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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 Global Relationship Manager

Dear INOFO Members,

As we gather once again for our newsletter, I'm filled with a sense of gratitude and excitement for the incredible work that our grassroots organic farmers are doing around the globe. Your dedication to sustainable organic agriculture and ecological balance is a beacon of hope in a world facing pressing environmental challenges.

The strength of our network lies in our interconnectedness. By staying connected, we amplify our voices and advocate for policies that support organic agriculture and the well-being of our planet. Together, we can create a more just and sustainable future for generations to come.

As we look ahead to the second half of the year, there are several important events on the horizon where INOFO will be actively involved. The INOFO General Assembly will provide a platform for members to discuss key issues and shape the future of our organization.

We will also be participating in the CBD16 - Biodiversity Conference in Colombia, a crucial event for highlighting the role of organic agriculture in preserving biodiversity.

Additionally, INOFO will be represented at COP 29, where we will advocate for ambitious climate action that supports organic agriculture. And finally, we will be attending the Organic World Congress in Taiwan, an opportunity to connect with organic farmers and organizations from around the world.

I encourage you to read through this newsletter and discover the latest news and updates from our global network. Your feedback and active participation are invaluable in helping us strengthen our organization and achieve our goals.

Thank you for being a part of INOFO. Together, we can create a more organic and equitable world.

Warm regards,

Thales B. Mendonça

Global Relationship Manager | INOFO Board Member



Call For Stories & Knowledge Articles

Share With Us!



- Success Stories
- Challenges and Solutions
- Innovations and Best Practices
- Knowledge and Insights
- Reflections and Perspectives

Call for Contributions: Share Your Stories and Knowledge with the INOFO Community

INOFO's newsletter is dedicated to keeping our members informed and engaged throughout the year. The INOFO newsletter serves as a crucial platform for you and to update you on the latest developments, share achievements, and highlight important events within our network. To enrich this platform, we invite you to contribute your stories, knowledge, and updates for inclusion in our upcoming issues.

Why Share Your Story?

The INOFO newsletter is more than just a communication tool—it's a way to connect with fellow members, share your experiences, and contribute to the collective knowledge that drives our movement forward. Whether you are a seasoned organic farmer, a passionate advocate, or a community organizer, your insights can inspire and educate others who are navigating similar paths.

Our Focus

INOFO's newsletter is for all regions and therefore we invite all regions to contribute to each edition. We are looking for contributions that showcase the diversity and energy of our global community. We encourage submissions that include success stories, such as impactful organic farming techniques or community initiatives, as well as challenges you've faced and the creative solutions you've developed. We also seek innovations and best practices in organic farming or community organization, along with expert knowledge on topics like soil health or seed sovereignty. Additionally, we welcome news, events, and significant milestones relevant to the INOFO community.

Contributions can take the form of articles (500-1,500 words), case studies, interviews, photo essays, or short videos (2-5 minutes) highlighting your work or community initiatives. Please ensure your submissions are in format such as Word/PDF for written content, JPEG/PNG for images, MP4 for videos.

Please include a brief bio (50-100 words) and a photo, if possible, of yourself to know the face behind the story and build connections.

Submission Process

Please submit your contributions via email to info@info.bio with the subject line: ***INOFO Newsletter Submission - [Your Name]***. Our editorial team will review all submissions and may contact you for further information or edits.

INOFO

Virtual Regional General Assembly 2024

Registration Link:
www.inofo.bio/ga



The Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmer Organizations (INOFO) upholds the General Assembly as the supreme decision-making body within its structure. INOFO cordially extends an invitation to all ratified members who have active and renewed mandates to participate in the General Assemblies. The INOFO Global General Assembly (GA), along with the Regional General Assemblies, convenes triennially. Announcements for these assemblies are issued in writing by the INOFO Council of Convenors.

Regional General Assemblies of INOFO

We are pleased to announce that the Regional General Assemblies will be organized across our global regions in October 2024 by the regions themselves as an online event.

Attendance at these assemblies requires a verified membership status and an approved mandate. The regional convenors are at the forefront of organizing these assemblies and will provide the necessary details, including specific dates and digital links, for each region's assembly.

To facilitate broader participation and alleviate the logistical challenges of travel, this year's Regional General Assemblies will be hosted online. This strategic decision ensures that all members can engage fully in the proceedings. In preparation for these assemblies, INOFO is currently compiling comprehensive preparatory materials.

These resources will be distributed to all members well in advance, enabling thorough preparation for the scheduled activities within the assemblies including Nominations for convenors (to be voted by the members), Motions, Finance report, etc

Regional GA Dates

INOFO North America: t.b.c

INOFO Latin America: 10 October 2024

INOFO Asia: 29 October 2024

INOFO Africa: 31 October 2024

INOFO Oceania: 25 November 2024

Note: Details are subject to change and communication will subsequently be made to members.

Global General Assembly of INOFO

The Global General Assembly is scheduled for 26 November 2024. During this assembly, significant positions such as the President, Vice President, and the Council of Convenors will be democratically elected by INOFO's mandated delegates, in strict accordance with the INOFO Statutes.

We extend a heartfelt invitation to all members, mandated delegates, and stakeholders to attend and actively participate in both the Regional and Global General Assemblies as stipulated.

Should you require further information, seek clarification, or wish to express concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your regional convenors or the INOFO Global Secretariat at info@inofo.bio



INOFO at Cresol and Agricord International Seminar

The Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations (INOFO) participated in the Cresol and Agricord International Seminar in Francisco Beltrão/PR, an event on “Innovation in food systems and sustainable finance” that took place from the 5th to 7th of June 2024.

Cresol, the largest credit cooperative institution focused on family farming in Brazil, hosted this seminar, which welcomed participants from more than 30 countries, including farmers’ organizations from Africa and Asia, global farmers’ organizations such as INOFO, members of the OPLP – Organizations of Portuguese Speaking Countries, as well as representatives from the United Nations (UN), BID (Inter-American Development Bank) and government representatives at federal and state level.

INOFO was represented by its Global Relationships Manager, Thales Bevilacqua Mendonça and its local member, the organic farmer organization – Ecovida PGS Network, with 10 participants representing more than 400 hundreds of families from our network, demonstrating our agroecological productive power.



The main issues debated during the panels were:

- ❑ Financing climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture;
- ❑ Transforming food systems for sustainable and resilient agriculture;
- ❑ Empowering Producer Organizations through innovation and local knowledge in agriculture.

Among many jackets and ties, we were present with our roots and agendas, highlighting our work, and we were invited to speak on a panel about the empowerment of producer organizations through innovation and local knowledge in agriculture.

The agroforestry organic farmer Thales Bevilacqua Mendonça had the opportunity to talk about how we organize ourselves through PGS, how it works and what are the benefits far beyond just organic certification, connecting the local level with a global organization, INOFO, which Ecovida is member.



We had very positive feedback and interest from the participants about PGS, which INOFO has a huge experience in. Our participation through strategic networks and organizations like World Rural Forum and Agroecology Coalition was highlighted there, giving a bigger impact and amplified voice for our members!

The construction is daily, the journey is long and winding, but we leave with the certainty that we are on the right track, working, defending and promoting Agroecology as a solution to a good part of the problems and challenges we face in food systems around the world.

Let's keep sowing!

Thales Mendonça

OFAI Farmers Market and Conference at Biofach India Trade Fair



The Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI) has been at the forefront of promoting organic farming in the country for over two decades.

Their tireless efforts led to hosting of the Organic World Congress (OWC) of IFOAM Organics International in 2017 India with its first Farmers Track. Building on this success, OFAI negotiated with Nuremberg Messe (NM) to organize the Farmers Market and Farmers Conference at the Biofach India Trade Fair every year.

This year, the event took place on August 3-5, 2024, at the Noida Expo Center in Uttar Pradesh. This Farmers Market provides a platform for small farmer groups from across India to come together, have exposure, network, and market their products at this internationally recognised Organic Trade fair. Thanks to the OFAI committee and NM organisers for their understandings that the organic farmer enterprises, startups, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs and FPCs) recognised under the -

Association get the stall space at a subsidised rate per square meter compared to the normal charge for the exhibitors. These limited stalls are allotted with priority for the members and then vetted organisations only.

This event is managed by the voluntary efforts by the OFAI Managing Committee from Gujarat with the leadership from Devesh Patel, who is a successful second-generation organic farmer and entrepreneur himself.

The Farmers Conference is planned on either of the three days. The organisers offer a platform to OFAI for organising the Farmers conference where farmers share experiences, knowledge, and best practices in organic farming.

This year's Farmer's Conference at Biofach India was on the third day where organic farmers and small enterprises shared their farm stories along with challenges they face in the current certification system.



This 8th OFAI Farmer's Conference at Biofach India was successful in the presence of KP Illiyas, President (OFAI), Dr Gagnesh Sharma, Director, National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), Government of India and Ravi Prasad, Executive Director IFOAM Organics International who stayed for the entire session taking notes of the Farmer and small enterprise stories from Kashmir, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu to Kerala.

The Farmers Market and Farmers Conference in Biofach India is the only Biofach event globally that provides a dedicated platform and subsidised stalls for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Organizations (FOs) under OFAI to showcase their products and on-farm innovations, setting it apart from other Biofach events.



This unique focus on empowering small-scale farmers and celebrating their contributions to sustainable agriculture makes Biofach India a beacon of inclusivity for the enriching growth of the global organic movement.

We hope that INOFO in future could have similar Farmers Market in all Biofach events internationally.

Shamika Mone



INOFO Board and Africa Taskforce Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda

From June 30 to July 8, 2024, Kigali, Rwanda played host to the AHA-INOFO Joint Workshop with special support from Andreas Hermes Akademie. This pivotal workshop brought together the INOFO Africa Taskforce and the INOFO Board with the overarching goal of strengthening organizational ties and aligning regional and global strategies.

The workshop was expertly facilitated by Purvi Shah Paulini and Fatma Ben Rejeb and coordinated by Marieke Behrens from Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA).

The workshop brought together a diverse group of INOFO leaders forming the Africa Taskforce and the INOFO Board. Their collective experience, and perspectives were invaluable in shaping the workshop's discussions, ensuring that regional and global nuances were well-represented and considered.

The Africa Taskforce members included Nana Adams from Ghana, Daniel Wanjama from Kenya, Julie Nakalanda from Uganda, Raoudath Bouraima from Benin, Charles Mubanga from Zambia, Dereje Angasa from Ethiopia and Busisiwe Mgangxela from South Africa

The INOFO Board members included Shamika Mone, INOFO President, Daniel Wanjama, INOFO Vice President, Thales Bevilacqua, INOFO Global Relationship Officer, Jennifer Taylor, Joint Secretary and Aina Calafat, Acting European Board Member. INOFO Coordinator Carolin Möller played a vital role in ensuring that the workshop's objectives were met and that all activities were aligned with INOFO's vision.

The workshop was structured around several key objectives crucial for any organization aiming to have a global impact. Among the primary goals was teambuilding, which was approached through a series of interactive sessions designed to foster mutual respect and understanding among participants from diverse backgrounds. This set a strong foundation for the subsequent focus on aligning activities, structures, and processes at both regional and global levels.

A significant achievement of the workshop was the discussion on the regional structural framework using Africa as a benchmark, that supports INOFO's operations and impact both at regional and global level. Discussions also focused on refining communication lines and decision-making processes, ensuring that the organization can navigate effectively through any circumstances or crises.

The workshop also dedicated considerable time to discuss and plan for the upcoming INOFO General Assembly. Through workshops and open dialogues, participants worked collectively to reinforce the organization's vision and values, ensuring they are ingrained in every aspect of operational execution.

The reflections shared by participants at the end of the workshop highlighted a renewed sense of purpose and a clearer understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The collaborative environment allowed for the sharing of best practices and experiences, which enriched the collective knowledge and bonded the team on a profound level.

As we look back on the successful completion of the AHA-INOFO Joint Workshop in Kigali, it is clear that the workshop was more than just a series of meetings. It was a pivotal moment for INOFO and its partner Andreas Hermes Akademie, a step forward in creating a cohesive, resilient organization ready to tackle the challenges of the future with unwavering commitment and unified strength.

Together, We Grow Stronger

As we continue to unite and collaborate, INOFO remains committed to fostering meaningful connections, empowering our members, and driving positive change in the organic farming communities worldwide. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Stay connected and engaged as we work towards a sustainable future for all.

Warm regards,
The INOFO Team

