

I am always inspired by the Manifesto of Vandana in which she argues that organic can feed the world. Organic practices can save the planet, and feed it fairly. The Mediterranean area from this point of view is a great testing ground and challenge with its peculiarities and its potential. We expect a lot from this agreement with ABM.





International Conference 2015

AGROECOLOGY FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

10-12 September 2015 Vignola Castle (Modena) - 13 September 2015 SANA (Bologna), Italy

<http://abm.ifoam.bio/conf-presentation/>

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS - 1990 VIGNOLA 2015

AgriBioMediterraneo (ABM) is the first Group of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement (IFOAM). The history of IFOAM-ABM goes back to 1990 starting with the first meeting held in Vignola (Mo), Italy.

In 2015 IFOAM-ABM gathers 144 members from three continents (Africa, Asia, Europe) and 16 Mediterranean countries.

The aim of the International Conference is to improve interdisciplinary scientific dialogue, to implement information exchange and dissemination of knowledge and innovation strategies on organic agriculture for the Mediterranean climate.

ABM promotes a model of organic agriculture in order to achieve the excellence in food and agricultural products, based on

authenticity, crop diversification, biodiversity and the multi-functionality of farms, in order to reduce supply chains and to become protagonists of a rural and sustainable development which includes social and economic benefits both for the farmers and for the people involved in agriculture-related sectors, such as processing and rural tourism.

Important international figures who deal with agroecology and organic agriculture will participate in the conference, including:

Miguel Altieri (UC Berkeley), considered one of the main representative in agroecology, Claude Aubert (Terre Vivante F), one of the pioneers of organic Mediterranean agriculture, Bernward Geier (Colabora D), Salvatore Ceccarelli, an important geneticist and a former member of ICARDA, Gunnar Rundgren, author of "Global Eating Disorder", Helmy Abuleish of SEKEM in Egypt, Nadia Scialabba, FAO, Marike de Peña (President of Fairtrade International), Pablo Tittone of INTA in Argentina and other important representatives of scientific and productive world in the Mediterranean.

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PROGRAM

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, VIGNOLA CASTLE

9:00 - 9:30	Welcome and reception
9:30 - 19:00	Opening session: IFOAM (Charikleia Minotou and Marcus Arbenz), Federbio (Paolo Carnemolla), SANA/BolognaFiere (Duccio Campagnoli), ICEA (president Pietro Campus), Vignola Municipality (Mayor, Mauro Smeraldi), Representative of Ministry of Agriculture Policies
10:00 - 11:15	Principle of Ecology: Miguel Altieri, Pablo Tittolen, Salvatore Ceccarelli Moderator: Erio Ricchi, <i>Councilor for agriculture and the environment in Vignola</i> , Antonio Compagnoni, <i>ABM Secretariat and AIAB ER</i>
11:15 - 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 - 13:00	Principles of Care and Principles of Health: Claude Aubert, Gunnar Rundgren, Bernward Geier Moderator: Marcus Arbenz, <i>IFOAM Director</i>
13:00 - 13:15	Morning conclusions: Simona Caselli, <i>Emilia Romagna regional agriculture minister</i>
13:15 - 14:30	Organic and local lunch buffet
14:30 - 15:15	Principles of Fairness: MARIKE de Peña, Nadia Scialabba, Helmy Abuleish Moderator: Onn Chen Introduction of Scientific research and System values track, Paola Migliorini
15:15 - 16:30	Sessions: A. "Ecological sustainability of organic agriculture" (plenary room) B. "Networking" (room A)
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 - 18:15	Sessions: C. "Soil, plant, animal and food health" (plenary room) D. "Action research and learning" (room A) E. "Semi locali" (room B) in Italian
18:30 - 21:00	Celebration for 25 years of ABM at Casale della Mora

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, VIGNOLA CASTLE

9:30 - 11:00	Session: F. "Future challenges" (plenary room)
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:30	Lessons learnt from workshops and pre conferences (10 minutes from each rapporteur)
12:30 - 13:00	Final discussion
13:00 - 15:00	Lunch in Vignola city centre (suggested restaurants and bars with ABM organic menu/dishes)
15:00 - 19:00	Activities & excursions: a. Laboratory with Nicolas Supiot "The art of bread: cereals, flour, dough, cooking and diets" (limited to 15 part.) at Casale della Mora. Cost: 75 € b. Guided visits to local organic farms and Vignola experimental organic farm (walking) c. Guided visit to Bologna organic CSA project Coop Arvaia (local train) d. Other organic tours on organic wine, parmesan and balsamico local producers (bus)

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, SANA BOLOGNA

10:00 - 10:30	Registration
10:30 - 10:45	Greetings from Duccio Campagnoli, <i>Bologna, Fiere President</i> ; Mauro Smeraldi, <i>Mayor of Vignola</i> and Antonio Compagnoni <i>vice-president AIAB ER & ABM Secretariat</i>
10:45 - 13:15	Closing remarks of the International Conference AgriBioMediterraneo Vignola 2015 "Agroecology for Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean". The 4 IFOAM Principles of Organic Agriculture Ecology, Care, Fairness and Health and on the Conference sessions of: a) ecological sustainability of organic agriculture; b) networking; c) soil, plant animal and food health; d) action research and learning; e) local seeds, f) the challenges and the conference contributions to the international action network Expo Milano 2015 "Organic can Feed the Planet" Moderators: Bernward Geier, <i>COLABORA</i> and Roberto Pinton, <i>FEDERBIO</i> With the participation of: Charikleia Minotou, <i>President ABM</i> / Paola Migliorini, <i>Vice-President ABM</i> / Drzen Lusic, <i>Vice-President ABM</i> , Marco Schlüter, <i>Director IFOAM EU (TBC)</i> / Miguel Altieri, <i>Berkeley University</i> / Gunnar Rundgren, <i>author of "Global eating disorder"</i> / Nadia Scialabba, <i>FAO</i> / Helmy Abouleish, <i>SEKEM</i> / Marika de Peña, <i>Fair trade international</i> / David Gould, <i>IFOAM SOOAN</i> / Raffaele Zanolli, <i>Grab-it ISOFAR</i> Including contributions by: Carlo Triarico, <i>Associazione Biodinamica</i> / Pietro Campus <i>ICEA</i> / Vladimiro Adelmi, <i>Coop Italia</i> / Nadia Monti <i>Assessore, Comune di Bologna</i> / Francesco Luca Basile, <i>Fairtrade Italia</i> / Maurizio Gritta, <i>Coop Iris</i> and public debate.
13:15 - 13:30	Conclusion Simona Caselli, <i>Emilia Romagna agriculture minister</i>
15:00 - 19:00	Activities: e. Organic pasta making course (bus) limited to 15 participants



SESSIONS DETAILED PROGRAM

<p>15:15 - 16:30</p> <p>presentation & questions (15 minutes each)</p> <p>poster session</p>	<p>A: "ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE" (plenary room) Moderator: Paola Migliorini / Rapporteur: Pablo Tittoneil & Salvatore Ceccarelli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Paoletti M. G. & dalla Francesca M.</i>: Bioindicators, biodiversity and genius loci • <i>Migliorini P., Pacini, G.C., Moschini V., Lazzerini G., Raso E. and Vazzana C.</i>: Ecological sustainability of long-term organic vs conventional arable systems in Mediterranean. 25 years of comparison • <i>Bilen E., Da Kılıç B. Ö., Biyıklı M., Aksoy U.</i>: Soil management for a sustainable organic olive farming in Turkey • <i>Martinis A., Minotou Ch., Poirazidis K.</i>: Paths through the biodiversity: methodology of recording, monitoring and promoting its importance and uniqueness • <i>Soriano M. D., García-España L., Molina M.J.</i>: Water hydrophobia in agricultural soils. Influence on water movement in the soil in adapting to climate change and water decrease
<p>15:15 - 16:30</p> <p>presentation & questions (15 minutes each)</p> <p>poster session</p>	<p>B: "NETWORKING" (room A) Moderator: Karen Hoberg / Rapporteur: Miguel Altieri & Helmy Abuleish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Al Bitar L., Bteich M. R. & Pugliese P.</i>: Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean Region. The experience of the Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN) • <i>Peronti M., Bärberi P., Campanelli G., Ceccarelli D., Ceglie F.G., Ferlito F.S., Mazzoncin M., Montemurro F., Roccuzzo G., Tittarelli F., Riva F., Ranuzzi M., Canali S.</i>: The Italian organic long term field experiments network • <i>Bervegna I., Pinna M., Gaspari C., Le Pichon V., Bauvineau C., Cattaneo G.</i>: A network for cross-border agrobiodiversities: the experience of an Interreg ALCOTRA project • <i>Sacchi G.</i>: Italian Participatory Guarantee Systems for organic agriculture: from best practices towards the evolution of policies framework • <i>Solfanelli F., Gambelli D., Vairo D., Zanolì R.</i>: Data on organic yields in Italy: where do we stand?
<p>17:00 - 18:15</p> <p>presentation & questions (15 minutes each)</p> <p>poster session</p>	<p>C: "SOIL, PLANT, ANIMAL AND FOOD HEALTH" (plenary room) Moderator: Xhevaire Dulja / Rapporteur: Claude Aubert & Bernward Geier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ponti L., Gutierrez A.P.</i>: Holistic approach to the invasion of olive by the pathogen <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in the Mediterranean Basin • <i>Schiatti P., Caruso P.</i>: Management of brown rot in cherries in organic agriculture • <i>El-Arabi T.F. Balabel N., Ali F.M., Hussein M., Maher A., Kornay A. & Haroun S.</i>: BioGuard - A new prospective of disease bio-control in organic agriculture in Egypt • <i>Matteo R., Malaguti L., Cinti S., Casadei N., Righetti L., Pagnotta E., Ugolini L., Lazzeri L.</i>: Biofumigant plants and materials as bio-based in plant management and protection • <i>Caruso, S., Vaccari, G. Guidetti, R., Costi, E. and Maistrello, L.</i>: A task force to develop alternative strategies against emerging alien pests: <i>Drasophila suzukii</i> and <i>Halyomorpha halys</i> in Northern Italy • <i>Benvenuti M.N., Martini A., Lotti C., Accorsi P.A., Paganelli O., Petrulli C.A., Giuliotti L.</i>: Comparison of cortisol concentration in hair and faeces of dairy cows reared in organic farms • <i>Hussen Sh., Zangana S.</i>: Effect of replacement vegetable protein source instead of animal protein sources on laying performance and economic efficiency. • <i>Öztekin S., Öztekin T., Gebololu N., Mutlu N., Altinta G., Elmasta M., Nayan Ö. F., Aydın M.</i>: Organic fertilizers in cauliflower: effects on quality • <i>Hanoglu H.</i>: The additives and residues in some organic feed produced in Turkey
<p>17:00 - 18:15</p> <p>presentation & questions (15 minutes each)</p> <p>poster session</p>	<p>D: "ACTION RESEARCH AND LEARNING" (room A) Moderator: Drazen Lusic / Rapporteur: Yousry Hashem & Livia Ortolani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tellarini S.</i>: Romagna 1990 - 2015: A twenty five years balance of organic farming • <i>Lieblein G., Nicolaysen A.M., Morse S., Brelund T.A., Østergaard E., Francis C.</i>: Students learning agroecology: The case of agroecology MSc education in Norway • <i>Migliorini P., Lieblein G.</i>: Experiential learning of sustainable agriculture in Gastronomic Science • <i>Toremocha E.</i>: Resilience of organic farming in Spain • <i>Pérez R.A., De Luca L.C., Giordano G., Perez M.</i>: An experience of intervention for the agro-ecological transition in areas with restrictions on the use of agrochemicals in the Argentina Pampas • <i>González V., J. Labrador, G. Martinez, F. Moxent, J.L. Porcuna, MD. Raigón.</i>: Dissemination of technical information in organic farming and agroecology in Spain: The magazine Ae
<p>17:00 - 18:15</p> <p>presentation & questions (15 minutes each)</p>	<p>E: "SEMI LOCALI" (room B, in italiano) Moderator: Juan Pablo Sciarano / Rapporteur: Fabio Piccioli and Salvatore Ceccarelli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Università di Bologna</i>: Il progetto Virgo • <i>AIAB in Piemonte</i>: Filiere di pane locale e miglioramento genetico partecipativo in Piemonte • <i>Claudio Pozzi, President RSR</i>: L'esperienza della Rete Semi Rurali • <i>Simon Van Hilten, Arco Iris Sementi</i>: Recupero di sementi antiche in agricoltura biologica e biodinamica • <i>Cristina Piazza, Azienda Agraria Sperimentale Stuard</i>: Esperienze sul recupero di antiche varietà di ortaggi biologici
<p>9:30 - 11:00</p> <p>presentation & questions (15 minutes each)</p> <p>poster session</p>	<p>F: "THE CHALLENGES" (plenary room) Moderator: Charikleia Minotou / Rapporteur: Nadia Scialabba & Gunnar Rundgren</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emanuele Busacca, Ifoam EU regulation coordinator</i>: Towards the new EU regulation • <i>Pino Lembo, Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) chair</i>: The EU project OrAqua: European Organic Aquaculture - Science-based recommendations for further development of the EU regulatory framework and to underpin future growth in the sector. • <i>Miguel Angel De Porras Acuña, European Parliament</i>: Agroecological implications of the EU organic farming regulation reform. An analysis of political negotiations at Institutional level • <i>Raffaele Zanolì, ISOFAR e GRABit</i>: What scenarios for the further development of organics in 2030? • <i>David Gould, IFOAM</i>: The Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network (SOAAN) and its Best Practice Guideline • <i>Vesela I. Chalova and Ivan G. Manolov</i>: Challenges to industrial production of organic oil bearing roses in Bulgaria • <i>Dulja X., Driuech N., Kapaj-Mane A, Nikolla M.</i>: Albanian consumer's socio-economic characteristics and their behavior toward ethical values of agro-food products • <i>Imami D., Skreli E., Zhllima E., Dulja X.</i>: Albanian consumer preferences for organic food in Albania

PRE-CONFERENCES: 10 September 2015

9:30 - 13:00

in collaboration &
with the support of



LEGALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN / LEGALITÀ E GIUSTIZIA PER L'AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA NEL MEDITERRANEO

Concepts of legality and justice are among the most discussed in human relations since its beginnings. In the workshop we will share many experiences from different countries focusing the main social constraints and its alternatives for building up institutions able to implement organic initiatives with strong ethical values. The aim is to determine the conditions for promoting a network between the different advanced organic initiatives that promote this values between all stakeholders, including consumers.

Introduction & moderation: Maurizio Agostino, *Associazione ABC, Agricoltura Biologica in Calabria* / *Rapporteur: David Gould, IFOAM SOAAN/Best Practices Community*

Opening contribution: Massimo Mezzetti, *Assessore Cultura e Legalità Regione Emilia Romagna*

Contribution from • Vincenzo Linarello, *Gruppo Cooperativo GOEL* - Experiences against 'Ndrangheta in Calabria (Italy)

- Lorenzo Paluan, *ICEA* - The activities of the Leading Organic Alliance (LOA) on social responsibility in organic farming
- Laurent Vonwiller, *Greenleaves-greenlight GmbH* - Social responsibility in agriculture experiences in Morocco Spain and Italy
- Nino Paparella, *C.I.B.I., Consorzio Italiano per il Biologico* - Social responsibility experiences in Puglia (Italy)
- Roberta Paltrinieri, *Sociologist, University of Bologna* - Social responsibility and organic agriculture Association Libera (TBC)
- Giuseppe Di Francesco, *President Fairtrade Italia* - Local Fairtrade Project
- Mauricio Soberanes, *Metrocert, Messico* - Organic fruit producers, legality and security in Michoacan Mexico (video recorded contribution)
- William Hernandez, *FECD / Icea Ecuador* - Experiences in Ecuador (tbc)

14:00 - 16:00

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ORGANIC MEDITERRANEAN DIETS / DIETE BIOLOGICHE MEDITERRANEE

Mediterranean Diets are good examples of sustainable diets. The connection with sustainable agro-food systems is necessary to enhance the benefits of the health of people and planet. Organic Mediterranean Diets are considered an excellent model also to preserve the biodiversity and the social features of the Mediterranean countries.

Introduction & moderation: Maria Grazia Minisci, *General Manager OP Carpe Naturam* / *Rapporteur: Paola Migliorini, University of Gastronomic Science*

- Objectives:**
- To deepen the connection between Mediterranean agroecological systems and the Mediterranean diets, enhancing agroecological best practices and eco-intensification as a condition of proper nutrition.
 - Promote experiences on organic Mediterranean diets as analysis of the different expressions of the Mediterranean diet, the promotion of scientific partnerships and socio-economic promotion of pathways for interaction and knowledge, between researchers, technicians, farmers, processors, chefs and consumers.
 - Database creation. Collection of data, information, studies, publications, case studies, experiences and recipes aimed at the recovery and dissemination of organic Mediterranean diets.
 - Establishment of a working group coordinated by IFOAM Agribiomediterraneo on the Organic Mediterranean diets.

Oral Contribution:

- Patrizia Pasanisi, *Medical Epidemiologist, Preventive Medicine Specialist, Milan Cancer Institute* - Med diet and health
- Sandro Dernini, *FAO* - Meanings of the Mediterranean diets, initiatives for the protection and promotion
- Flavio Paoletti, *Council of Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA); Centre of research on food and nutrition* - Nutritional quality of the organic Mediterranean products
- Paola Migliorini, *University of Gastronomic Science* - Organic farming in the Mediterranean area with reference on biodiversity and sustainable diets

Contributions from participants including:

- Mauro Gamboni, *President of RIRAB* - Research opportunities in Horizon 2020 for Organic Med Diet
- Onn Chen, *R.A.N fresh produce* - Experience from Israel to afford every household easy access to healthy organic fruits and vegetables
- Zeljko Petrović, *Centre of Excellence George Mateljan Split* - Traditional Mediterranean diet and health
- Sabine Eck, *Medical doctor* - Every day experience in salutogenesis
- Alfredo Marasciulo, *Coordinator Biol award jury* - The experience of Biol Italia
- AIAB Emilia Romagna - Experiences on regional organic public catering info centre
- Marco Bignardi, *CTPB* - Summer project to bring organic product on the Toscana's beach
- ICEA - Certified organic rural tourism operators: Best organic Mediterranean recipes

16:30 - 18:30

in collaboration &
with the support of



ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM NETWORK FOR A SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT / AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA E TURISMO SOSTENIBILE RETI PER UNO SVILUPPO SOCIALE ED AMBIENTALE RESPONSABILE DEL TERRITORIO

Objectives: Organic agriculture together with sustainable tourism activities could actively be part of a responsible development of rural territories. With "responsible development", we mean a pathway, which combines protection and valorization of the local environmental and social heritage with the revitalization of the territory's economy. Within this frame, the main objectives of the seminar are as follows: i) Present different responsible initiatives that foster knowledge sharing and promote the interaction among farmers and researchers. ii) Highlight the potentiality of integration between organic agriculture, sustainable tourism and social farming activities. iii) Promote the role of socio-economic networking for a responsible local development.

Introduction and moderation: Paolo Foglia, *Responsabile ricerca e sviluppo ICEA* / *Rapporteur: Charikleia Minotou, ABM President*

Contributions • Maurizio Davolio, *AITR Italian Association for Responsible Tourism*

- Gabriele Corti, *Cascina Caremma (MI)*
- Elena Tirelli (Agriturismo Coop. Dulcamara)
- Giorgio Bulla, *Eco Camping di Montequestiolo (MO)*
- Charikleia Minotou, A. Martinis - Organic agriculture, agroecology and the challenge of a sustainable rural development (agrotourism, ecotourism, entrepreneurship)

Contributions from participants and debate



EXPO MILAN 2015 INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK

Expo Milano 2015 **"Feeding the planet, Energy for life"** is the Universal Exhibition that the city of Milan, Italy, hosts from 1st May to 31 October 2015. Over this six-month period, more than 140 participating countries will showcase the best of their technology providing a concrete answer to a vital need: the ability to guarantee healthy, safe and sufficient food for everyone, while respecting the planet and its equilibrium.

The International Action Network **"Organic can feed the planet"** (Action Network) intends to position organic agriculture within the global debate on food security by providing evidence that the organic alternative is not just another way to produce commodities; it is an innovative food and agricultural system that can feed the planet while safeguarding its biodiversity and resources.

Who are we? The Action Network - initiated by FederBio (Italian Federation for Organic farming) and supported by IFOAM – Organics International, IFOAM EU, IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo, ISOFAR, Navdanya International and the Italian organic and biodynamic movements – aims to involve organic and likeminded associations and individuals in an extensive discussion on the role of organic agriculture in "Feeding the planet" debate.

In order to give high scientific backing to the discussions, the Action Network will involve organizations and individuals working in science, research and extension circles. Nadia El-Hage Scialabba, Senior Officer, Organic Agriculture Programme at FAO, as a personal commitment, and Professor Raffaele Zanolì, on behalf of ISOFAR and GRAB-IT, volunteered to ensure the coordination of the scientific aspects of the debate, while Antonio Compagnoni and Roberto Pinton will be taking care of the interface and communication functions with the international organic community and stakeholders.

Bologna Fiere - who realized and manages the Biodiversity Park and the Organic Pavilion at EXPO Milano 2015 - and Federbio will guarantee the overall coordination and organizational support of the Action Network, as well as the relations with Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies. Furthermore, thanks to the availability of Biodiversity Park and Organic Pavilion, opportunities for cooperation and synergies with other exhibitors of the Universal Exhibition will be fostered.

The objective: The Action Network will outline the capacity of organic farming to feed a world of over nine billion people in 2050 and to meet the nutritional and economic requirements of its inhabitants, while conserving natural resources and mitigating the impact of agricultural activities on climate change. We consider organic agriculture one of the most important food and agricultural innovations of the 20th century. We want to involve and commit citizens in the promotion of organic farming as the model for future food production, based on the principles of Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care.

The activities: Different activities will be organized in order to involve all relevant stakeholders in the discussion, in particular:

1. International experts and the Action Network promoters will draft a preliminary discussion document that will describe the role of organic agriculture in feeding the planet, and the

necessary actions to be taken to allow the expression of its full potential. The document's headlines will revolve around the organic principles of Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care, tackling the following themes:

- The need for multifunctional agriculture systems;
- Diets and public health;
- Feeding humanity within planetary boundaries;
- Food systems democracy;
- Sustainable supply chains.

2. Online consultations open to organic stakeholders and the wider public will help in further developing the content of the themes addressed in the draft document and in gathering new ideas and contributions.
3. Dedicated events (workshops, roundtables) will be organized at the "Earth Theatre/Teatro della Terra" of the Biodiversity Park, in order to discuss different themes face-to-face, as well as in relevant events such as the IFOAM AgriBio-Mediterraneo International Conference, to be held in Vignola and SANA/Bologna (10-13 September).
4. Appropriate Best Sustainable Development Practices (BSDP) collected in the Feeding Knowledge programme, developed by CIHEAM-Bari and Milan Polytechnic University, as an intangible legacy of EXPO 2015, will be selected in order to support the themes' theses with concrete evidence.
5. All members of the Action Network will synthesize the contributions collected during steps 2 and 3 in order to obtain a shared final document.

Timeframe: On 16 May 2015, Federbio, IFOAM - Organics International, IFOAM EU, IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo, ISOFAR, the Italian organic and biodynamic movements and Navdanya International (represented by its President, Vandana Shiva) organised a public presentation of the Action Network at EXPO Milan 2015.

From June to September 2015, the consultation activities – online and face-to-face events – will be organized according to the availability of our host (Bologna Fiere and the Biodiversity Park) and of the Action Network members and invitees.

In September 2015, the finalized position document "Organic can feed the planet" will be presented publicly during an event organized in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies.



MANIFESTO

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CAN FEED THE PLANET TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

By the end of 2015, we may reach the global Millennium Development Goal 1c of reducing by half the percentage of undernourished people, mainly thanks to government efforts to support production and social protection. Nonetheless, 805 million people today are still food insecure, and achievement of hunger targets is challenged by issues of access, infrastructure, climate, macroeconomics and political stability. Notwithstanding the unpredictability of such factors as climate change, crop failures, and food price volatility – which no production model can yet control – organic agriculture represents the only food and farming innovation of the last century that is a socially, and economically and ecologically resilient approach for the production of food and agriculture-based raw materials. Proof of this global success are the two million practitioners in 164 countries that have entered the global organic food market by harnessing local resources, decreasing their dependency on external inputs and non-renewable resources, and increasing resilience to external shocks or natural disasters. This Manifesto seeks to synthesize the opportunities offered by the organic and biodynamic sector, without in any way concealing its constraints, by gathering scientific evidence and empirical field experiences that demonstrate why and how organic agriculture can feed the planet.

Organic agriculture and Ecology

While 10 million hectares of land are lost annually to unsustainable agricultural practices, organic agriculture has demonstrated that it: increases soil fertility and therefore productivity on the medium/long term; improves soil structure and its capacity to retain water, which results in significantly lower irrigation requirements; reduces water pollution and nitrate leaching in groundwater; reduces erosion by wind, water and overgrazing; increases soil carbon sequestration and thus contributes to climate change mitigation. Globally, the combined advantages of organic practices – including non-use of synthetic fertilizers, reduced nitrous oxide emissions on farms, and soil carbon sequestration – have a GHG reduction potential of 5.1 to 6.1 GT CO₂ equivalents. This means that a global conversion to organic management would transform agriculture from being a main cause of climate change to being a carbon-neutral activity that is more resilient against weather vagaries. Additionally, energy use by organic farms is reduced by one-third compared to conventional enterprises due to a higher efficiency in biological nitrogen fixation. Decreased energy use is paramount with peak oil and corresponding energy price fluctuations that impact the economy at all levels.

Organic agriculture, Health and Well-being

Nutrition-related disease is one of the greatest concerns of coming years. Many of the benefits of organic agriculture result from the establishment of an ecological balance between soil, plants and animals, which translates to a higher quality of the goods produced from it. Organic dairy products commonly contain more polyunsaturated fats, more omega-3 fatty acids and a better ratio of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids; organic crops tend to have up to 90% more vitamin C, significantly more secondary metabolites with antioxidant properties and, more importantly, contain much less pesticide residues, nitrates and toxic heavy metals. While drastically reducing exposure to such harmful substances, organic foods generally have significantly higher dry matter and mineral content. Organic diets seem to be less associated with allergies, with evidence of greater immunity towards certain diseases in children and animals. Scientific evidence is mounting that organic diets decrease the incidence of cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases and of certain cancers, especially if associated with diets increased in fruit, vegetable and whole grain consumption. In particular, some local organic diets – for instance the Mediterranean one – seem to offer an ideal solution to the diet-environment-health trilemma. Furthermore, some studies have drawn attention to the fact that greater emphasis on animal welfare afforded through organic management offers related benefits to ecological and dietary health.

Organic agriculture and Fairness

In our world of unemployment and under-employment, organic farming appears to generate about 30% more work in rural areas, while farm labour achieves higher returns per unit of labour input. Organic agriculture empowers social systems to control their own food supply, while organic labels enable consumers' right to make informed choices. With innovations in traceability systems, new technologies to show the authenticity of foods, and related guarantees to consumers, the certification system based on minimum standard requirements will be enhanced by a participatory approach that builds upon good practices in both farming and food processing.

Organic principles and practices are particularly conducive to short and fair supply chains, where family farming and small-scale establishments are widespread. In combination with a Fair Trade approach, this potential can be tapped even more. Small and medium-scale processing and distribution companies are likewise enabled to build new relationship models with citizens. Another benefit of short supply chains is a reduction of food waste; nowadays a substantial part of the food produced worldwide is lost during the post-harvest phase.

Urban agriculture, often characterized by a social or community-based approach, increasingly compliments professional agriculture. Organic agriculture strongly supports these new relationship models between rural and urban areas, inspired by common principles that have always been part of the production experience of mission-driven organic companies. On global trade, the combination of Organic Agriculture with Fair Trade practices by marginalized small holders is providing a better access to markets and at the same time granting better environmental and social conditions.

Organic agriculture and Ethics

Organic agriculture promotes a cautious and responsible management of food and farming systems and rejects those farming, breeding and processing techniques that cannot guarantee safety and/or could have unforeseeable negative consequences, such as has occurred with genetic engineering. Recent studies opened up discussion in the organic scientific community about rewilding techniques that, despite making use of advanced procedures of molecular biology, would, however, be compatible with the principles of organic agriculture. Organic agriculture takes a scientific approach to development and supports research to achieve technological solutions and innovations that are sustainable from an economic, social, ethical and environmental perspective. The organic sector promotes a transparent and participative research approach among researchers, farmers and processors to innovate and disseminate the latest scientific and technological advances.

Organic agriculture can feed the planet

Organic agriculture offers the only feasible sustainable solution to feed the planet by improving performance at all levels, including better access to food, relevant technologies, economic efficiency, nutritional adequacy, environmental quality and social equity. Conversion of global agriculture to organic management, without further converting wild lands to agriculture and using N-fertilizers, would result in a global agricultural supply of 3038 kcal/person/day. Although sufficient calories and proteins can be produced through organic management, experts believe that in order to be sustainable, global consumption of animal-derived foods will need to decrease substantially. Furthermore, organic agriculture seems to improve stress and shock resilience in small-scale enterprises, thus allowing rural families to be self-sufficient and reducing impoverishment of small-scale producers who are currently reliant on external inputs and/or subject to severe economic losses in case of poor harvests. In 2013, the organic market was estimated at US\$72 billion (about 2 percent of retail food sales), 43 million ha of certified crop and pasture lands and 35 million ha of certified wild harvested areas. There is much room to grow the organic sector for the benefit of the entire world.

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HOW TO JOIN the Action Network

To join the Action Network you need to fill out the online form (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19oHqTUDUqJmsT0h_7svRPaWNalaw3eRAhSLXjwZ22K8/viewform) or send an email to the following address: organic.action.network@gmail.com. Please indicate the organization name and contact details of a reference person.

The forum's secretariat will send you all necessary information for you to be able to take part in the Action Network's initiatives. All members can use of the banner contained in the digital kit to promote the Action Network on websites and social networks. Thus, we invite you to download the digital kit 'Member of the Organic can feed the planet Action Network' (<http://www.federbio.it/dlf.php?id=1910>) so as to let everybody know that you are part of it!

'Like' our fanpage and become a **follower on Twitter** in order to always be up to date with the Action Network's initiatives!

www.facebook.com/organiccanfeedtheplanet
twitter.com/OrganicForum (hashtag: #OrganicCanFeedthePlanet)

SANA FAIR IS SUPPORTING THE **25 ANNIVERSARY** ABM CONFERENCE !

The 27 edition of Sana Fair, the most important Italian event for organic products, will be characterized by a strong thematic and logistic **connection with EXPO Milan 2015** and with the focus **"Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life"**.

BolognaFiere, the organizer of SANA, is **EXPO Milan 2015's Official Partner** tasked with the **Biodiversity Park** —one of the thematic Expo areas— containing the **Organic and Natural Products Pavilion**, a unique showcase devoted to organic and natural products.

SANA will be in special connection with The Biodiversity Park and its events and creates lots of opportunities for exhibiting companies who want maximize storytelling and brand awareness.

Sana 2015 will confirm its role of leading international trade-show dedicated to organic food, natural cosmetics and green living after a successful edition 2014 (620 exhibitors and 43.768 visitors +36% on 2013).

SANA 2015 is: Specialist:

open exclusively to certified organic and natural produce

Professional:

it can count on the presence of high-quality, competent visitors including buyers from the large-scale distribution sector, distributors, specialist retailers, restaurant and catering companies, herbalists, pharmacists and para-pharmacists, and healthcare workers.

International:

in 2014 SANA hosted 2.613 B2B meetings and 1.500 foreign buyers

SANA will offer professional visitors a comprehensive picture of: organic agricultural produce products based on medicinal herbs natural and organic cosmetics other natural products

Last activity of the ABM conference will be

sunday 13 of September from 10:30 to 13:30

in the **Sala Concerto - Centro Servizi, 1° piano**

blocco D, where will take place a Round table with

main Results of the IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo

Conference and Contribution on Expo 2015 Action

Network "organic can feed the planet"

Participants to ABM conference will have free

access to the fair on Sunday and Mediterranean

Organizations will have the opportunity to

participate with a stand in a dedicated area,

for more information please contact:

secretariat@abm.ifoam.bio

