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Global Vision and Strategy for Organic Farming Research



International Conference on Living
 the Right Way: Universal Message of
Simhasth 2016



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EXCELLENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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Global Vision and Strategy for Organic Farming Research

The Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM (TIPI) has developed a vision and strategy for organic farming research to advance organic agriculture through research, development, innovation and technology transfer. [TIPI's vision and strategy](#) was finalized in February 2016.

TIPI's vision recognizes that current technologies based on heavy use of external inputs that are toxic, pollute the environment and are very energy-intensive come at a price. Investments in ecosystem services and the development of technologies that are productive, stable, adaptable, resilient, and fairly shared are much more likely to sustain the world's population in a rapidly changing environment. Sustainable pathways to innovation will require engagement of all stakeholders in a science-driven multi-disciplinary approach.

Such an approach seeks to

- Empower rural areas,
- Provide eco-functional intensification that produces food, while harnessing and re-generating eco-system services as well as strengthening resilience to climate change, and
- Provide food for the health and well-being available to all.

Organic agriculture must build the capacity to fulfill the world's quantitatively, qualitatively and structurally adequate food needs for the entire population if it is to fulfill its mission.

The new paradigm proposed by TIPI is founded upon a holistic systemic approach, the engagement of farmers, researchers and other practitioners in a co-innovative approach; and open access technologies that are readily adaptable to local conditions. While there are barriers and bottlenecks that will need to be overcome for this vision to be realized, TIPI calls upon the organic community to support its 17 point action plan to advance organic agriculture in a forward-thinking and innovative way.

Mission & objectives of TIPI

The World Board of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) approved the following mission statement of TIPI - the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM.

TIPI's **mission** is

- to foster international collaboration in organic agriculture research;
- to engage and involve all stakeholders that benefit from organic agriculture research;
- to facilitate exchange of scientific knowledge of organic food and farming systems; and
- to help practitioners disseminate, apply and implement innovations and scientific knowledge consistent with the principles of organic agriculture.

The IFOAM World Board has provided TIPI with the following **objectives**:

1. To be a network for exchange and collaboration between Organic Research Institutions and scientific partners throughout the world.
2. To develop organic food and farming science, knowledge, and technology innovation within the global organic movement.
3. To serve as a global technology platform for the application of knowledge derived from scientific research through farmer-driven innovation and information dissemination.
4. To enable IFOAM policies to be based on good science.
5. To establish research priorities with the various stakeholder organizations in IFOAM and to network with regional technology platforms and other bodies that formulate research and innovation strategies for organic agriculture.
6. To enhance the sustainability of agriculture based on the principles of organic agriculture.
7. To build capacity and mobilize partnerships for organic farming research that assists small-scale producers in developing countries alleviate poverty, establish food sovereignty, and meet food security and nutritional needs through healthy, ecologically sound and socially just farming systems.
8. To influence and inspire donors and research funding bodies to increase funding for research and innovation in organic food and farming.
9. To represent IFOAM members that conduct and apply research, develop technologies, and disseminate information as a sector group.

Membership Application

Membership is open to all stakeholders with an interest in advancing organic agriculture research. TIPI welcomes organizations and individuals to represent farmers, processors, traders, suppliers, consumers, scientists, state, foundations, individual donors and civil society.

There is no fee to join at the present time.

The [Membership form can be downloaded here](#).

Outlook on TIPI activities

Currently TIPI works on the following issues

1. Elaborate condensed version of TIPI Vision and Strategy
2. Develop paper on “the 100 most important questions for organic farming in the tropics” (strategic research agenda)
3. Elaborate policy briefs and launch TIPI newsletter
4. Be present at strategically important conferences

More information

<http://www.organic-research.net/tipi>

Short Profile Christian Andres

Job title: Research Scientist in Tropical Production Systems



Christian earned his MSc degree in Agro-Ecosystem Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) with a multiply awarded thesis on sustainable yam production in Ivory Coast. In his professional career, he integrates various disciplines into single projects, applying systems' research approaches to try and solve real-life problems of smallholders in the tropics. Christian has published several book chapters as well as research, review and opinion papers in high-quality books and journals on various topics around sustainable agriculture in the tropics.

Besides yam-based production systems in West Africa, he mainly studied cotton-based systems in India, and cocoa-based systems in Latin America, where he compared the agronomic, economic and ecological performance of organic vs. conventional production systems. His current focus is on sustainable cocoa production systems. Christian is involved in several projects around this topic, which are located in West Africa, Latin America and Southeast-Asia.

Christian is also the newly assigned coordinator and council member of the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM (TIPI) whose Global Vision and Strategy for Organic Farming Research was published in February 2016.