

INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Nuremberg, Germany 18-19 February 2002

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Day 1: 18 February

- 9 am** **Opening Session**
- Gunnar Rundgren, President, IFOAM
 - Nadia El-Hage Scialabba, Secretary, Inter-Departmental Working Group on Organic Agriculture, FAO
 - Rene Vossenar, Chief, Trade, Environment and Development Section, UNCTAD
 - Organization of work, Chair
- 10 am** **Overview of major national and international systems of standards and conformity assessment in the organic sector**
- Overview of regulatory systems, Ken Commins, IOAS
 - IFOAM Guarantee System, Gerald Herrmann, IFOAM
 - Questions-Answers
- 10:45 am** **Coffee Break**
- 11:15 am** - Codex Alimentarius, Selma Doyran, Codex Secretariat, FAO
- WTO/TBT, Christer Arvius, National Board of Trade, Sweden
 - Questions-Answers
- 12:00 am** **Panel on practical experiences (stakeholders)**
- Producer from developing country, Lucia Lie, ForesTrade, Indonesia
 - International trader, Joe Smillie, Organic Trade Association, USA
 - Retailer, Robert Duxbury, Organic Technical Manager, Sainsbury's, UK
 - International certifier, Diane Bowen, Green Opportunities Consulting, USA
 - Questions-Answers
 - Organization for Roundtables, Chair
- 1:00 pm** **Lunch Break**
- 2:00 pm** **Panel on regulatory scene (countries)**
- EC Reg. 2092/91, Alberik Scharpé, Head, Plant Protection Products and Organic Farming, European Commission DG VI-Agriculture, Belgium

- EU member state, Anders Klöcker, leading Secretariat of Organic Food Council, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Denmark
- EU member state, Hans-Georg Borowski-Kyhos, Control authority for Organic Agriculture for Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany
- USA, Keith Jones, Director, National Organic Programme, USDA
- Australia, Ian Lyall, Australian Quarantine Inspection Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Australia
- Costa Rica, Emilia Soles, Accreditation and Legal Department of Plant and Phyto-protection Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Costa Rica
- India, Hemendra Kumar, Special Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- IFOAM/IOAS, Bo van Elzaker, President, International Organic Accreditation Systems
- Questions-Answers

4:00 pm **Closing of first day Plenary**
 - Summary of problems, Chair
 - Instructions for roundtables, Chair

4:45 pm **Coffee Break**

5:00 pm **Roundtables**
Constraints and limitations of small/disadvantaged producers and producers in developing countries
 - Moderator: Rene Vossenaar, UNCTAD
 - Rapporteur: Pascal Liu, FAO
International versus national/local standards
 - Moderator: Rod May, Organic Federation of Australia
 - Rapporteur: Selma Doyran, FAO
National versus international accreditation
 - Moderator: Jorge Casale, Argencert, Argentina
 - Rapporteur: Pat Mallet, International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance, Canada

6:30 pm **End of Day 1**

Day 2: 19 February 2002

9:00 am **Roundtables reports**
 - Rapporteur of Roundtable on smallholders
 - Rapporteur of Roundtable on standards
 - Rapporteur of Roundtable on accreditation
 - Discussion

10:30 am **Coffee Break**

11:00 am **Overview of harmonization and equivalency agreements**
 - Concepts of mutual recognition agreements and different degrees of cooperation, Christer Arvius, UN/ECE
 - International model for technical harmonization developed within the UN/ECE, Christer Arvius
 - Equivalency between national government systems, Codex Alimentarius, Selma Doyran, FAO
 - Equivalency arrangements between IFOAM accredited certifiers,

Diane Bowen, Green Opportunities Consulting (USA) and
Annie Kirschenmann, IFOAM
- Questions-Answers

12:00 am Lunch Break

1:00 pm Roundtables

Options of structures for regulation and certification in developing countries

- Moderator: Felicia Echeverria, Costa Rica
- Rapporteur: Sophia Twarog, UNCTAD

Mechanisms for equivalence between private sector and regulations

- Moderator: Jim Riddle, NOSB, USA
- Rapporteur: Sasha Courville, Novotrade

Division of roles between public and private sectors in the organic guarantee system

- Moderator: Annie Kirschenmann, IFOAM
- Rapporteur: Francis Blake, Soil Association, UK

2:45 pm Coffee Break

3:00 pm Roundtables reports

- Rapporteur of Roundtable on regulations
- Rapporteur of Roundtable on equivalence
- Rapporteur of Roundtable on division of roles
- Discussion

4:00 pm Closing session

- Summary recommendations, David Crucefix, Rapporteur
- Concluding remarks by Nadia El-Hage Scialabba, FAO
- Concluding remarks by Rene Vossenaar, UNCTAD
- Concluding remarks by Gunnar Rundgren, IFOAM

5:00 pm End of Conference