

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM)



ADELAIDE DECLARATION

The 15th Organic World Congress of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) calls upon governments worldwide:

- to actively endorse and practically support organic agriculture
- further, it calls on individual governments to allocate budgetary funds for investment into organic agriculture. The minimum must be proportionate to the organic sector's production in their countries
- internalize social and environmental costs in the prices of agricultural products and remunerate organic farmers for ecosystem services.

It also calls on international agribusiness to listen to the consumer and to embrace more organic principles, and thus develop truly sustainable agricultural and food systems.

The 1,000 delegates from over 50 countries supported this declaration at the 15th Organic World Congress held in Adelaide, Australia from September 20th – 23rd 2005.

The Congress presented 360 papers on a broad range of issues including development policies, contributions of organic agriculture to biodiversity, climate change, fossil fuel depletion and carbon sequestration, social justice, food security and quality, animal husbandry and animal welfare, and national perspectives of organic agriculture's contribution to rural development.

The associated scientific conference underpinned the organic perspective with data to support and prove the claims made.

Organic agriculture is a comprehensive system affecting all levels of sustainability – ecological, social and economic. Organic practices enable farmers to improve soil fertility and prevent soil degradation, one of the world's main agricultural problems.

The safety and security of food are enhanced by the integrated and traceable approach to production which draws on century old traditions and the latest best practice ecological sciences to work in balance with nature and biodiversity.

Organic agriculture concerns itself with more than output. It values the input of those who produce the food and the health and wellbeing of those who eat it – people.

Other farming systems claim to be sustainable, but offer only partial solutions, sometimes creating new problems without addressing systemic issues.

Organic agriculture has the leading role in shaping sustainable systems.

September 23, 2005