

IFOAM *asia*

ANNUAL REPORT



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IFOAM ASIA IN 2020

The Year 2020 is a unique year for IFOAM Asia. For the first time in its history, it hosted all of its events virtually. The global pandemic has prompted IFOAM Asia to conduct its events through an online platform and broadcast them live through its social media accounts.

The new way of organizing the events was well received by IFOAM Asia's members, partners and friends. More than 2,000 viewers from 46 countries and regions witnessed the ALGOA 5th Anniversary and Asia Organic Day and the 6th ALGOA Summit.

Key partnerships were also formed in 2020, with ALGOA and IN.N.E.R. meeting in Rome, Italy last February which eventually led to the establishment of the Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD). The IFOAM Asia Organic Youth Forum together with the Young Organics of Europe successfully launched the Young Organics Global Network (YOGN) and another crucial sector platform is taking place, with the Women in Organic Agriculture in Asia (WOAA).

IFOAM Asia in 2020 has shown resiliency and adapted to the current situation and will continue to mainstream organic agriculture throughout the region.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ZHOU ZEJIANG



We are coming to the end of an extraordinary year under the unexpected consequences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have all struggled with the restrictions of mobility and the lack of personal contact with loved ones and loyal members and partners in the organic movements. However, it is under such adversity when humanity shows its true face and persevere to find creative and innovative ways to overcome such crisis.

Preserving personal health and immunity became top priority and the sales of organic food surged in many countries in the world. Once again, people have become more aware of the health benefits of organic food and many countries saw an increase of more than twenty percent in sales of organic food. The

importance of locally produced food has also become more prominent and many consumers started to buy locally produced food in the midst of the breakdown of the international food system and logistics.

IFOAM Asia, in the pandemic era, has adapted well to working virtually, with the staff in three countries (South Korea, China and the Philippines). There were more events in 2020 than in other years as the staff made careful use of the budget allocated to maximize the impact of the projects.

Perhaps the two biggest achievements were in the ALGOA Projects, generously sponsored by Goesan County, the seat of the presidency since 2015. At the ALGOA 5th Anniversary, three ALGOA Centers were designated in three different locations of Asia to expand and professionalize the work of ALGOA. Another achievement is the globalization of ALGOA with the formal launching of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) in partnership with the International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.) and other partners around the world.

Another achievement that made history was the launch of the Young Organics-Global Network (YOGN), made possible by the efforts of the IFOAM Asia Organic Youth Forum and the young people in Europe and Latin America. I wish to commend the efforts of the young people in taking the initiative to move forward and expand globally. There will be no future in the organic sector without our future generations.

I am sure that the year of 2021 will also be another fruitful year for IFOAM Asia as it is the year when we will elect a new board and meet at the 4th Organic Asia Congress. Another sector platform, the Women in Organic Agriculture in Asia (WOAA) will be launched, and the Asian organic movement will be strengthened and enriched by the more active participation of our sisters in the decision-making processes and events of IFOAM Asia.

Finally, I wish you and your families good health and happiness!

I. ALGOA PROJECTS



Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture

The Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture or ALGOA is a daughter organization of IFOAM Asia and was established on the 19th of September, 2015. More than two hundred local governments from all over Asia are members of ALGOA which aims to promote the expansion of Organic Agriculture in the region.

Goesan County in South Korea has been the seat of presidency since 2015 and the annual ALGOA events have been some of the largest gathering of organic movements and local governments with a common objective in Asia.

<THE 5TH ALGOA ANNIVERSARY AND THE ASIA ORGANIC DAY>

The 5th ALGOA Anniversary which also coincided with the Asia Organic Day was held virtually last September 18th at 1300 Korean Standard Time. Government officials from Goesan county, led by its Mayor, Lee Cha Young, celebrated the event which was broadcast live on Youtube and Facebook. More than 300 people from 30 countries and regions registered for the event and another 1,000 more viewed it from the comfort of their homes.



The Designation of Three ALGOA Centers

One of the highlights of the ALGOA 5th Anniversary and Asia Organic Day was the designation of three ALGOA Centers: the ALGOA Center for Public Procurement (New Taipei City), the ALGOA Center for Organic Governance (The League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces in the Philippines or LOAMCP-Ph) and the ALGOA Center for Organic Leadership (Goesan County, South Korea).

<THE 6TH ALGOA SUMMIT: BUILDING ALLIANCES BEYOND ASIA>



The 6th ALGOA Summit was held virtually under the theme “Building Alliances Beyond Asia” and was attended by more than 400 people from 46 countries and regions and another 1,600 people viewed the live stream on Facebook.

The Summit had speakers from various international organizations from around the world such as the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), IFOAM Organics International, FAO, Regeneration International, 4per1000, IFOAM Organics Europe, INRAE France, the Organic Food System Programme (OFSP), the International Network for Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.) and the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and Provinces in the Philippines (LOAMCP-Ph).

The annual ALGOA Summit is a gathering of local governments, IFOAM members and other stakeholders in the region to exchange best practice and to discuss ways to enhance government action , support and policy to foster growth in the organic sector.

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<THE 2020 ALGOA ORGANIC FOUNDATION COURSE>



The 2020 ALGOA Organic Foundation Course (OFC) included twenty-eight trainees from eight countries and regions from all over Asia.

The Organic Foundation Course is an annual training program offered to ALGOA and IFOAM Asia members and focuses on the basics of organic agriculture and organic leadership with the aim of capacity-building of local government officials and leaders of the younger generations. The 7-day residential training is fully sponsored by Goesan County, South Korea.

As of September 2020, almost two hundred people in Asia have received the training. For the OFC in 2021, a masterclass will be offered to selected former trainees to update their knowledge and share their experiences in the organic sector.

II. PROJECTS WITH PARTNERS

<ALGOA AND IN.N.E.R. HISTORIC AGREEMENT FOR WORLD ORGANIC INVOLVEMENT>



Last February 6th, in Rome, Italy, ALGOA, led by its President, Mayor Lee Cha Young of Goesan County, South Korea and IN.N.E.R., the International Network for Eco-Regions, led by its President, Salvatore Basile, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the sharing of the experience from processes, examples and knowledge from the work done by both parties and Invite other local governments of the world to form an example of a dynamic global organic food system.

The International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.) was officially established as an International Association on the 14th of December 2014 in Italy, where the Cilento eco-region model was implemented in 2004 and successively disseminated worldwide. There are currently about 40 bio-districts/eco-regions operating in Italy. Other countries where the eco-regions have been implemented are Portugal, France, Austria, Switzerland, Spain. Eco-Regions acts based on the principles of organic agriculture of health, ecology, fairness and care and are applying a food system approach facilitating interactions between all actors.

The MoU was fully supported by IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM EU, Mouans-Sartoux/Un Plus Bio, Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and Organic Food System Programme.

II. PROJECTS WITH PARTNERS

<THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ORGANIC DISTRICTS (GAOD)>



www.gaod.online

The Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD) is the product of the ALGOA and IN.N.E.R. partnership last February 6th in Rome, Italy where they signed an MOU. Since then, GAOD has further allied with other like-minded organizations such as Regeneration International, the League of Organic Municipalities, Cities & Provinces in the Philippines (LOAMCP-Ph), IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Organics Europe, Organic Food Systems Programme (OFSP) and Baltic Charity Foundation.

The Launching of GAOD and the Inaugural Declaration

Last October 12th, 2020, GAOD was formally launched during the Opening Ceremony of the 6th ALGOA Summit: Building Alliances Beyond Asia, followed by the reading of the GAOD Inaugural Declaration (found next page). During the launching, ALGOA was designated as the GAOD Secretariat for Asia.

GAOD hosted the GAOD Work Groups and Breakout Session in the evening session of the Summit, held everyday at 1820 Korean Standard Time / 1100 Central European Summer Time from October 13th-15th.

The Global Alliance for Organic Districts Main Partners



International
Network of
Eco
Regions



Supported by:



Global Alliance for Organic Districts Inaugural Declaration

THE FUTURE WE WANT AND THE NEED FOR ACTION NOW!

Sustainable food production and consumption are the keys to increasing both human and ecological capacities to cope with major challenges such as health, food and nutrition security, climate change and loss of biodiversity. The transformation of global food and farming systems is also crucial to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to this end, building effective partnerships and scaling out examples of practical solutions is highly important.

Climate Change is one of the greatest existential threats to all communities on this planet. Agricultural systems that regenerate soil organic matter by drawing down carbon dioxide via photosynthesis are more resilient to weather extremes caused by climate change. These systems can also make a considerable contribution to reversing climate change by drawing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and storing it in the soil.

Many of the municipalities and regions of the parties in the alliance are in rural areas and their main activities are related to agriculture. As such, they produce food from the land with the supply also to the population living in cities, attending schools and being cared for and represent a cultural heritage with nature and landscape in living vital ecosystems. Seen in the perspective of the need for an integrated food system approach for healthy and environmental friendly dietary patterns, this opens up for developing new rural-urban linkages to provide more and better jobs for youth in agriculture and food systems and in general, a potential for the revitalization of rural areas.

The founding parties have established working models and living laboratories for transformation processes towards sustainable food and farming systems based on actions from local and sub national governments and integrating public and private institutions, civil society, farms, small and medium enterprises.

With the cooperation established and reaching out to all continents we will also be working to support likeminded initiatives at national and pan national level and in particular in their focus to combat climate change and biodiversity losses and to build a new economic system that is more environmentally friendly, supporting health and social fairness globally.

More than ever, amidst the current Coronavirus situation, the Global Alliance for Organic Districts together with other likeminded organizations must lead the way making definite impact in the local, national, and global levels – and action is needed NOW!

VISON

To co- create a global network able to support the local development of Organic Districts in different territorial contexts and scaling out examples of practical solutions; the transformation of global food and farming systems as key towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general and Sustainable Food Systems in particular.

II. PROJECTS WITH PARTNERS

<THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MARKETING (CIEOMA)>



Last February 24th, IFOAM Asia and Government of New Taipei City jointly established the Center for Excellence in Organic Agriculture Marketing or CIEOMA. IFOAM Asia was represented by its Vice President, Miyoshi Satoko.

CIEOMA "aims to build a platform that link to potential urban organic consumption through digital technology and innovative marketing channels, in order to enhance the sales of organic products. CIEOMA also aims to lead and assemble the platforms of organic agriculture, promotes organic trade in Asia and communication among activist and youths in the region."

III. THE ASIAN ORGANIC YOUTH FORUM

In 2016, IFOAM Asia organized the first ALGOA Organic Foundation Course (OFC) under the full sponsorship of Goesan County in South Korea. That same year, the first graduates of the OFC formed the historic Asian Organic Youth Forum, which aimed to create a platform where the youth can be empowered by the organic pioneers and by self-organizing events. Since then, the Asian Organic Youth Forum has trained over 300 people from the public and private sectors from all over Asia including incumbent mayors.

The 1st World Organic Youth Summit was supposed to be held in 2020 in Goesan County, South Korea, but due to the pandemic situation, it will be moved to June 29th to July 1st, 2021.

In 2020, the Asian Organic Youth Forum turned global by partnering with an organic youth group from Europe. The two groups worked together to form the historical Young Organics Global Network (YOGN).

<THE YOUNG ORGANICS GLOBAL NETWORK>

The Young Organics Global Network (YOGN) was formally launched virtually at the ALGOA 5th Anniversary and Asia Organic Day on the 18th of September, 2020.

The establishment of YOGN was initiated by members of two youth organizations - Young Organics and the Asian Organic Youth Forum.



With the merging of two major youth groups from different regions of the world, YOGN aims to become the platform for the global organic youth who will learn from each other, train and inspire other youth to take the organic movement forward.



For more information on
YOGN, please visit
www.yoglobalnetwork.com

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Inaugural Declaration Young Organics Global Network (19 September 2020)

We, the Young Organics – Global Network, on this historic day, 19 September 2020, pledge to follow in the footsteps of our organic pioneers to uphold the Principles of Organic Agriculture and to create a more sustainable and just world. We continue the work started by the Asian Organic Youth Forum and Young Organics by joining forces with other young people globally to achieve the goals of our mission:

To become the voice representing young people in the organic and sustainable agriculture sector;

To ensure that the pivotal roles of young people are recognized during the policy and decision-making processes to address their complex and multifaceted needs;

To become an inspirational platform connecting young people in the organic and sustainable agriculture sectors;

To lead young people from the organic and sustainable agriculture sectors to participate proactively for social and political change,

We, the Young Organics – Global Network, believe in the transformation of the current food systems into more sustainable and organic food systems, which prioritizes the well-being of the ecosystems and the health of life on Earth. We also recognise agricultural practices that respect all forms of life based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture - as the best solution to create a more sustainable future.

In truly organic food systems, the principle of fairness is upheld in the way goods are produced, distributed, and consumed.

In truly organic food systems, the principle of Care is upheld as the health and well-being of current and future generations are looked after, and the environment is managed in a precautionary and responsible manner without the use of technologies that could cause untold and unknown damage.

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Inaugural Declaration Young Organics Global Network (cont'd) (19 September 2020)

We, the Young Organics – Global Network, want to restore the pride of our organic farmers who are not just the producers of our food but the protectors of human health and our Mother Earth. Our Organic Farmers are our superheroes! – they are the **artisans, doctors and stewards** of our health and the planet we live in. Without our organic farmers, we and our planet are at risk.

We, the Young Organics – Global Network, call upon the private and the public sectors and all other stakeholders to join us in achieving the following:

To guarantee that the role of young people is recognised and valued by the decision-makers in our communities and governments;

To include organic agriculture in the curricula of primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education;

To allocate resources for the creation of platforms for research and innovation in organic agriculture to build cross-disciplinary and multisectoral approaches that develop solutions to address environmental and social problems;

To further support the development, dissemination, and replication of best practices to advocate organic agriculture as a solution to overcome the Climate Emergency and social injustice.

We, the Young Organics – Global Network, respect and celebrate diversity and go beyond differences and prejudices, to join hands, minds, and hearts to achieve our goals. We will persevere to become agents of change, to pursue innovations with courage and ingenuity, guided by the Principles of Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care.

We, the Young Organics – Global Network, urge everyone to join us in our quest to create a more sustainable future. We cannot do it alone. We all have a common responsibility to Mother Nature and to our future generations and should not undermine Mother Nature's ability to provide for the generations to come. We should become One and "be the change that we wish to see in the world."

IV. SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

<THE ALGOA AND GAOD BOOKS>

IFOAM Asia and ALGOA created a total of 8 Books which were published from August to December:

1. The ALGOA 5th Anniversary Book
2. The ALGOA OFC Reader
3. The ALGOA Summit Proceedings
4. The GAOD Book Series

Book 1: Introductory Phase: Pathways to Cooperation

Book 2: Covid-19 and Organic Agriculture: Organic food consumption- a step forward for sustainability

Book 3: Contributions from the Working Groups of GAOD: Best Practices from Five Continents

Book 4: Contributions from the Working Groups of GAOD

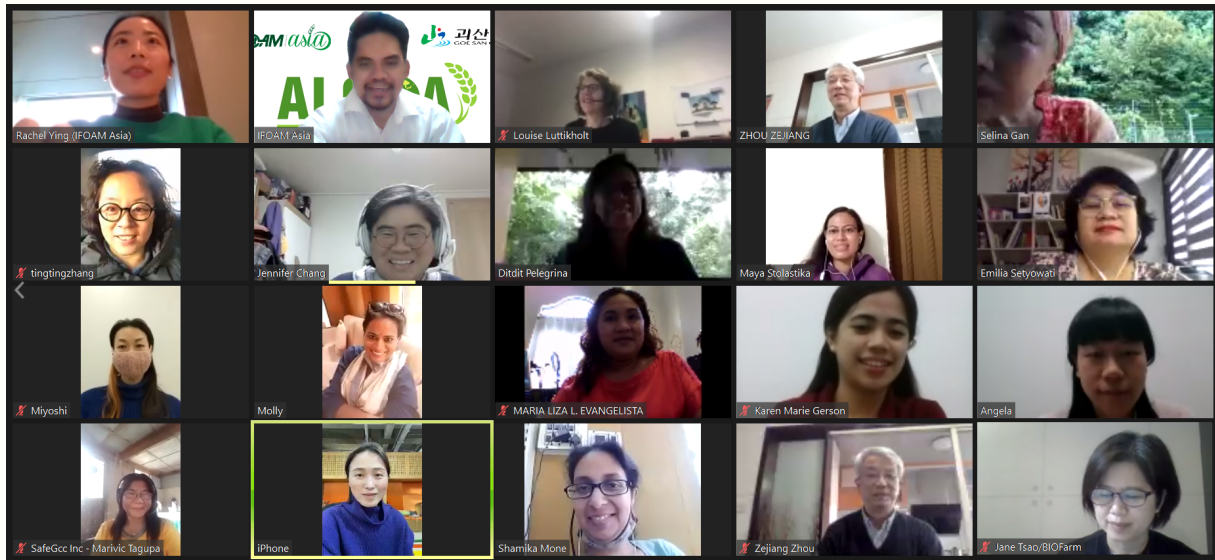
Book 5: Contributions from the Working Groups of GAOD

Click on the books below to download!



V. THE WOMEN SECTOR PLATFORM

<THE WOMEN IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN ASIA>



The Formation of the “Women in Organic Agriculture in Asia” (WOAA) has been discussed in IFOAM Asia for the past four years with the aim of becoming the voice to represent women involved in organic agriculture.

WOAA will also liaise with other like-minded organizations to establish the legal framework to guarantee the roles and benefits for women in the organic sector. It will focus on the empowerment of the next generation of women dedicated to the organic sector through training, mentoring and advocacy. An annual training course on organic agriculture and leadership and a biennial WOAA Summit will be organized for women to learn and share their experiences; and formulate plans to take the organic agriculture movement forward.

The launch of WOAA is scheduled for November 2021 at the 4th Organic Asia Congress in Indonesia and the first preparatory discussion for the launch was held on December 16th, 2020. The first discussion was participated by women leaders from more than ten countries and regions in Asia.

V. CONTACT US



2F Chungbuk Organic Agriculture Research
Institute, Goesan County, Chungbuk Province
South Korea

staff@asia.ifoam.bio



Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture

staff.algoa@gmail.com

IFOAM Asia China Office

<http://www.ifoam-asia.cn/>



staff.oyf@gmail.com



li.feng.organic@outlook.com