



Action Plan

Technology Innovation Platform TIPI
of IFOAM International Organics

Science Day

February 13, 2015

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Proposed Goals for TIPI

- Facilitate global access to information on organic farming and food systems.
- Facilitate interactions between researchers and the beneficiaries of research, development, and technology transfer.
- Develop global organic research priorities and establish a program to address those priorities
- Assist IFOAM and the entire organic movement with scientific evidence-based advocacy.
- Build the capacity of researchers, educators and extensionists working with organic farming systems.

Facilitate global access to information on organic farming and food systems

Objective

Expand content and links of the portal www.organic-research.net

Task

- Invite contributions of farmer driven innovations
- Create a moderated and peer-reviewed practitioners' section designed to address specific challenges faced by organic producers and others, and solutions to those challenges
- Create and make accessible to the public a directory of expertise that can be searched by topic, specialization and geographic location.

Objective

Enhance researcher-practitioner partnerships.

Task

- Organize regional and local networks of farmers and practitioners

Facilitate interactions between researchers and the beneficiaries of research, development, and technology transfer (I)

Objective

- Organize workshops and listening sessions in all parts of the organic world.

Task

- Organize the Organic Agriculture Research Symposium, February 2015, LaCrosse, WI;
- Participate in TP-Organics meetings in Europe;
- Participate in GALCI in Latin America;
- Organize similar venues in Asia, Africa and Oceania.

Facilitate interactions between researchers and the beneficiaries of research, development, and technology transfer (II)

Objective

- Establish communication links between researchers and practitioners in organic farming systems.

Task

- Launch a forum for researcher-practitioner discussions;
- Create a database of research priorities, experts in the relevant fields, and organizations of practitioners who stand to benefit from the research.
- Invite organic farmers, practitioners and other stakeholders to IFOAM and ISOFAR events that feature organic research, development and technology transfers.

Objective

- Facilitate technology transfers.

Task

- Identify existing research that presents commercial opportunities.
- Organize farmers and other practitioners into technology and information sharing networks to develop, transfer and demonstrate innovations in organic farming systems.

Assist IFOAM and the entire organic movement with scientific evidence-based advocacy.

Objective

- Prepare and publish policy briefs and position papers for IFOAM on scientific topics that are discussed in the appropriate international forums.

Task

- Prepare a policy brief for the IFOAM World Board on the way to set global organic farming research priorities.
- Prepare a position paper on evidence-based benefits of organic food and farming.
- Prepare a position paper on organic farming, nitrogen cycling and water quality.

Objective

- Represent IFOAM and the organic movement at international scientific conferences.

Task

- Represent IFOAM at the 8th Annual International Integrated Pest Management Symposium in Salt Lake City, Utah (USA) in March, 2015.
- Represent IFOAM at the International Nitrogen Management System meeting in Lisbon, Portugal in April 2015.
- Represent IFOAM at the next UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, France in November 2015.

Increase the number of researchers, educators and extensionists working with organic farming systems.

Objective

- Raise funding for organic farming research.

Task

- Lobby government sources for funding
- Write proposals to foundations and NGOs to fund organic farming research.
- Work with existing agricultural research centers to initiate and expand research in organic farming practices and systems.

Objective

- Increase the number of students who study and conduct research on organic farming.

Task

- Work with existing educational institutions to develop curricula in organic farming.
- Solicit funding for scholarships for students to specialize in organic agriculture.