



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Federation of Organic
Agriculture Movements



International Seed Federation

First World Conference on Organic Seed

Challenges and Opportunities for Organic Agriculture and the Seed Industry

July 5-7, 2004, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Partner Organisations:



International Seed
Testing Association



European Consortium for
Organic Plant Breeding

EUCARPIA

European Association for Plant
Breeding Research



Organization for Economic
Cooperation and Development

www.organicseedconf.org

Organic Seed Conference Programme

Monday, 5 July 2004

Opening Session

10:00 – 12:00 hours Plenary (Moderator – **Arturo Martinez**, FAO)
Speaker from FAO – Name to be confirmed
Gunnar Rundgren, IFOAM
Bernard Le Buanec, ISF
Keynote speaker - **M S Swaminathan**, UNESCO Chair in Ecotechnology
and President, Pugwash Conferences on Sciences and World Affairs,
India
Discussion

Aspects of Seed Production/Propagation

14:00 – 19:00 hours Plenary (Moderator – **Orlando de Ponti**, ISF)
Farhad Mazhar (UBINIG, Bangladesh)
Issues of organic seed production and challenges for developing countries
Jan Velema (Vitalis Organic Seeds, The Netherlands)
Challenges and opportunities in organic seed production
Roland Peerenboom, ISF
Putting organic seed production in perspective
Discussion

15:00 – 15:30 hours Break

15:30 – 17:00 hours Parallel Sessions - Aspects of Seed Production/Propagation

Panel on the Co-existence of Organic and GM Agriculture

17:00 – 19:00 hours (Moderator - **Mahmoud Solh**, FAO)
Panel members - **Birte Boelt** (Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Denmark),
F.J. (Chip) Sundstrom (California Crop Improvement Association, USA), **Reinhard
von Broock** (Lochow-Petkus GmbH, Germany), **Fred Kalibwani** (IFOAM, Uganda),
Roger Krueger (Monsanto, USA), **Ranjith de Silva** (Gami Seva Sevena Ltd, Sri Lanka),
Beatrix Tappeser (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany)

Cocktail

19:00 – 20:00 hours

Tuesday, 6 July 2004

Seed Quality

09:00 – 10:00 hours Plenary (Moderator – Name to be confirmed)
Steven P C Groot (Plant Research International, Wageningen University
and Research Centre, The Netherlands)
The role of ISTA and seed science in assuring organic farmers with high quality seeds
Michael Larinde, FAO
Seed quality: an important aspect of organic seed production and seed trade
Discussion

10:00 – 10:30 hours Break

10:30 – 12:30 hours Parallel Sessions - Seed Quality

12:30 – 14:00 hours Lunch

Harmonization in Regulations

14:00 – 15:00 hours Plenary (Moderator – **Bernward Geier**, IFOAM)
Roland Peerenboom, ISF
The need for harmonization
Gunnar Rundgren, IFOAM
The steps towards harmonization
Mohammed Tazi, FAO
*The harmonization process of seed rules and regulations in the Southern African
Development Community*
Discussion

15:00 - 15:30 hours
15:30 - 17:30 hours

Break

Harmonization Processes

Henk Haitisma (European Seed Association)

From opportunity to commitment to dilemma

F.J. (Chip) Sundstrom (American Seed Trade Association)

Progress on harmonization of EU and US organic seed regulations

Jean-Marie Debois (OECD)

Could the OECD schemes be pertinent for organic seed certification?

Felicia Echeverria Hermoso (Programa Nacional de Agricultura Orgánica
Ministerio de Agricultura, Costa Rica)

*Challenges for developing countries' access to equivalency with the main organic
export markets*

Discussion

Conference Dinner and Cultural Event

18:30 hours -

Buses leave from FAO Headquarters to Cooperativa Agricultura Nuova

Wednesday, 7 July 2004

Economics of Organic Seed

09:00 – 10:00 hours

Plenary (Moderator – **Zadok Lempert**, IFOAM)

Dick van der Zeijden (Bejo Zaden, The Netherlands)

The economic challenge for organic seed

Steve Peters (Seeds of Change, USA) - invited

The importance of consumer awareness of the need for organic seed

Humberto Rios Labrada (National Institute of Agriculture Sciences, Cuba)

Organic seed systems in response to agro-chemical deficit in Cuba

Discussion

10:00 – 10:30 hours

Break

Diversity in Seeds

10:30 – 12:30 hours

Plenary (Moderator - **Peter Kenmore**, FAO)

Clive Stannard, FAO

The relevance of international plant genetic resources instruments to organic seeds

Cristina Micheloni (Italian Association for Organic Agriculture, Italy)

*On-farm seed production: integrity of organic farming system and biodiversity
safeguard*

Bernard Le Buanec, ISF

Plant breeding and diversity in seeds

Javier Rovira (Asociacion de Técnicos de Programas y Proyectos

Sociales, Argentina)

*The Seeds of Life: food safety, local community development and organic seeds in
Tucuman, Argentina*

Discussion

Closing Session

12:30 – 13:00 hours

Nadia El-Hage Scialabba, FAO

Edith Lammerts van Bueren, IFOAM

Radha Ranganathan, ISF

Programme of Parallel Sessions

Monday, 5 July 2004

15:30 – 17:00 hours

Aspects of Seed Production/Propagation

Vegetables

1. Paul Rubitschek, Hild-Nunhems Seeds, Germany – *Use and availability of organic vegetable seed*
2. Bhautikkumar Savaliya, Gujarat Agricultural University, India – *Production of organic seed of groundnut: strategies and practices*
3. Dean Gregg, Mission Ranches, US - *Grower perspective on organic seed production*
4. María Ramos, COAG (Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos), SEAE (Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica) and Red de Semillas de Plataforma Rural (RS-PR) - *Organic Seeds and Biodiversity in Spain*
5. Ahmed Shalaby, SEKEM Academy, Egypt - *Improving local varieties of medicinal plants through organic production and multiplication: a case study from Egypt*

Cereals

1. Werner Vogt-Kaute, Naturland, Germany – *Organic cereal seed production and quality issues in Germany*
2. Leopold Girsch, Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, Austria - *Specific seed health standards for organic seeds*
3. Susanne Vogelgsang, Swiss Federal Research Station for Agroecology and Agriculture, Switzerland - *Healthy cereal seeds for organic agriculture in Switzerland*
4. Pierre de Contes, Biocer, France - *The challenges of organic cereal seed production in France*

Fodder/Forage crops

1. Athole Marshall, Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, UK - *Organic forage seed production: taking small plot research to farm scale development*
2. Maury Johnson, NC+Hybrids, US - *Organic seed production of hybrid field corn, alfalfa, red clover and sudangrass*
3. Birthe Kjaersgaard, DLF-Trifolium, Denmark – *Practical aspects concerning organic seed production of clover and grass in Denmark.*
4. James Smith, Midland Seeds, New Zealand - *The challenges of organic clover seed production in New Zealand*

Potato

1. Jac Vergroesen, Bioselect-Agrico, The Netherlands - *Growing organic seed potatoes in the Netherlands*
2. Fabrice Trehorel, Association des producteurs de plants et de pommes de terre biologiques de consommation de Bretagne, France - *Putting into practice a diagram of organic seed potato production*
3. Eric Bonnel, Germicopa, France - *Organic potato seed: questions to the future of it!*
4. Michael Glos, North East Organic Farming Association, US - *Feasibility and obstacles in New York state to start growing double certified (blue tag and certified organic) seed potatoes*

Tuesday, 6 July 2004

10:30 – 12:30 hours

Seed Quality

Vegetable

1. Bob Legro, Incotec, The Netherlands - *Organic seed and coating technology: a challenge and opportunity*
2. Ruud van den Bulk, Plant Research International, Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands - *Critical control points in organic seed production*
3. Anna Ertsey, Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration, Hungary - *Possible methods for organic seed treatment*
4. Annegret Schmitt, Federal Biological Research Centre for Agricultural and Forestry, Germany - *Control of seed-borne pathogens on vegetables by microbial and other alternative seed treatments*

Cereals

1. Werner Vogt Kaute, Naturland, Germany - *Control of common bunt of wheat (*Tilletia caries*) by alternative seed treatment*
2. Guro Brodal, Norwegian Agricultural Inspection Service, Norway - *Transmission rates of the oats loose smut pathogen *Ustilago avenae* from seed to the crop as basis for inoculum thresholds*
3. Anna Baturo, University of Technology and Agriculture Department of Phytopathology, Poland - *Comparison of grain health status of winter wheat and spring barley cultivated in organic, integrated and conventional systems and monoculture*
4. Aart Osman, Louis Bolk Institute, The Netherlands - *Comparison of seed treatments against *Fusarium* spp in spring wheat*

Fodder crops

1. Ralf Tilcher, KWS SAAT AG, Germany - *Seed treatment of corn for control of damage by birds and pea for control of *Ascochyta blight* of pea*
2. Jørn Lund Kristensen, DLF Trifolium, Denmark - *Achieved quality in organic seed production of clover and grass in Denmark*
3. Markku Niskanen, MTT Agrofood Research Finland, South Ostrobothnia Research Station, Finland - *Organic forage seed production in Finland*
4. Birte Boelt, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Denmark - *What are the limiting factors to seed quality in organic production of grass and clover seed and how to improve yield?*

Potato

1. Daniel Ellisseche, INRA Station d'Amélioration de la Pomme de Terre et des Plantes à Bulbes, France - *Some approaches in research targeted to varieties and seed production in potato organic farming*
2. Monique Hospers, Louis Bolk Institute, The Netherlands - *Rhizoctonia in organic seed potato production*
3. Carlo Leifert, University of Newcastle, UK - *Coping with late blight in organic seed potato production*
4. Mario Tapia, Association of Puno Organic Farmers, Peru - *Organic seed potato production in the Andes: from traditional knowledge to modern practices*

Conference Registration Form
First World Conference on Organic Seed
July 5-7, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Register online at www.organicseedconf.org

Due to capacity restrictions, registration is limited and will be accepted in the order received.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Street/P.O Box: _____

City/Postal code: _____

Country: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fees (Includes participants kit and proceedings):

IFOAM & ISF Members: 240 Euros
Non-members: 270 Euros
FAO Staff or Permanent Representatives: Free

Upon request, participants from Non-OECD countries may apply to waive the conference registration fee.

I apply for a conference fee waiver:

I need assistance in obtaining a visa to Italy:

I register for the farm visit and organic dinner on Tuesday night:
 35 Euros

_____ **Total**

Charge my: MasterCard VISA American Express

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Billing Address on Card: _____

Bank transfers can be made to:

IFOAM, Postbank Saarbruecken, IBAN 5901 0066 0066 4996 60 BIC PBNKDEFF

Cancellation Policy

A 75 Euro administrative fee will be charged for cancellations received prior to Friday, June 18 2004. There will be no refunds for cancellations received after this date.

Mail or fax registration form to:

Organic Seed Conference
C/O IFOAM
Charles-de-Gaulle-Strasse 5
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: ++49-228-92650-10
Fax: ++49-228-92650-99

Please retain a copy of this form for your records.

Accommodation & Travel

Lodging and travel are not included with the conference registration.

Rome's office for the promotion of tourism provides a comprehensive listing of all types of lodging, from youth hostels to five star hotels.

www.romaturismo.it/v2/en/main.asp

If you would like to receive a list of hotels in the vicinity of the conference venue, please send an e-mail to n.sorensen@ifoam.org

As July is a busy season in Rome for tourism, it is recommended that you book your hotel and flights early.

Conference Goals

- Create a platform for international information and knowledge exchange between the organic movement and the “conventional” seed sector
- Focus on scientific/technical aspects related to organic seed issues
- Evaluate regulatory requirements and related issues for organic seed
- Provide a platform for networking and cooperation

Who should attend

This international conference is intended for all the relevant stakeholders of the organic seed sector. Anticipated delegates should be scientists/plant breeders, seed producers, farmers, certifiers, governments and other stakeholders interested in organic farming and seed production.

About the Organizers

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** was founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the conditions of rural populations.

The **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)** is the worldwide umbrella organization for the organic movement. Its goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture.

The **International Seed Federation (ISF)** is a non-profit organization representing the main stream of the world seed trade and plant breeders community, and serves as an international forum where issues of interest to the world seed industry are discussed.

Farm visit, organic dinner and cultural event - Tuesday July 6

Enjoy Italian organic cuisine and culture in a serene setting on an organic farm near Rome. Buses will depart from the FAO headquarters at 18.30, and take you to the organic farm **Cooperativa Agricoltura Nuova (www.agricolturanuova.it)**. From there, you will receive a tour of the farm, enjoy an organic dinner and listen to some good music. The cost is 35 Euros per person. (Alcoholic beverages may be purchased for an additional charge.)

The official language of the conference is English. However, simultaneous translation of the conference plenary sessions will be available in Spanish and French.

Food and beverages are not included in the conference registration. The FAO and the surrounding area offer a wide variety of cafes and restaurants.

The FAO Headquarters are located at viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome, Italy

IFOAM Side Events

IFOAM is planning conference topic-related side events on Sunday, July 4. For more information, contact Neil Sorensen (n.sorensen@ifoam.org).