

ICCOA – Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture

- The need



- The story



- The future



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

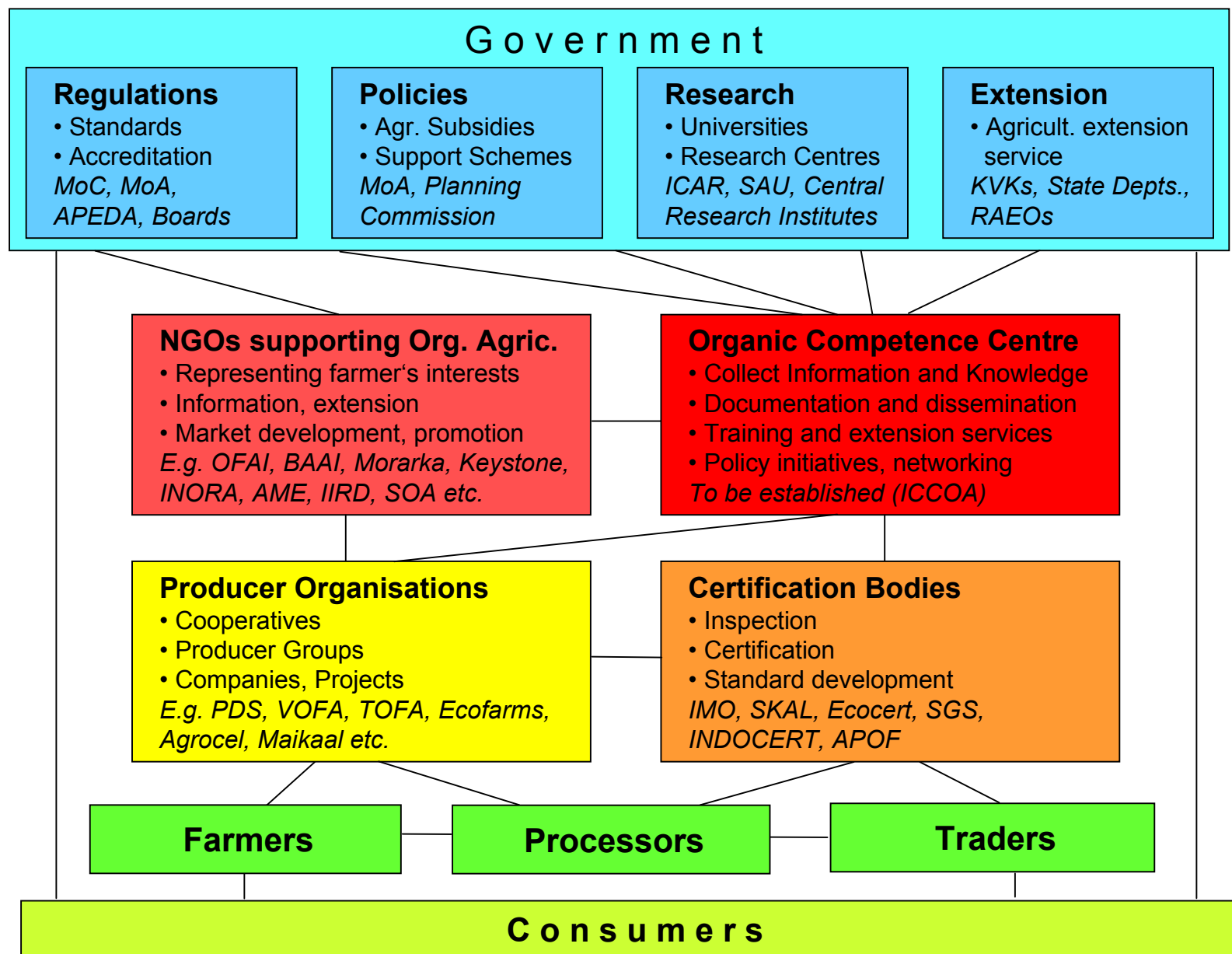


The Delegation:

- 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



Planning Workshop in Delhi

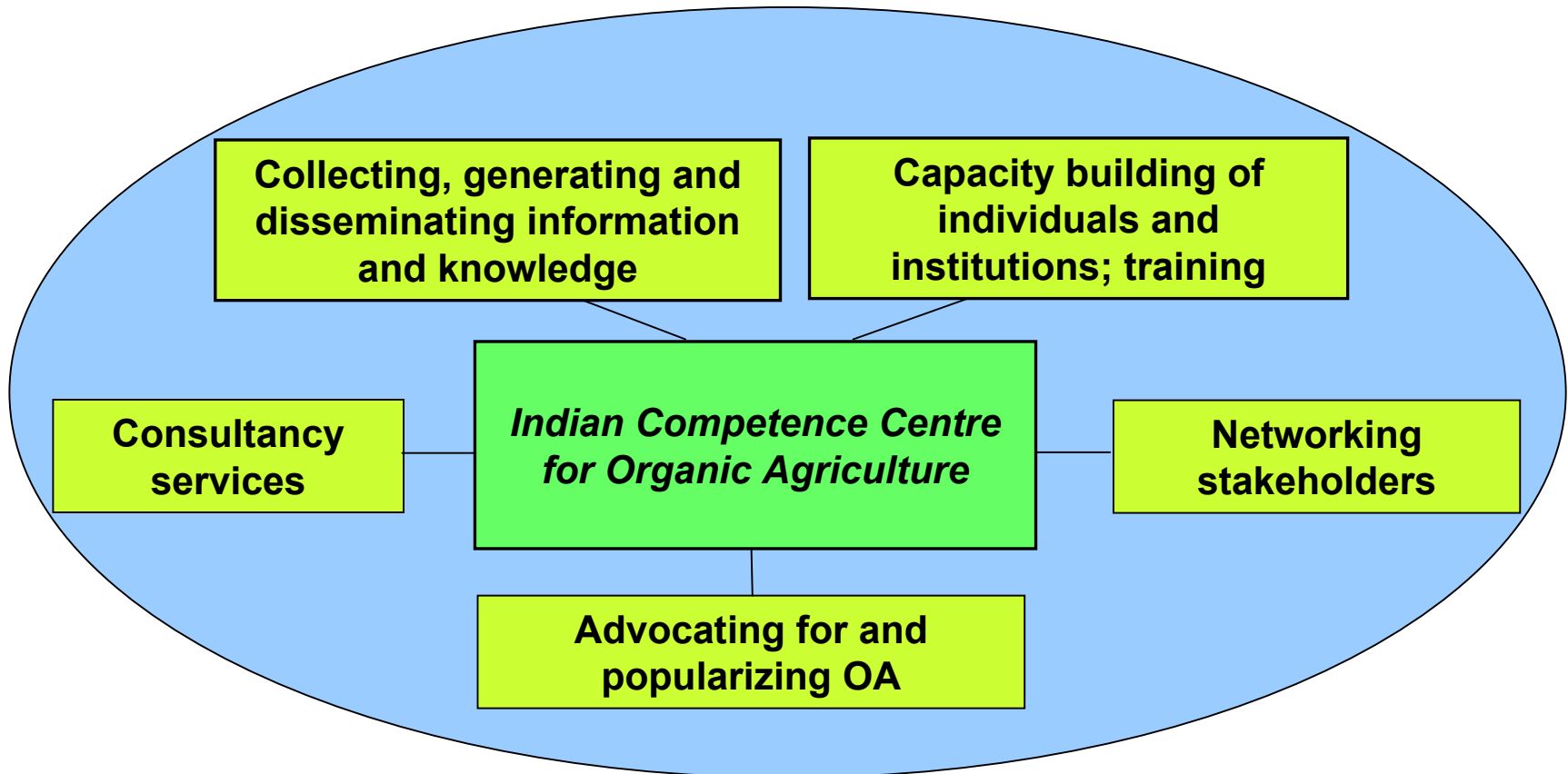
- An initiative of a number of stakeholders
- Involving NGOs, farmer organisations, companies, research institutions and government agencies
- 3 days of intensive analysis and planning
- All stakeholders agreed on a joint vision and road map for implementation
- Founding of ICCOA as a Society, election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



Founding Board of Directors

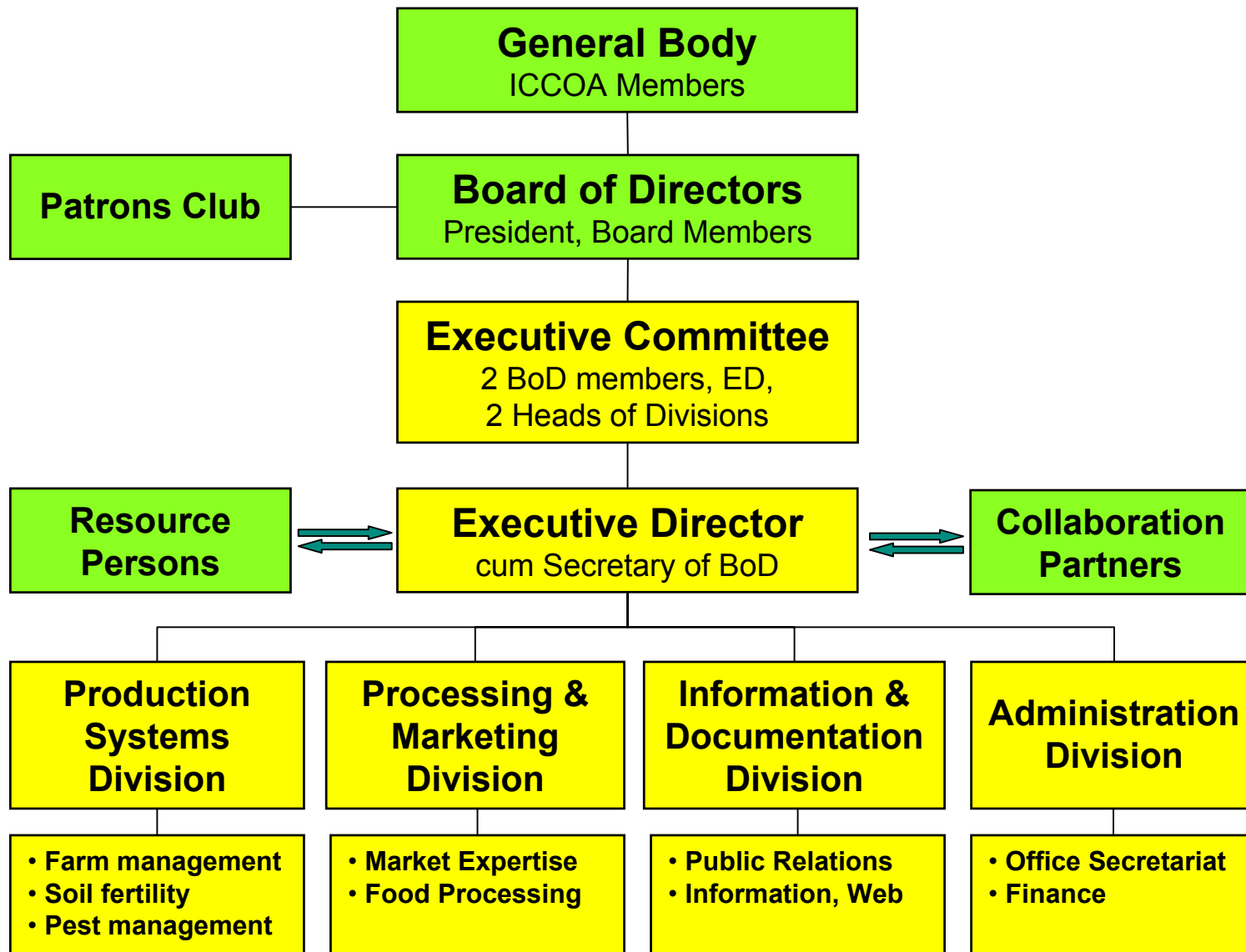
Position	Name	Organisation
President	Mr. Ramesh L. Harve	Phalada Agro Research Foundation Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, KA
Secretary	Mr. Rajeev Baruah	Maikaal bioRe (India) Ltd., Mhow, MP
Treasurer	Dr. C.K. George	Peermade Development Society, Idukki, KE
Member	Mr. Sompal	Chairman National Commission for Farmers,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

Fields of Activities of ICCOA



- 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

Organisational Chart of ICCOA

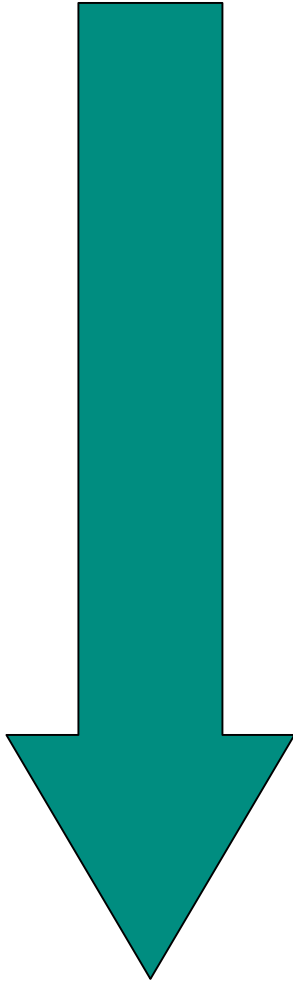


Planned projects and mandates of ICCOA (examples)

- 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.**

Project Funding Options Ahead

- **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?

