ICCOA – Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture

- The need
- The story
- The future

Archived at http://orgprints.org/00002766/
Why Organic Agriculture in India?

- Sustainable management of natural resources (soil, water, bio-diversity).
- Reduction of chemical pesticides and fertilizers in the environment.
- Improved farm income through lower production costs and better price.
- Safe, healthy and tasty food for the consumer.
Organic Production in India – in a nutshell

- Large number of companies, NGOs, farmer organisations and government agencies promoting organic agriculture
- Estimated* 12’000 certified organic farms in 210 projects, cultivating more than 200’000 ha certified organic land
- Wide range of organic products in different States
- Government programmes to support organic farming
- Good chances on the export market; domestic market coming up

* Estimate of APEDA, 2003
Collaboration with FiBL - The Research Institute of Organic Farming, Switzerland

- THE leading institution for Organic Agriculture
- 30 years experience; more than 100 permanent research staff
- Research, advice, training, information

Projects in India:
- INDOCERT – Indian Organic Certification Agency
- Maikaal Organic Cotton Research Project
- Organic Market Development Project
- Dialogue with the Indian Government (MoA, MoC, Planning Commission, ICAR)
- Workshops, training programmes
Indo-Swiss Dialogue on Organic Agriculture

- Indian Govt. Delegation visit to Switzerland in July 2003
- To get an overview on the organisation of the organic agriculture sector in Switzerland
- Identified the need for an Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture to be set up as a non-government organisation

The Delegation:
- Shri Sompal, Member Planning Commission;
- Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Chairman KVIC;
- Dr. G. Kalloo, Dy. Dir. General, ICAR;
- Subhash Mehta, FAO Advisor
Analysis of the Organic Agriculture Sector in India

**Government**

- **Regulations**
  - Standards
  - Accreditation
  
  *MoC, MoA, APEDA, Boards*

- **Policies**
  - Agr. Subsidies
  - Support Schemes
  
  *MoA, Planning Commission*

- **Research**
  - Universities
  - Research Centres
  
  *ICAR, SAU, Central Research Institutes*

- **Extension**
  - Agric. extension service
  
  *KVKs, State Depts., RAEOs*

**NGOs supporting Org. Agric.**

- Representing farmer’s interests
- Information, extension
- Market development, promotion

*E.g. OFAI, BAAI, Morarka, Keystone, INORA, AME, IIRD, SOA etc.*

**Organic Competence Centre**

- Collect Information and Knowledge
- Documentation and dissemination
- Training and extension services
- Policy initiatives, networking

*To be established (ICCOA)*

**Producer Organisations**

- Cooperatives
- Producer Groups
- Companies, Projects

*E.g. PDS, VOFA, TOFA, Ecofarms, Agrocel, Maikaal etc.*

**Certification Bodies**

- Inspection
- Certification
- Standard development

*IMO, SKAL, Ecocert, SGS, INDOCERT, APOF*

**Consumers**

- Farmers
- Processors
- Traders

ICCOA – Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture
Planning Workshop in Delhi

- An initiative of a number of stakeholders
- Involving NGOs, farmer organisations, companies, research institutions and government agencies
- 3 days of intensive analysis and planning
- All stakeholders agreed on a joint vision and road map for implementation
- Founding of ICCOA as a Society, election of the first Board of Directors

ICCOA – Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture
# Founding Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mr. Ramesh L. Harve</td>
<td>Phalada Agro Research Foundation Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, KA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mr. Rajeev Baruah</td>
<td>Maikaal bioRe (India) Ltd., Mhow, MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Dr. C.K. George</td>
<td>Peermade Development Society, Idukki, KE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Mr. Sompal</td>
<td>Chairman National Commission for Farmers, Govt. of India, New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Mr. T.G.K. Menon</td>
<td>All India Biodynamic &amp; Organic Farming Association, Indore, MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr. R.K. Pathak</td>
<td>Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow, UP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr. Tej Pratap</td>
<td>Vice Chancellor CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, HP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Mr. Mathew Sebastian</td>
<td>INDOCERT, Aluva, KE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr. Hemangee Jambhekar</td>
<td>Institute of Organic Farming for Rural Technologies, Pune, MA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICCOA – Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture

**Fields of Activities of ICCOA**

- **Consultancy services**
- **Collecting, generating and disseminating information and knowledge**
- **Capacity building of individuals and institutions; training**
- **Advocating for and popularizing OA**
- **Networking stakeholders**

**Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture**

- **A Service Provider to the Organic Agriculture Sector**
- **Owned and managed by the stakeholders (society)**
- **Projects and mandates from private sector and govt.**
- **Collaboration with existing institutions**
Organisationnal Chart of ICCOA

General Body
ICCOA Members

Board of Directors
President, Board Members

Executive Committee
2 BoD members, ED, 2 Heads of Divisions

Executive Director
cum Secretary of BoD

Collaboration Partners

Patrons Club

Resource Persons

Production Systems Division
- Farm management
- Soil fertility
- Pest management

Processing & Marketing Division
- Market Expertise
- Food Processing

Information & Documentation Division
- Public Relations
- Information, Web

Administration Division
- Office Secretariat
- Finance
Planned projects and mandates of ICCOA (examples)

- Developing a directory for the OA sector in India.
- Elaborating Manuals for organic production of important crops.
- Developing training material for key topics in OA.
- Implementing Training Programs for stakeholders.
- Conducting market research and providing market information.
- Coordinating research projects (production technology, economy, impact assessment etc.).
- Providing information on government support schemes.
- Organizing events for popularizing organic agriculture.
- Providing consultancy for organic farming projects.
What have we achieved so far?

- Election of the Founding Board of Directors
- 20 organisations / companies joined as initial members
- Registration of the Society
- Business plan for 4 years, with detailed budget
- Detailed project proposal
- Recruitment of the Executive Director
- Membership campaign started
- Preliminary office set-up in Bangalore
Project approved by SECO in May 2004, project duration: June 2004 – December 2007

Goal: Facilitating market access (domestic and export) for Indian organic farmers

Local implementation through ICCOA, in collaboration with FiBL

Project contents:
- Awareness creation
- Market intelligence
- Building up supply and market chains (pilot projects)
- Capacity building in organisational development, quality management, marketing, fair trade etc.
Govt. of India (MoA, APEDA, State Governments) indicated readiness to provide mandates and projects to ICCOA

International Federation of Organic Agriculture (IFOAM) is interested to establish an information point at ICCOA

Seed money for the establishment of ICCOA is urgently needed!
Why your support is needed?

To use the potential of organic agriculture for the benefit of the environment, the farming sector and the people in India.