IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo

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Athens 13/5/15

Dear IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo members,

It is a pleasure to invite you to participate in the upcoming **International Conference on Agroecology for Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean,** at *11-12 September 2015, Vignola Castle, Vignola (Modena), Italy.* In the context of the conference, IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo will also celebrate its 25 years of operation (1990-2015).

The organic movement is growing year by year both worldwilde and in the Mediterranean. We are all part of this important challenge and we strongly work together, in order to ensure the protection of the environment, of biodiversity, of agriculture, of the landscape, of culture. The conference shall offer insight into organic research, implemented and proposed innovations, also providing you with a unique experience and an opportunity for the exchange of know how.

Best regards,

For the ABM Board

Dr. Charikleia Minotou

President of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

Miguel Altieri, Berkeley University, Berkeley - California
Pablo Tittonel, INTA Argentina
Salvatore Ceccarelli, ex ICARDA, India
Jan Dick Van Mansvelt, Down2Earth, NL
Gunnar Rundren author of "Global Eating Disorder"
Helmy Abuleish, SEKEM, Egypt

SCIENTIFIC COMMITEE

Paola Migliorini, University of Gastronomic Science
Gerold Rahmann, ISOFAR
Pino Lembo, COISPA/EGTOP
IAMBari, Italy
Uygun Aksoy, Ege University, Turkey
Maria Dolores Raigón, President of SEAE, Spain
GRAB, France
Mohammad Yousry Hashem, University of Cairo, Egypt
Drazen Lusic, University of Rijeka, Croatia
George Vlachos, Agricultural Univ. of Athens, Greece
Charikleia Minotou, IFOAM ABM, Greece
Raffaele Zanoli, GRABit, Italy
Mauro Gamboni, PT BIO Italy
Livia Ortolani, Aiab, Italy
Stefano Canali, CRA, Italy
Geir Lieblein, NMBU, Norway
Alex Wezel, ISARA France
Concetta Vazzana, University of Florence, Italy
Xhevaire Dulja, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

ORGANIZER COMMITEE

Antonio Compagnoni, AIAB ER
Paola Migliorini IFOAM ABM
Erio Ricchi, Municipality of Vignola
Charikleia Minotou, IFOAM ABM
Karen Hoberg, IFOAM ABM
David Gould IFOAM SOAAN

INFORMATION AND CONTACT

Email *secretariat@abm.ifoam.bio*
Web *www.ifoam.bio/en/regional-activities/ifoam-agribiomediterraneo*

Regional Board (2014-2017)

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Vice Presidents
Drazen Lusic, (Croatia), lusicd@medri.hr
Paola Migliorini, (Italy), p.migliorini@unisg.it

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sana international exhibition of organic and natural products
ISOFAR International Society of Organic Agriculture Research
BioGuard

IFOAM AGRIBIO MEDITERRANEO

IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
(1990 VIGNOLA 2015)

International Conference "Agroecology for Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean"

11-12 September 2015
*Vignola Castle**
(Modena), Italy

First announcement

*kindly offered by
Fondazione di Vignola

IFOAM is a membership organisation with members from countries all over the world. The goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness, and Care.

IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo is an official Regional Group of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement. The history of IFOAM-ABM goes back to 1990 starting with the first meeting held in Vignola (Mo), Italy.

IFOAM-ABM gathered members from three continents (Africa, Asia, Europe) and 16 Mediterranean countries.

IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo coordinates the activities of IFOAM-member organizations in the Mediterranean Region. It promotes, develops and disseminates information, knowledge and expertise related to Mediterranean organic agriculture and food production. IFOAM-ABM improves local development, enforces harmonization actions and goals between different countries and institutions and promotes the cooperation among various interest groups involved in the organic value chain.

CELEBRATION FOR THE 25 YEARS OF ABM

The celebration will take place in the Castle of Vignola, where 25 years ago the IFOAM-ABM vision was born. Some of the protagonists of the first meeting in 1990 will participate at the celebration event and at the conference. They will testify to the importance of this initiative, which started a virtuous process of continuous dialogue and exchange among the different organic organizations and countries; actively promoting the organic model of sustainable rural development and contributing concretely to the development of organic farming in the Mediterranean Region.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Background and Framework

The aim of the International Conference is to improve interdisciplinary scientific dialogue, implement information exchange and dissemination of knowledge and innovation strategies on organic agriculture for the Mediterranean climate. IFOAM-ABM strongly supports Agroecology in its full vision as "the science of applying ecological concept and principles to the design and management of sustainable food systems".

The aim of the conference is to increase consciousness of researchers, policy makers and practitioners on the link between Agroecology and organic farming. The strengthening of such a link in the Mediterranean is an opportunity to promote multifunctionality, diversification of crops, biodiversity, local and direct sale, local seasonal and fresh production, education for food and health, alternative touristic development, entrepreneurship and organic agriculture and more environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society as a whole.

Call for contributions

The Conference includes: 1. *System values track* for presentation and exchange of practical experience from farmers, producers, consumers, community; 2. Fostering Community Economic Development with *Ethical Consumption and policies*; 3. *Scientific research track*, where current research and experimentation results will be presented and discussed. Everybody who is actively engaged in organic agriculture in Mediterranean is strongly invited to participate by sending contributions as a paper or poster. All approved papers will be included in the Conference proceedings which will be published on the Organic E-Print and selected paper in Organic Agriculture and New MEDIT journals special issues.

Deadline for submission

Abstracts: May 31st

Notification of acceptance of the abstracts: June 30th

What are the themes?

The Conference will cover the following objectives:

- To map and present the progress and the current situation of organic production in the Mediterranean
- To evaluate the main problems and solutions on the major Mediterranean organic productions (fruit trees, olives, vineyards, cereals and animal husbandry, fibres, aquaculture and sustainable fisheries), with a focus on adaptation to climate change and water scarcity;
- To identify the environmental and socioeconomic opportunities and constraints for a linkage to Agroecological strategies;
- To explore the possibility to use a common benchmark of sustainability dimensions to guide policy reform (i.e. as in the IFOAM SOAAN Best Practice Guideline) and sustainability evaluation tools (e.g. FAO SAFA);
- To define the needs of the Mediterranean area in policies and differentiated norms and standards in organic agriculture and Fairtrade.

Submission of contributions

The contributions should consist of a short paper of 4 pages max (2500 words) including: introduction, m&m, result, conclusions and implication. Contributions must be written in English. Contributions for the Scientific Research Track will be evaluated through a peer review system by the Scientific Committee.

Program

Opening session – 11 Sept Morning
Celebration – 11 Sept. Lunch
Conference – 11 Sept. Afternoon and 12 Sept Morning
Laboratories and taste events – 12 Sept. Afternoon.

Registration fees*

	Till May 15th	After May 15th
Students	50 €	70 €
IFOAM members	80 €	100 €
All others	90 €	120 €

* Include conference proceeding, coffee breaks and 2 meals. The cost for the lab and degustation will be additional.