



# INOFO

# NEWSLETTER

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INOFO is the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmer Organizations.

INOFO is consisting of organic farmers from members down to the board. We are organic farmers speaking for ourselves.

We represent all six global regions at all levels down to the board, from Latin America, to Europe, Asia, Oceania Pasifika, Africa, Asia and North America. Our values are embedded in the organic principles defined within the IFOAM network.

Within INOFO we respect and excel our farmer knowledge – organic farming.

We connect organic farmer communities, empower ourselves and likeminded friends. The highest decision-making organ within INOFO is the organic farmer organization and it is INOFO's duty to develop and maintain structures to ensure this position. For INOFO to truly represent the farmers' voice, the capacity needs to be developed for both internal and external communications as well as operational functionality.

Our focus area to bring organic farmer voices forward are Advocacy and Knowledge Sharing especially of youth, women and indigenous.

Our Vision A world of regenerative and sustainable food system for all Mission To unit organic farmers and support their voices, at all levels of the food systems development towards producing healthy, nutritious food and preserving mother earth.

## Message from INOFO President

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Dear all members,

We are aware, that we have not been able to reach out to you as regularly as might be expected. On the other hand, I am also sure that you as Organic Farmer Organisations (OFOs) as we call within INOFO, would understand the efforts of Organic Farmers work on ground as well as their challenges to maintain the balance between farm life and the contribution to being INOFO Council or Board members. As you all may already know, the INOFO Country convenors, Regional and Global Council and the Board positions are all voluntary positions bringing in the zeal and passion to this Organic Farmers movement as INOFO within the broader context of IFOAM Organics International.



Efforts are on-going since some years now for establishing a paid secretariat and building the organisation bottom-up.

From 2017 – 2021, we along with Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA), went through the organisational development process to develop the Vision, Mission and Key focus areas within INOFO along with understanding the cultural backgrounds and contexts that we all come from around the world.

All the efforts finally led to the legal registration of INOFO in 2021.

Fund raising was always a priority, but it didn't take off as we had no strategy in place. And so, from 2021 – 2023, we developed the draft Strategy Plan taking inputs from all regional and global council members. We also started drafting the long pending internal rules – that were mentioned in our INOFO Statutes but were never developed in the past. The draft internal rules consist of ..... Both the Strategy Plan and the Internal Rules drafts would be presented to the INOFO GAs in the region and global for its final approval by end of 2024.

All the fund-raising efforts finally led to one small success for INOFO where IUCN-Forest Farm Facility application to FAO came through as our first independent project. Now we are at the juncture, where we are busy getting all documents ready for the upcoming General Assemblies.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Carolin Möller, our passionate Global Secretariat coordinator for her volunteered night hours for INOFO and to AHA to give us Bakaluba B Daniel as an intern who is dedicated and committed to learn through our organic farmers network and assists to communicate well to you all through this and upcoming newsletters.

Best regards  
Shamika Mone  
President, INOFO

## Nepal Conference on Agro - Biodiversity

The Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations (INOFO) made a significant impact at the recent Agrobiodiversity Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from April 8-12, 2024. The event, attended by policymakers, researchers, and representatives from various organizations, was inaugurated by high-level officials including Nepal's Minister of Forests and Environment and the Chief Minister of Gandaki Province.

The primary focus of the conference was to address the challenges posed by monoculture systems and enhance agrobiodiversity through innovative approaches combining policy, knowledge, and economic strategies.



INOFO's president, Shamika Mone, played a crucial role at the conference, leading two sessions focused on the importance of traditional knowledge and the role of organic farming in sustaining biodiversity-rich agriculture. Mone's presentations, emphasizing case studies from across continents, highlighted how organic farming practices have revitalized soil health and increased biodiversity. Additionally, INOFO exhibited Organic Farmers' products globally, providing a platform for exposure and new networking opportunities.



The conference culminated with commitments towards strengthening agrobiodiversity conservation, including advocating for stronger policies and increased investments. For INOFO, the conference opened avenues for potential collaborations with notable organizations such as the IIED, and the Agroecology Coalition.

INOFO's engagement at the Agrobiodiversity Conference marks a pivotal step towards achieving recognition and support for organic farmers globally, emphasizing their crucial role in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable agricultural practices.



## Empowering Family Farming: INOFO's at the Global Conference on Family Farming – World Rural Forum (WRF)

From March 19th to 21st, 2024, Thales B. M., Global Relationship Manager of INOFO, had the privilege to represent our organization at the prestigious Global Conference on Family Farming – World Rural Forum (WRF). This marked a significant milestone for INOFO, as it was our first invitation to join this esteemed gathering, following successful networking efforts at the previous FAFO event.

The conference, meticulously organized with various sessions featuring distinguished speakers from Farmers' Organizations (FOs), governmental bodies, and key players such as International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDIFF), covered an array of crucial topics.



*There is a remarkable increase in INOFO's visibility during the conference. As I interacted with fellow attendees, the mention of INOFO instantly resonated, showcasing a notable shift from just a few years ago when our organization was less known. This enhanced recognition speaks volumes about the strides we've made in amplifying our presence and impact within the global agricultural community.*

Thales B. M. – Global Relationship Manager  
INOFO

These discussions included the assessment of the first five years of UNDOFF implementation, the role of National Committees on Family Farming in policy dialogue, the pivotal leadership of rural youth in transforming food systems, forging new alliances to tackle environmental and social challenges, as well as addressing issues like land access, land grabbing, and gender disparities within farming and food systems.

One of the highlights of our participation was the official recognition of INOFF as a member of WRF, signifying a deepening commitment to the cause of family farming on a global scale. Additionally, the opportunity for INOFF to potentially participate in the upcoming UNDOFF mid-term conference at FAO HD in October 2024 underscores our growing influence and relevance in shaping agricultural policies and practices worldwide.

Furthermore, our strengthened partnerships with fellow FOs, particularly those affiliated with IFAD, and other stakeholders, signify collaborative efforts towards achieving shared goals and objectives in promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development.

During the conference, Thales B. M. had the privilege to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the Vice Minister of Agrarian Development of Brazil, delving into pertinent national issues concerning our members.

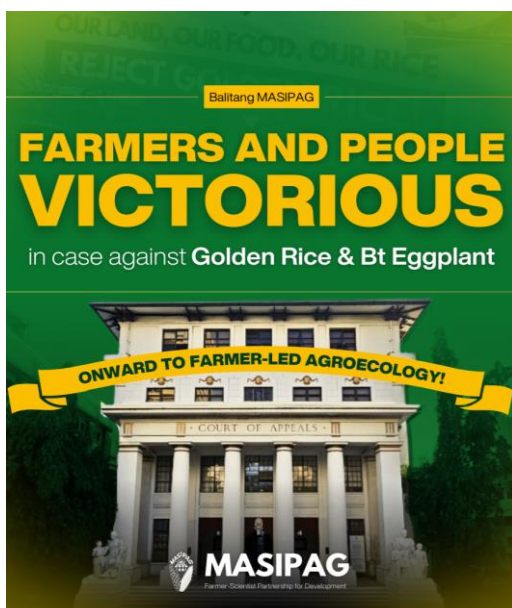
In retrospect, the Global Conference on Family Farming - World Rural Forum was an enriching experience for INOFF. It reaffirmed our steadfast commitment to championing organic and agroecological approaches to agriculture, which have been at the core of our mission for many years. As discussions continue to converge around these principles, we remain resolute in our dedication to empowering family farmers and fostering organic and sustainable food systems for generations to come.





## INOFO Celebrates Landmark Court Ruling Against GM Golden Rice and Bt Eggplant

In a monumental victory against genetically modified organisms (GMOs), filed by our member Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-Unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG) and allies in the organic movement, the Philippine Supreme Court recently issued a cease-and-desist order on the commercial propagation of genetically modified Golden Rice and Bt eggplant in the country. This ruling marks a significant milestone in the global struggle against GMOs and corporate dominance in agriculture.



© Photo by MASIPAG

A decade ago, the rejection of Golden Rice began when more than 400 farmers, women, youth, and consumers uprooted field trials in Pili, Camarines Sur, Philippines.

Their stance against GMOs emphasized the importance of natural diversity in providing essential nutrients, rather than relying on artificial means such as gene editing. This historic action has now been validated by the court's decision.

The court's ruling underscores the necessity of the precautionary principle, which was disregarded by regulators in the Philippines and New Zealand regarding Golden Rice. Genetic contamination from GMOs poses irreversible threats to plant genetic resources and, consequently, human well-being.

INOFO stands in solidarity with the court's decision, recognizing it as a victory not only for farmers and consumers in the Philippines but for all who oppose the encroachment of GMOs in agriculture. This victory extends beyond Golden Rice and Bt eggplant, encompassing any application of GMOs, from field testing to commercial propagation and importation.

The court rightfully pointed out the failure of government agencies and GMO proponents to provide evidence of safety and compliance with legal requirements. Until such proof is provided, the cease-and-desist order remains indefinite, reflecting a commitment to prioritize safety and environmental protection over corporate interests.

While addressing hunger and malnutrition remains a pressing concern, INOFO firmly believes that the solution lies in supporting traditional and small-scale farmers who safeguard food diversity. GMOs, driven primarily by global corporate interests, have proven detrimental, leading to increased indebtedness, crop failures, and loss of biodiversity.

*"Genetic contamination from GMOs poses irreversible threats to plant genetic resources and, consequently, human well-being."*

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The resilience of farmers and consumers against GMOs, as demonstrated in the Philippines, serves as a testament to the power of grassroots movements against corporate control of agriculture. Securing small farmers' control over essential resources such as seeds, technology, and land is crucial for sustainable food production and combating hunger and malnutrition.

INOFO celebrates this landmark court ruling as a triumph for farmers, seed savers, consumers, and advocates of organic and sustainable agriculture worldwide. Together, let us continue to champion the rights of local farmers and protect the integrity of our food system against the threats posed by GMOs.

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INOFO endeavors to issue newsletter to keep members up to date during the cycle of the year.

We invite members to reach out if they have news, events, achievements, calls to share among INOFO membership.

INOFO's newsletter will have a focused region every issue. Circulating the focus among our global regions. But not excluding milestones of other regions.

The next issue will focus on the African continent, discussing past and future achievements and focus. Our Regional and country conveners from Africa will present with the rest of us the newsletter.

Please reach out to [info@info.bio](mailto:info@info.bio) or [members@info.bio](mailto:members@info.bio) if you have a story, event, milestone to share.

Next issue to be published September/October 2024

Carolin Möller  
**INOFO Secretariat Coordinator**

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**Accordingly, the Court of Appeals judgment is hereby rendered:**

- 1. GRANTING** the privilege of the Writ of Kalikasan;
- 2. ISSUING** a Writ of Continuing Mandamus against respondent government agencies;
- 3. DIRECTING** UPLB to cease and desist from commercially propagating and conducting activities relating to Bt Eggplant under the issued BSP
- 4. REVOKING** the BSP for commercial propagation of Golden Rice of PhilRice
- 5. ORDERING** PhilRice to cease and desist from commercially propagating and conducting activities relating to Golden Rice under the issued BSP
- 6. ENJOINING** the commercial propagation and/or conduct of activities relating to Golden Rice and Bt Eggplant, until such time that the concerned respondent government agencies submit proof of safety and compliance with all legal requirements
- 7. ORDERING** the concerned respondent government agencies to perform their mandate under applicable JDC, by submitting to CA concrete mechanisms adopted to monitor all activities conducted under the JDCs, and all measures taken to strengthen the risk assessment procedure set forth in JDC No. 1-2021, in accordance with the ruling in this case; and
- 8. ENJOINING** any application for contained use, field testing, direct use as food or feed or processing, commercial propagation, and importation of GMOs until compliance with the (7) above.

**For more information visit:**

<https://masipag.org/2024/04/farmers-and-people-victorious-in-environmental-court-case-against-gm-golden-rice-and-bt-eggplant-2/>