Organic agriculture: a global vision and research strategy

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Achieved so far

- First draft of a global vision for OF research elaborated by the 1st board of TIPI for discussion in Istanbul (IFOAM Conference October 2014).
- Lively discussed by 120 scientists, farm advisors and farmers – productive output for improving the vision and working on an action plan.
- More in-depth collection of the research needs, local, regional, continents and global ones.
Objectives for today

› Mutual update and get ready for the next steps.
› Getting more input by 3 experts.
› Having more input from the floor.
› Elaborating on a more precise action plan and get into top gear.
Program

• Output of the Istanbul discussion and how to integrate it into the TIPI Vision (Urs Niggli).
• Research needs for organic farmers on the different continents (Dora Drexler).

• Moderation: Gabi Soto
• Research policy of NOARA (David M. Amudavi).
• Research questions of processing and trading companies (Manon Haccius).
• Most recent achievements with sustainability standards (organic, agro-ecology, private sustainability standards) (Ulrich Hofmann)

• Identify topics for discussion.
  Workshops in groups on priority questions (all participants).

• Get into gear: action plan (Brian Baker).
• Discussion.

• Summary and conclusion (Urs Niggli)
Important elements since Istanbul

State-of-the-art of organic farming and its research community:

• Extremely high variation from continent to continent and within continents.
• From niche/opposition to mainstream and even governmental priority (e.g. Denmark, Switzerland, Germany).
• Strongly influences the research priority, the research strategy and the research methods.
Important elements since Istanbul

Is OF an niche production, alternative pathway (plan B) or up-scalable sustainability strategy?

- Influences the research agenda (examples).
- A comprehensive innovation strategy needed, based on different sources of knowledge and different ways of knowledge generation.
- The scientific community will play an important role when the comprehensive and a more open innovation culture for Organic 3.0 has to become defined.
- “Innovation can be destructive”.
Organic 3.0

- Culture of Innovation
- On-going improvement towards best practice
- Transparent integrity
- Inclusiveness

Sustainable Food & Farming Systems

1.0
2.0
3.0

Modern Conventional Agriculture

Conventional Agriculture

Traditional Farming

Organic Agriculture

Sustainability Standards
Important elements since Istanbul

Internal and external drivers for organic farming development:

• Internalising environmental and social costs.
• *Data from science and experience from farmers needed, but actions by the society.*

• Improving the performance of organic farm and food production.
• *Innovation by science and farmers needed.*
New or important elements since Istanbul

Who profits or benefits from research?

• The scientific community often forgets about the research needs of small holder farmers.
• The TIPI vision should focus more on SME (farmers, processors, input provider, traders), they are important drivers of organic farming.
• A strength of organic agriculture is the health of farmers. Small holder farmers and farm workers suffer most from the ‘chemicalization’ of agriculture.
• Regional context of research is very important.
Important elements since Istanbul

Advocacy for organic agriculture research

• TIPI: advising the IFOAM board and the general assembly on sound science.
• Influencing in favor of the research spending for organic agriculture (example of TP Organics of the IFOAM-EU regional group)
• TIPI should facilitate the exchange of regional experience on advocacy for research agenda setting.
• Many Davids working together versus Goliath.
Important elements since Istanbul

System redesign contra organic ‘silver-bullet’ solutions

- Both approaches are highly qualified and needed.
- Still too many bad or not compliant techniques (e.g. chemical livestock medication, plant protection).
- Exploring the knowledge of how farmers have dealt with it over centuries and completely new solutions from cutting-edge science.
Important elements since Istanbul

Global sustainable food security as the overall framework

Productivity.
Efficiency.
Sufficiency.
Innovation.
Inclusiveness.
Guided progress and development.