



International Conference
In Commemoration of the UN Year of the Woman Farmer
- Recognizing Women Farmers: Driving Equity, Sustainability, and Innovation

26-27 June 2026, State of Meghalaya, India

Co-Organized by

Meghalaya Natural & Organic Farming Society
for Livelihood & Innovation in Agriculture (MEGNOLIA)
IFOAM-Organics Asia

In Collaboration with

State Government of Meghalaya

Coordinated by

Cold mountain Food Processing and Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd

1. Summary

Date	Activity
June 25 (Thurs)	Arrival in Shillong
June 26 (Fri)	(Day 1) Opening ceremony Plenary Lunch Sessions Welcoming Dinner
June 27 (Sat)	(Day 2) Morning Plenary & Closing Ceremony Field Trips
June 28 (Sun)	Departure

1. Program Details

(Day 1) Inaugural Session Moderator: Local Youths	
(09:30~11:30)	
Ceremonial Opening	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Invocation • Lighting of the Lamp • Cultural Performance 	
Addresses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugural Address <i>Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya</i> • Welcome Addresses <i>Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare / Community & Rural Development, Government of Meghalaya</i> <i>Mathew John, President of IFOAM-Organics Asia</i> • Special Addresses <i>Secretary / Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India</i> <i>Karen Mapusua, President of IFOAM-Organics International</i> <i>Representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization</i> 	
12:00	Opening of the Special Exhibition and VIP tour - seeds, organic products, cultural and traditional handicrafts
12:30	Lunch

(14:00~15:45) Session 1: Women as Change Makers in Indigenous, Matrilineal and Community-owned Farming Systems	
Moderator: Shamika Mone, President, Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmer Organizations (INOFO)	
1. Local Case Study 2. Whenua, Women and Wisdom leading Traditional Food Systems By Taysha Erika Sangster, Environmental Management Expert & Indigenous leader 3. Swasakthi: Empowering Rural Women through Cooperatives, Livelihoods and Ecological Agriculture By Mary Vattamattam, Co-Founder & Director of the Timbaktu Collective, Gold Prize Winner, One World Award 2014 Q&A	
15:45	Break
(16:00~17:45) Session 2: Women Farmers, Fair Value Chains and Access to Organic Markets	
Moderator: Achala Samaradivakara, Managing Director, Good Market	
1. The Success Story of the Women Dairy Farmers from the Sundarbans By Sabyasachi Roy, Head of the National Organic Dairy Board & Representatives of the Sundarban Cooperative Milk & Livestock Producers' Union Limited (India) 2. From Our Fields to Trust: Women Organic Farmers in Vietnam Building PGS Together By Tu Thi Tuyet Nhung, Board Member, Vietnam Organic Agriculture Association (Vietnam) 3. Growing Award-Winning Organic Tea in the Hills of Taiwan By Hung Chia Yu & Lee Chang Chun, co-owners, Gufang Organic Tea Garden & Factory (Taiwan) 4. From Mountains to Markets: Women Farmers and Organic Berry Value Chains in Kyrgyzstan's Nomadic Communities By Tungalag Lkhundevjamts, President, Organic Alliance Central Asia (Mongolia) Q&A	
18:30	Welcoming Dinner & Cultural Program
(Day 2) Sessions Continue	
(09:00-10:30) Session 3: From Fields to Policy: Empowering Women Farmers at Scale	
Moderator: Brendan Hoare, Special Adviser, IFOAM-Organics Asia & CEO, Buy Pure NZ	
1. Supporting Young Organic Women Farmers through the Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture (YIPOA) By Bernadette San Juan, Director of the National Organic Agriculture Program, Department of Agriculture (Philippines) 2. Achieving Gender Equality: Women Farmers and Fisherfolk Happiness Voucher Card By Kim Seung Ae, Chair, Damyang County Women Farmers Association, National Women Farmers' Association (South Korea) 3. Local Case Study Q&A	

(10:30~11:45) Session 4: Cultivating Change: Inspiring Journeys of Women Organic Farmers	
Moderator: Vandana Maheshwari, Special Adviser, IFOAM-Organics Asia	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tomoyo Tamayama, Organic Farmer, Noritama Farm, Japan 2. Olivia Harding, Organic Dairy Farmer, New Zealand 3. Josephine Costales, Owner, Costales Organic Farm, Philippines 4. Tseten Dolma Lama, Humla Indigenous Community Entrepreneur, Nepal 	
Q&A	
(12:00~12:30) Closing Ceremony	
Moderators: Local Youths	
Representatives from the State Government of Meghalaya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of key conference outcomes • Felicitations • Closing Addresses 	
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Government of Meghalaya</i> <i>Mathew John, President of IFOAM-Organics Asia</i>	
12:30	Lunch
(13:30 ~18:00) Field Trip	
18:30	Dinner