

Press Release

International Society for Organic Agriculture Research Founded

Professor Köpke of the Institute of Organic Agriculture Elected as President

(Bonn / Frick, 17.7.2003) On June 20th 2003 the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISO FAR) was founded in Berlin, Germany. Around 100 scientists from all parts of the world attended the event as founding members, representing many disciplines such as agronomy, socio-economics, as well as veterinary and nutrition sciences.

In their speeches the founders Professor Köpke from the Institute of Organic Agriculture (IOL), University of Bonn (Germany), and Dr. Urs Niggli, director of the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), stated that the establishment of ISO FAR was a historic step and an important milestone for the further development of organic agriculture world-wide.

Research must be considered as decisive factor for the future development of organic farming world-wide. Interdisciplinary cooperation between specialists and generalists is crucial. Therefore ISO FAR aims to

- Provide a home to all scientists with in an interest in organic farming
- Make scientific expertise – including mainstream agricultural research – better available to organic farming
- Use the latest scientific findings while remaining rooted to organic farming principles
- Maintain a holistic view through interdisciplinary and through participatory research
- Better understand and take into account complex interactions and long-term effects
- Promote an efficient transfer of knowledge, e.g. by financial promotion of transdisciplinary projects involving all players (researchers, advisors, farmers and other target groups)
- Promote scientific exchange and cooperation especially between the industrialised and developing countries.

International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR)

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IOL



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After the statutes were finalised the board was elected, consisting of twelve members from twelve different countries. Professor Ulrich Köpke was elected president, Dr. Urs Niggli is vice president. Dr. Erik Steen Kristensen of the Danish Research Centre of Organic Farming DARCOF will act as treasurer.

For further information please contact

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Information on ISOFAR, its board members, the launching ceremony including pictures as well as the speeches is available at the ISOFAR internet site at www.isofar.org.