

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2023 ISSUE 1

Welcome to our first OFSP newsletter in 2023!

This year's first issue is packed with information about events and activities around the OFSP. Enjoy reading!

Thank you for your participation in various activities throughout the last months. We would love to include your organic news – do contact us!

4th Global Conference of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme

THE TRANSFORMATION WE NEED

Towards the 1st Stocktaking Moment: Emerging from global crises by shaping sustainable, resilient, healthy, and inclusive food systems*

24th – 27th April 2023 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam & online

OFSP is hosting a virtual side event on 24th April at 18:00 – 19:30 (ICT)

Register now to Join Us: <https://organicfoodsystem.net/portfolio/upcoming-virtual-event-4th-global-conference-of-the-sfs-programme/>

Transforming territories: The approach of Organic Districts as living laboratories for inclusive sustainable food systems

We share with you how Organic Districts transform food systems locally and realise the economic and sociocultural potential of the territory and its communities based on organic principles and practices. Transformation at territorial level, with sustainable, inclusive communities linking together is the mindset and dynamic action that we need around the world right now.

As part of the 4th Global Conference of the SFSP, this virtual side event invites you to hear evidence from the four corners of policy, science, training, and practice, as well as see snapshots from diverse bio-districts in the Philippines, Tunisia, Argentina, Mediterranean and Nordic countries.



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Sustainable
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4th Global Conference of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS Programme)

THE
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Towards the 1st Stocktaking Moment:
Emerging from global crises by shaping
sustainable, resilient, healthy, and inclusive
food systems



SIDE EVENT

Transforming territories: The approach of Organic Districts as living laboratories for inclusive sustainable food systems

DATE: 24.04.23 | 13:00 – 14:30 (GMT+2)

SPEAKERS

Eric Gall, IFOAM EU
Denis Lalron, INSERM
Carola Strassner, FOH
Patricia Flores, IFOAM OI Academy
Salvatore Basile, IN.N.E.R.
Jostein Hertwig, BERAS International

Edmundo Soffritti, GAOD
Aina Rogers, SEAE
Armando Jacinto, Mayor Idanha a Nova
Juan Pablo Sciarano, Consultant
Samia Maamer, Agriculture Ministry TN
Victor Tagupa, LOAMCP-Ph
Lilliana Stefanovic, OFSP



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Program

1. Greetings & Welcome

Event moderators: **David Gould**, OFSP Steering Committee, and **Tanveer Hossain**, IFOAM Asia

2. Impulses from the four corners policy, science, training, and practice

Policy: Organic Policy using the European Union as an Example **Eric Gall**, IFOAM Europe

Science: Reviewing scientific evidence of organic food consumption impacts on health and sustainability **Denis Lairon**, INSERM, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research

Plans for future monitoring of community impacts **Carola Strassner**, FQH, International Research Association for Organic Food Quality and Health

Training: Capacity building for Organic Districts **Patricia Flores**, IFOAM OI Academy

Practice: Bio-districts – What are they? **Salvatore Basile**, IN.N.E.R., International Network of Eco Regions

3. Snapshots from Organic Districts in ...

Europe:

Nordic and Baltic Sea regions **Jostein Hertwig**, BERAS International

Mediterranean region of Cilento **Edmundo Soffritti**, GAOD (tbc)

Island mountains, Serra de Tramuntana in Mallorca, Spain **Aina Rogers**, SEAE, Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica/Agroecología

Portuguese districts **Armindo Jacinto**, Mayor of Idanha a Nova

Latin America: Argentinian Organic Districts **Juan Pablo Sciurano**, Sustainable development consultant

Africa: Tunisian Bio-Territoires **Samia Maamer**, Ministère de l'Agriculture des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche Maritime

Asia: First plans for an Organic District in the Philippines **Victor Tagupa**, LOAMCP of the Philippines

Case studies around the world **Lilliana Stefanovic**, University of Kassel

4. Discussion and Wrap-up

*For conference info see: <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/4th-global-conference-one-planet-networks-sustainable-food-systems-programme>



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BioFach Wrap-Up

We were happy to finally meet again in person at BioFach 2023 this February. Beside the international trade fair there were plenty of interesting workshops and presentations to attend. The FQH and OFSP Partner meetings were held, we had lunch together and got the chance to catch up on ideas and experiences in the evenings. On the following pages we will present a few outcomes for all who weren't able to attend BioFach in person.



By Kathrin Auner

OFSP IFOAM meeting at BioFach in Nuremberg - joining forces for IFOAM Academy

Present at the meeting were representatives from IFOAM Organics International, OFSP, GAOD, INOFO and IN.N.E.R.

Patricia Flores (Academy IFOAM OI) presented the work of the Academy with Paul Holmbeck (IFOAM World Board), sharing the new concept that IFOAM is working on.

Main messages from the meeting in order to make a common workplan:

1. It is the right time to join to work together. More than ever it is necessary this kind of collaboration in this moment and this is the starting point.
2. Organics Districts builds on the active participation of diverse stakeholders and the local context and culture.
3. Close cooperation with universities.
4. The territorial approach is the backbone of our work and we should respect all local resources (human, material, cultural, natural).
5. The cascade system of IFOAM's Training of Team of Trainers (ToToT) shows potential for the Organic District approach.
6. We have pilot territories where we can start, they are ready to engage in the process.
7. Look for funding together and integrate joint efforts in ongoing initiatives from both sides.

By Jostein Hertwig (jostein.hertwig@gmail.com)



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Impressions of the BioFach trade fair and conference:

For me it was the first time at the BioFach. It was enriching and motivating to see, hear and talk to so many active and committed fellow human beings and to learn about the diverse activities and approaches being taken towards transforming the food system.

Short summary of presentation: Change agents in sustainability transitions of food systems – research within SysOrg

The research project SysOrg (Organic agro-food systems as models for sustainable food systems in Europe and Northern Africa) aims for the identification of intervention and entry points to enable a transformation process towards resilient and sustainable food systems. Furthermore, we will investigate the reasons, motivations, drivers or barriers for the actors to opt for more sustainable solutions as well as pathways to increase sustainable production and consumption. For this, we aim to dive deeper into 5 territorial cases in Europe and Northern Africa, with different characteristics regarding their transition state of the food system. For those cases, we are analysing the drivers and barriers for shifting people and institutions towards sustainable diets, the current level of food waste at consumption stage, the current state and developmental trajectories of organic food production and consumption and the main ongoing initiatives for a transition towards sustainable food systems, their innovative activities and the enabling and disabling conditions they face. The hypothesis is that a comparison of those territories and perspectives reveals common intervention and entry points for enabling transformation processes which are transferable to other cases but have to be adapted regionally.

In research on transitions using multi-level models, hybrid actors/intermediaries or change agents are seen as driving forces, for instance, as mediators, for change processes. This research within SysOrg is still in an early stage and might focus on the kind of intermediation taking place during which transition stages and thus, will enrich the research on hybrid actors/intermediaries or change agents in transition research.

By Friederike Elsner (friederike.elsner@fh-muenster.de)



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The organic food system as one of the gateways to sustainability transformation: insights from the case study project

The case study project carried out at the Dep. of Organic Food Quality and Food Culture of University of Kassel (Germany) aimed at disclosing the developmental stages of the Organic Food System (OFS) cases around the world while identifying the key actors involved in these systems, their relations, personal values and motivations to engage in the OFS as well as the perceived outcomes stemming from these systems. Eleven OFS cases embracing all continents have been documented between February 2019 and January 2020, with a follow-up in-depth study between January and March 2020. Single- and multiple-case study methodology was applied on to analyse the cases. The documented cases were: Wellington Region (New Zealand), Goesan County (South Korea), Bislig City (Philippines), Tamil Nadu State (India), Manyara Region of Tanzania (East Africa), South-West Region of Nigeria (West Africa), Quito Region (Ecuador), Chester County in Pennsylvania (USA), Cilento Bio-district (Italy), Södertälje Municipality (Sweden) and Mouans-Sartoux Municipality (France). The OFS key actors range from the actors of value chain (from primary producer all the way to consumer), to NGOs and donor organizations, research and academia as well as some case-specific actors (e.g. tour operators). The relations vary from strictly transactional (especially between the actors in value chain) to a high degree of collaboration based on knowledge exchange/transfer and networking. Also, competition has been reported by the organic actors, however this was mostly referred to as a "healthy" competition. Finally, a high convergence between key actors' individual values and their drivers to engage in organic has been identified, which, in turn, seems to explain the emerging outcomes of the systems documented - on individual, communal and ecosystem levels.

For more information, please refer to "Organic Food System cases around the world", Vol. 1, publication series "Sustainable Food Systems": <https://www.uni-kassel.de/go/OFS-case-studies>

Del. 6 (Chapter 036) of our first OFSP Interim Report of the work period 2017-2022: pp. 98-103

By Lilliana Stefanovic (l.stefa@uni-kassel.de)



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How do you put a food system into a computer?

Anyone who is interested in nutrition or works in this area is aware of the complexity and the various interactions between different sub-areas within nutrition. Four experts from the organic food industry that ignited this project: Johanna Stumpner, Manual Pick, Christoph Spahn, and Carola Strassner and faced an intellectual challenge to create a new, holistic and sustainable food system. However, this soon became so complex, that it led to a mind map being made which would overwhelm any target audience. This is where the students from ecosign Academy for Design in Cologne, Germany, came into the project.

What started as a mind map would soon grow bigger than the four of the experts could have imagined at the beginning of the creation of the food system. As part of a cooperation with the ecosign Academy for Design, a semester project began that nine students wanted to take on together with the support of their lecturer: to design a nutrition system representation that should be user-friendly, compact and interactive. From the overwhelming mind map, which held a lot of potential, a system was to be created and developed. The goal was to simultaneously show the complexity of the world of nutrition and to offer the user a pleasant user interface.

A model/prototype was created, based on the idea of a circular, fractal system which would be of interest to both the consumers and the producers of nutrition. The model provides a comprehensive overview of the dimensions of a nutritional system and allows you to delve deep into them, exploring the different categories. The different dimensions can be discovered in the form of a dining table. To begin exploring the nutritional system, take a seat at the table. We then continue to the plates, where further interests the different topics revealed. After selecting individual interests, we come to the most detailed level, where one can nibble at the filtered information. Through the playful and interactive user experience, the user can pave his way through the mind map in an organized way. This allows all users to view the complex model in a simple way, allowing the users to have a pleasant experience whilst educating themselves about a complicated system.

How will the project continue? The students created a presentation based on a prototype that was made. Then a presentation took place at the organic trade fair BioFach in Nuremberg, where interested parties could learn more about the topic and the project itself. It would be a shame to not develop this project and let its potential go to waste. If your interests in this project have been sparked, then we would love to invite you to take a closer look at the project and become involved in the development of it.

We send the readers of the Organic Food System Newsletter many productive ideas hoping you are inspired by this vast project and would be delighted to hear from you! - Alisa & Marie; ecosign / Academy for Design

For further information please contact Manuel Pick (pick.nicker@gmx.de)



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Anticancer activity of extracts from organic and conventional highbush blueberry fruits

Blueberries from organic, biodynamic and conventional cultivation in the same geographical region were studied in 2016 and 2017. In both years of the study, blueberries from organic/biodynamic production contained more total polyphenols and most subgroups of polyphenols than fruit from conventional production. However, on the basis of our study, it cannot be concluded that biodynamic cultivation provides a significantly higher nutritional value of the crop compared to organic cultivation. In general, extracts from organic blueberries had a stronger effect on proliferation and induced apoptosis and necrosis of HT-29 cells than conventional blueberries. However, the results regarding fruit composition and biological activity differed slightly between the years of the study, which may be due, among other things, to completely different weather conditions in the two seasons. The anticancer drugs %-FU and Erbitux inhibit the proliferation of new HT - 29 cells, but the addition of blueberry extracts has no additional effect in this case.

Preliminary results indicate that organic blueberry extracts may be useful in cancer prevention. However, a two-year study is not sufficient to fully assess the impact of the quality and biological efficacy of organic blueberry extracts from different crops. These issues should be studied on a long-term basis due to variable and unpredictable environmental factors.

By: Kiernożek, E.; Maślak, P.; Kozłowska, E.; Jarzyna, I.; Średnicka-Tober, D.; Hallmann, E.; Kazimierczak, R.; Dreła, N.; Rembiałkowska, E.



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Task Force on KPIs and Key Metrics for OFS

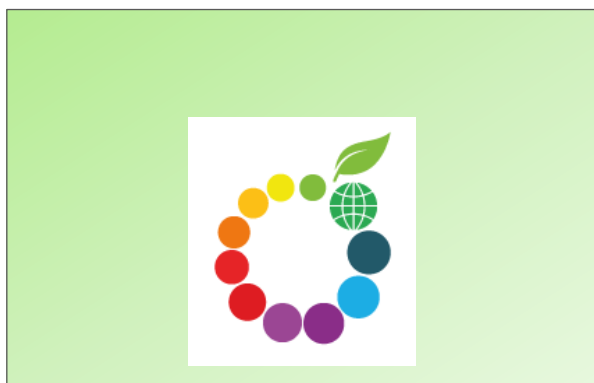
We know that Organic Food Systems deliver benefits and positive impacts to communities and the planet as a whole. Proving *how* we know is one of OFSP's key strategies to spread interest and gain support for this way of life. One way we can do this is by measuring what we achieve through our collective efforts. The OFSP Steering Committee is convening a Task Force to draft a common set of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and Key Metrics that can be globally generated and compared, fed by practical and realistic kinds of data that our partners can collect, and which we can aggregate to show our cumulative impacts.

The Task Force is intended to have approximately 10-12 members, representing a diverse and holistic range of expertise, perspectives, and geographies, to generate a draft set of KPIs and metrics. That draft will then be shared broadly with OFSP partners and other stakeholders to further refine and finalize it. Using this data framework, OFS around the world can gather and contribute data, evaluate their own strengths and challenges, and share their results with others. OFSP will aggregate results and report them to the UN program and others as part of its advocacy efforts. OFSP partners and other aligned stakeholders will likewise be able to use a globally harmonized set of data points, measured outcomes and impacts delivered by organic food systems to learn, improve, share and spread good practice.

The OFSP Steering Committee is actively inviting interest to participate on the Task Force, which will begin May-June 2023 and likely extend into early 2024. Most work will occur through simple online shared document platforms, with occasional virtual meetings. **If you are interested in being part of the Task Force, please email David Gould**, with a brief description of your intent and qualifications.

By David Gould (davidfgould@msn.com)

Thank you for reading!



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