

Ken Commins, Executive Director IOAS, gave an inspiring and stimulating keynote on the topic **“Fraud: detection and prevention”**. He presented the findings of a joint study with the National Cooperative Grocers Association (NCGA). The study resulted in a proposal for a retailer and trade sponsored program to detect and prevent intentional breaches of integrity in the organic supply chain (aka Sherlock).

Commins gave some chilling examples of fraud cases, some uncovered by chance, and noted that as long as the supply chains continue to get longer and more global, fraud concerns will increase.

A nonprofit oversight body would be established to implement the anti-fraud program. The proposed program would be separate from organic certification.

One program element is unannounced visits, a highly effective fraud measure with a proven deterrence effect. He noted that these are unfortunately too often happening on a logistics basis, rather than a risk basis. Five of 7 certifiers participating in the certifying body focus group findings reported having uncovered fraud as a result of unannounced visits. All 7 advocated unannounced visits as an important anti-fraud tool.

Other measures would include mass balance with upstream crosschecks and spot checking uncertified identities such as excluded handlers and importers. Mass balances done in isolation during the organic inspection are time consuming and never conclusive, but upstream crosschecks can be simple and valuable.

Commins spoke to the need to upgrade inspector quality world wide. He reported the results of the survey of certifiers which concluded that

- Quality improved over last 5/10 years
- None of them required inspectors to be accredited
- Only 1 required accounting experience and 2 others provided training
- Average estimate of 55% inspectors able for complex input/output Ω



Inge Vogelmann, Bob and Terrie Gent, all an integral part of the AGM Organizing Committee in AZ. Not pictured is Abed Anouti, supporting member and VP of the AZ Crop Improvement Association. Terrie found the Rio Rico venue for IOIA and assisted in many, many ways. Bob gave a riveting astronomy presentation after the AGM ended. Unfortunately, most members were too tired to stay up by then, or they lost track of time having a late supper and drinks in the Saloon. Those who went were glad they did, even with cloudy skies that cancelled the planned telescope viewing.



Ken Commins, Keynote Speaker, with ED Margaret Scoles.

“If we don’t have a good inspection – the finest certification agency in the world can do nothing but make a bad decision”.

Notes from AGM Committee Reports

Membership and Nominating Committees – Chris Kidwell. Nominating committee will be overseen by Chris Kidwell going forward. Kelly will continue to Chair membership.

Latin American Committee - Julio Perez-. Want to survey the NGO and certifiers in LA and determine ways to provide training needs in LA. Travel difficult and expensive for in-person trainings. Web page in Spanish and communicating with Brazil are the main goals for 2010.

Scholarship Committee - Michelle Sandy. Margaret Weigelt continues as Chair. Following explanation of how Yanni Liang of China received a special travel award funded by OCIS Scholarship., members volunteered suggestions on how to encourage member donations to this fund.

Accreditation Committee - No chair and it needs **“your help”**.

Canadian Committee - Dave Konrad. Bill Barkley took over in early 2009 as Chair. Committee has become much more active, due to implementation of the COR and Canadian Forum on the IOIA web set up by Diane Cooner. Bill extends invitation to all Canadian members to join the Forum. Kelly Monaghan took over IOIA’s seat as a voting member on the CGSB Organic Technical Committee from Janine Gibson. She was further promoted to become Chair of the Technical Committee.

IOIA in Asia

First Stop - Korea

The advanced course in Korea was a team effort between Bob Durst, IOIA BOD Chair and food scientist, speaking to HACCP, CCPs and OCPs; Margaret Scoles, ED, speaking to OCPs in Crop, Livestock, and Processing inspections; Isidor Yu, IOIA Trainer, organizer, facilitator of group exercises, and translator; and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, who assisted throughout. The training was the culmination of months of planning on the part of KFSAO and KOIA.

It was delivered in English and translated to Korean. Bilingual course manuals were printed in Korean and English. Participants included consultants, certifiers, industry representatives, and inspectors, most of who had been trained in previous IOIA courses in Korea.

During the training, IOIA presented **Han, Jung Yeol** (KOIA President) with a copy of Dr. Hubert Karreman's book, *Treating Dairy Cows Naturally* for the KOIA resource library.



Isidor Yu - IOIA/KOIA Trainer who made it all possible, from planning the agenda, meals, transportation, and training to translating for the English speaking visitors, always with good humor and enthusiasm.

Day 1: Grower Group inspection and certification was the topic of an all-day workshop on March 27 at NAQS offices, followed by the KOIA Annual Meeting. Mutsumi presented her perspective and experience inspecting grower groups and

explained the Japanese situation. The ED presented the North American perspective, including the recent NOSB recommendation

and the relevance of grower group certification within North America and within imported trade. Amos Lee of Control Union was the final presenter.



IOIA ED Margaret Scoles with Dr. and Mrs. Leigh, Gee Song of Doalnara Certified Organic Korea on an outing to historic Gyeongbok Palace, built in the 14th century. Photo Credit Raymond Yang

Day 2: Sightseeing at the historic Gyeongbok Palace, among other things!

Days 3 and 4: HACCP vs OCPs was the focus of the first Advanced Training in Korea, cosponsored by the Korean Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organizations (KFSAO), and held at the Agriculture Technology Center.



Day 5: March 31: The IOIA group visited the MIFAFF and NAQS offices formally to express appreciation for IOIA's endorsements by the Korean government. NAQS serves as the accrediting body for certifiers doing crop or livestock inspections (60+ certifiers in the country). NAQS also operates as a certifier. MIFAFF accredits the certifiers of processed foods (only 5 certifiers accredited in the country). IOIA Crop and Livestock Inspection Courses have now been approved by NAQS. MIFAFF approved IOIA as a training body for processing inspection in 2009. The IOIA delegation also encouraged a continuing recognition of KOIA. There are no plans at this time for KOIA to train independently from IOIA. However, IOIA, JOIA, and KOIA are committed to worth together to strengthen sister affiliate structure in Asia.

Project Cherry Blossom

The next stop on the *IOIA in Asia* tour was **Japan** and the offices of the **Japanese Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA)**. JOIA formed in 1998 and has been a supporting certification agency member of IOIA since that time, although they do not certify.

Yutaka Maruyama, Chairman of the Board of JOIA, and Trainer **Yoko Mizuno** welcomed the IOIA group at the Narita airport. Yoko hand-delivered everyone to the hotel, conveniently located next to a subway train station and surrounded by temples, shrines, rivers and canals, and other sites in easy walking distance.

Day 1, April 1, day off: Yoko arrived accompanied by new friend Eriko Saijo, one of Yoko's English language students and JOIA auditor. Eriko's task was to speak English with the group. About one hour's travel out of the city, the group arrived at Tsukuba Shrine to spend several hours, beginning with an exploration of the Shintu Buddhist shrine and grounds and learning the customs from Yoko. Then up a very steep cable car ride, arriving near the Mt. Tsukuba summit, and finishing the climb on foot. The weather was blustery and a bit cold for the picnic, with remnants of the winter snow holding on. Reversing the trek down, a festival was discovered at the bottom of the mountain. A ceremonial parade was headed up the path to the shrine, and it was one of the two days out of the year for festivals at the shrine. After parade watching, the group loaded up and headed for Ohshima Farm, a producer of specialty colored organic rice. After much hospitality including a supper feast and a tour of the farm, the group headed back to Tokyo.

Day 2: Yutaka, Yoko, **Mutsumi Sakuyoshi**, and the IOIA visitors spent about 2 hours meeting with four MAFF staff. **Masato Shimazaki** explained that JAS is in the midst of their 5-year review. Topics of particular interest were alkali-extracted humic acid and lignin sulfonate as a floating agent for tree fruit. Mr. Shimazaki expressed interest in hearing about IOIA's plans for a training institute, and more rigorous inspector accreditation program. He became interested in the topic for the next day's JOIA workshop and decided to attend and fully participate. The afternoon was spent with a short meeting with the JOIA BOD and a presentation on JOIA by Yutaka, followed by a 2-hour meeting with certifiers with a long list of questions, mostly NOP related, and a short visit to the JOIA office.



Day 2 - Yoko Mizuno, Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, Yutaka Maruyama, Bob Durst, and Margaret Scoles in the JOIA office. Mutsumi and Yoko serve as Trainers and BOD advisors. JOIA welcomed the ED, Bob Durst, and wife Sherry with an amazing hospitality. JOIA dubbed the event "Project Cherry Blossom" and updated members daily on the group's activities via a blog complete with photos. The title was apropos, as the IOIA delegation arrived in the peak of cherry blossom season.



Yoko assists a small group during an all-day JOIA workshop on April 3.

pieces, and drew it all together to make a very effective 1-day workshop. Professional translation was provided. After dinner, the group walked to a nearby city park, which is open during the evening for a lighting show during cherry blossom season for 5 days. Yutaka shepherded the group and no one got lost in the dark. The entire group huddled together under blossom filled trees for the final photo. Ω

Day 3: JOIA workshop was attended by about 30 participants. It focused on organic control points for processing. Durst opened with an in-depth presentation on HACCP, CCPs, and OCPs. He ended with a juice processing flow chart, coupled with evaluation of the CCPs and OCPs. Scoles started the afternoon with OCPs in Processing, including a few different processes as illustration. She ended with a detailed virtual slide show of goat cheese. This process was selected by the trainer team for its novelty. It was to be a new process for most everyone in the group. After a photo tour of the facility, small groups were organized with the task of creating a flow chart for the process, complete with CCPs and OCPs. A few groups were selected to make a final presentation. The key person to making it all work was Mutsumi, who had just spent 4 days in Korea with Durst and Scoles. She studied the presentations used there, suggested additions, created some new

Japan and JOIA Organic Facts - (Excerpted from Organic Situation in Japan): prepared by Yutaka Maruyama

Organic Production in Japan: .18% of total production
Current growth rate: less than 1%
Certification (as of May 31, 2009):
JAS certifiers: 65
Certified farms: 1990
Certified processors: 1,020
Certified re-labelers: 159
Certified Importers: 156
Members: 239 (130 Inspectors, 109 supporting individuals, 39 corporations)
Membership fee, inspectors: JPY 12,000 (about \$120 US)

BOD members: Yutaka Maruyama (Chair); Setsuko Hata (Vice Chair); Kazuyo Ito, Nobuaki Hariu, Miho Yamasaki
Office Staff: Riichiro Suzuki, and Kazuko Tsujihata, both part-time.
Publications: IFOAM/IOIA inspection manual translation; Organic producers/processors handbook, 17 different booklets in Japanese language for inspectors, and JAS/NOP/EU Comparison.
Meetings: bi-monthly

Budget: JOIA discontinued printing paper copy

newsletters and cut back on staff time to achieve a balanced budget in 2010.
Additional note: IOIA and JOIA are seeking to define a more appropriate structure, as JOIA is not a certifier. Four IOIA members have IOIA Trainer status. All trainings in Japan are delivered in Japanese language. One of the challenges has been the slow growth of certified organic production and the difficulty in establishing a rate of pay for inspectors that can allow them to work. Most inspectors do a small number of inspections and are otherwise employed or they are retired.

Canadian Update

By Kelly A. Monaghan

Standards and PSL Update: The Canadian Organic Standards and Permitted Substances List are now once again available free of charge via

http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html

The proposed amendments to the standard and PSL are also available for review at:

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/prgsrv/stdsdev/nsa/pubrevdoc/pubrevdoc-e.html>

Until May 23rd, a public comment period is open for these amendments. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to review the amendments and submit any comments to the CGSB (procedures outlined on above website) for consideration.

After this date, the CGSB will summarize the comments received and provide them to the Voting Members of the CGSB's Technical Committee along with the ballot containing all of the proposed changes. This will ensure that all voting members are aware of the public comments, pro and con, that were received regarding the proposed changes.

Canada Organic Office: There have been some personnel changes at the Canada Organic Office since the last IOIA newsletter was published. Stephan O'Neil, Program Officer, has left the COO (that open position has not yet been filled) and James Crawford is the new Acting Director of the Agri-Food Division of CFIA after the departure of Jaspinder Komal.

These changes have challenged the COO at a time when there are a lot of other things on their plate – continued discussions with the USDA's NOP in the hopes of clarifying a number of confusing elements of the Canada / US Equivalency Agreement and working with the representatives of the European Union towards potential equivalency.

Standards Interpretation Committee:

The SIC has published two sets of answers to questions received to date on the standards and a third is almost complete. These 33 Q&As are subject to a 60-day comment period and are currently available for review at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/comqueste.shtml>

It is anticipated that ongoing there will be monthly updates from the SIC on questions received and reviewed.

Canadian International Negotiations: European Union – Representatives from the European Union will be in Canada for an audit visit in early May and will meet with the Canada Organic Office and several Conformity Verification Bodies, Certification Agencies and operators.

Kelly Monaghan is the current Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board's Organic Technical Committee. She also acts as IOIA's Membership Chairperson. You can contact her at www.ashstreetorganics.com.

Loblaw and U of Guelph Announce Chair in Sustainable Food Production

Loblaw Companies Ltd and the University of Guelph, announced on April 7 the creation of The Loblaw Companies Limited Chair in Sustainable Food Production. The chair was made possible by a \$3-million gift from Loblaw and will be the centre of U of G's research focus on creating robust food production systems. It will help lead change in food

production systems through education, research, practice and outreach within the context of the essential elements of sustainability: the environment, communities and the economy.

Among other things, The Loblaw Chair in Sustainable Food Production will pioneer approaches for dealing with the increasing challenges in agriculture and food production. This includes leading a national program in sustainable local food production, developing roundtables on the topic and creating an industry advisory group to guide novel curriculum development.

The chair will also assemble a core of researchers in agriculture and food production, lead collaborations in the public and private sectors, serve as a key resource for government food and agriculture policy development, and work to lead and advance the sustainability of agriculture and food production in Canada.

A search for the inaugural chair holder will begin immediately, and the position will be based at U of G's OAC in the Department of Plant Agriculture. Ω



A cold day at the Pollock Farm (Pat & Larry Pollock) near Brandon Manitoba. Gracious hosts with great guidance for the class participants and Group Leader, Garry Lean (front row, center).

The Canadian Standard was the focus of the Basic Crop Training - co-sponsored with Assiniboine Community College. The Field trip to the Pollack Farm included - spring spelt and other western cereals, pedigreed alfalfa seed with leaf cutter bees, and vegetable production for the local Brandon market. On-farm spelt dehulling was part of the enterprise.

IOIA/Control Union Curso, Lima, Peru 4 - 8 Enero 2010

Del 4 al 8 de Enero del 2010, se realizó un curso de capacitación en fincas, organizado por IOIA y por Control Union. Este curso fue realizado en las instalaciones del Programa de Investigación en Hortalizas (El Huerto) de la Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, en Lima, Perú.

Este curso, contó con la participación del instructor Luis Brenes, quien en todo momento mantuvo cautiva a la audiencia del curso, y que explicó de manera comprensiva y mediante ejemplos, los principales puntos de interés de las normas orgánicas NOP y 834/2007 y 889/2008.

Hasta este curso, llegaron participantes de diferentes nacionalidades, contando con personas que llegaron de México y Ecuador, lo que enriqueció el intercambio de información y de experiencias que hicieron del curso un verdadero lujo.

Los 4.5 días de duración del curso, fueron suficientes e incluyeron una gira de campo, para poner en práctica las habilidades de inspección.

Esperamos poder repetir esta experiencia con otro curso IOIA, que es en verdad una gran herramienta para los auditores.



IOIA/BCS Basic Farm Course, Guadalajara Mexico Feb 22-26, 2010

Del 22 al 26 de febrero del 2010 fue realizado el curso internacional para inspectores orgánicos organizado por el IOIA/BCS/Agroproyectos, realizado en Guadalajara, México. Al curso asistieron 17 profesionales, ingenieros agrónomos en su mayoría y productores o encargados de actividades de producción orgánica para la exportación, asesorías de importantes empresas a nivel nacional e internacional. El Curso contó con el apoyo de la Agroproyectos, quien funge como representante de BCS en México. En el curso se trató de resaltar la importancia de la regulación nacional en el campo de la producción orgánica como mecanismo de control y de homogenización de criterios nacionales. Durante el curso se presentaron muchas oportunidades de discutir temas de interés nacional y que están afectando los procesos de producción, credibilidad y control de los sistemas de producción, lo cual no se puede cambiar si no se cuentan con las herramientas técnicas y de logística. Durante la práctica de inspección fue visitada una empresa certificada dedicada a la producción de hortalizas la cual fue muy abierta en cuanto a la atención y accesibilidad de la información. ¡Muchas gracias a todos!



IOIA/BCS Basic Training Guadalajara, Mexico February 22-26, 2010

by Martha Santizo, BCS Guatemala. The IOIA/AGEXPORT/BCS basic organic training carried out in the city of Quetzaltenago, Guatemala was an opportunity to understand better the way to do business in the organic world based on the rules. At the beginning of the course the participants had an idea of what organic means. Now, they have developed their own criteria based on what they learned in the five-day

course. They shared their experiences, problems and triumphs as producers, agricultural consultants, students, professionals along with the facilitator who once again has given his best performance with relevant information regarding the matter.

IOIA Board of Directors Conference Call February 18, 2010

Minutes Highlights (for full minutes, see *Inspectors Only* section of IOIA website)

Attendance: Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Eric Feutz, and Margaret Scoles, ED. **Absent:** Stephen Bird, Lidia Giron and Julio Perez Secretary: Eric

Treasurer's Report: Gene provided a written Treasurer's Report to the BOD with attached balance sheets for 2009. The 2010 budget accepted to present to the AGM. TR accepted.

Action Point: ED to modify Budget to combine Curriculum, Equipment, and Training Institute into one line item before AGM.

HRA questions for BOD - The subject of the BOD deciding whether the funds in the HRA should be set up to roll over or a "use it or lose it" policy was discussed along with how and where the funds can be used by the employees. Bob suggests asking the staff how they would want the HRA program to be set up and the BOD will discuss it latter as it does not impact on the amount proposed in the draft budget.

Action Point: ED to have HRA account set up by February 28.

AGM:2009 Annual Report drafted by Bob and the ED and provided to the BOD. The ED asks what are good topics to discuss, such as the logo, Training Institute. ED-reminder for the committee chairs to survey their committees and invite them to add a slide to the AGM PPT and discuss it in person during the meeting.

Action Point Table Review: Do we want to keep the AP table? ED- Thinks we should include timeline in AP table and who is responsible. Bob thinks it would be OK to get minutes done and let staff edit the AP table after minutes are sent to the BOD. Another day or two to get the minutes out won't make a difference.

IOIA BOD in person March 5, 2010, Rio Rico, Arizona

Attendance: Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Eric Feutz, Julio Perez (First Alternate), Margaret Scoles, ED, and Michelle Sandy (board candidate, visitor). Julio will be a voting member for this meeting, Garry Lean (member, visitor). **Absent:** Lidia Girón, Stephen Bird Secretary: Eric

Logo Design Presentation at AGM - Decision to determine new logo - present 3-4 options and then let the BOD make final decision.

Latin American Plan: Julio noted that focus should be on contacting organizations rather than inspectors. IBD in Brazil could be a huge market. They train their own inspectors (may be in part due to the language). Need to get the LA certifiers on board to demand IOIA training to raise the bar. Don't see the inspectors coming into the fold by just lowering the fees.

Guests

1) Advisory Board - John Foster - topic was a focus in the 2003, 2005, and 2007 BOD retreats. The advisory board can be a force to help IOIA have an even stronger role in training. Seems to be an increase in variability in the inspection process when he actually expected a decrease with the advent of the NOP. Hopes we will solidify an advisory panel. John thinks IOIA needs be tuned in better to the certifiers. He would like to see IOIA increase their relevance and would like to see IOIA training be the gold standard. IOIA is the only place where a high degree of cross-pollination happens between inspectors from different parts of the countries and different certifiers. To the greater degree that inspectors continue the trend of working only regionally and only for 1 certifier (often getting their training in-house from that certifier) the greater the degree of inconsistency we will see in inspections. IOIA can do a lot to encourage cross-pollination. The advisory board's task would be to collect the data IOIA needs.

2) Urban Farming Grant - Julia Govis - ED, we are collaborating with Julia, University of Chicago, and city of Chicago on a grant. If the grant is funded, IOIA's share for advisory would be about \$10,000 a year. Final goal to present a recommendation to the NOSB for urban farming regulations.

3) IOIA/NOP Training - Mark Bradley - Discussion on potential IOIA-NOP collaborative training for inspectors. Mark is in charge of accreditation and training with NOP. Mark wants to keep lines of communications open with IOIA.

IOIA BOD in person March 8 and 9, 2010, Rio Rico, Arizona

March 8, 2010 Meeting 1:20 a.m. – 6:15 p.m. MST

Attendance: Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Jennifer Clifford, Eric Feutz, Michelle Sandy, Julio Perez (First Alternate), Bob Howe (Second Alternate) and Margaret Scoles, ED.

Set March 8, 2010 Agenda- Set for the March 8 and 9 in person meetings.

Board Positions - Discussion on Executive committee's positions.

Discussion on best days for BOD meetings. Will start with 7:00 PM EST on the third Tuesday of the month (Apr 20).

Latin America - Julio, proposed writing up the survey with Lidia to send to the LA certifiers and translate to English so the BOD can review it. Compile responses and bring back to the BOD and go from there in developing a plan.

Action Point: Julio will write up the survey with Lidia to send to the LA certifiers and translate to English so the BOD can review it. Compile responses and bring back to the BOD and go from there in developing a plan.

Insurance/Liability - States are coming down on certifiers that contract employees who look and behave as employees. Some certifiers are requiring inspectors to have liability insurance. May help to get insurance or establish contractor status if an individual is incorporated. Think it may be worthwhile for IOIA to get into dialogue with certifiers on this issue that potentially could be a lose/lose situation. Julio, suggest getting legal counsel to review the laws and NOP rules to present a position to the certifiers. ED, even if

certifier owns reports the inspector will always have some liability. Need to inform the certifiers that at this time liability insurance is not universally available. Business liability insurance is relatively easy to get, it is the errors and omissions that is not. If we can provide insurance for accredited inspectors then we could get a lot more applications for accreditation. This ties in with the NOP's movement towards requiring "accreditation" or testing of inspectors.

Action Point: IOIA to engage certifiers about insurance for inspectors but solutions are not at hand.

Logo: Jennie, is there a plan on how and when a decision will be made? By the BOD.

BOD members discussed the final design selections but reached no consensus for the best new logo. Deferred to later.

Jennie: Will contact Diane about contacting designer of #119.

ARP: What are we going to do here? It was hoped that someone during the AGM would have stepped forward. Need to talk to Monique Scholz, who said during the 2009 AGM that she wanted to devote time to the ARP.

Action Point: Need to contact certifiers for someone to be on the ARP. Margaret or Bob H.

Action Point: Need to get the ARP committee re-staffed. Margaret.

Brochure: Has been in the plans for several years. What is the target for the brochure? The target is for larger donors to increase our budget to build a training institute. This needs to show what we do and why we need donations, we are not trying to sell a product. Michelle offers to work on it. She has done lots of their own brochures and web designs.

March 9, 2010 Meeting 8:44 a.m. – 5:35 p.m. MST

Attendance: Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Jennifer Clifford, Eric Feutz, Michelle Sandy, Margaret Scoles, ED, Julio Perez (First Alternate) and Bob Howe (Second Alternate).

Training Institute: Bob D facilitated the discussions and brainstorming with all attendees for implementing the Training Institute. Ideas for education outreach options for the TI include: Web based, Static, Live. The proposed concept of the TI was developed. The remainder of the meeting focused on developing the concept of the IOIA Training Institute.

IOIA does not own training materials in Spanish but does have Spanish and French manuals. A list of specialty topics for advanced training within the TI was developed from which the group selected three "hot topics" to discuss during this meeting on how to develop for training. These topics included: Livestock DMI, Audit and Materials.

DMI is a "hot" topic. The BOD focused on how to develop it into the curriculum. The TI also needs to ensure ways it can react quickly to new, hot topics. We do have an excellent base of people within the organization to draw from. The TI will need to involve Technical Experts, Teaching Materials Developer, Validators for Content and Teachability, and an Environmental Scan/Needs Assessment that includes certifiers. Tests for each course would validate whether attendees have grasped the training. What is a reasonable time frame for a web based advanced training? Margaret replies approximately three hours. Estimated time to develop training, 20-30 hours. Agree to charge about \$100 for members. Shoot for first training within two months.

ED-Asks for BOD expectation and clarification on direction of the Training Institute. TI was an initiative that came out of the 2007 BOD retreat. Hope and anticipate this will involve more staff and income but is a chicken and egg situation at this time. Budget and staff can be, and have been, increased to begin this. The TI is clearly a part of IOIA's mission. Separate divisions might be needed to accommodate expansion, but IOIA will remain one entity.

Approximately 11:30 AM Julio and Jennie leave the meeting to travel home. The BOD continued brainstorming needs of the TI, resources. Need to include dialogue with certifiers.

The subject of forming an advisory board was discussed. IOIA should have opportunities to discuss with certifiers this week at Expo West about industry needs that can be met by the TI.

Development and Maintenance for the TI will need to be contracted while being developed. Who do we see doing the management role for the first training on DMI? Questioned and commented that they should have a working knowledge of inspector training. Need to draft an outlined format and style (template) courses that can be sent out to the contractors to follow.

Will need contractors to be involved with the management aspect. The consensus is that the first training (DMI) can be managed by the ED. Adding more in the near future will require more project managers. Each course will need to have a project manager or project coordinator. Ω

Committee News

Committee Member needed The **Accreditation Review Panel** needs an inspector member to fill out the committee, and is open to volunteers for chair. This committee reviews inspector accreditation applications twice annually (Mar 1 and Oct 1). Accreditation is granted for 3 years. If you are interested in serving, contact the IOIA office for more information.

BOD Liaisons designated for Committees:

Accreditation: Eric Feutz

Bylaws: Dave Konrad

Canadian: Dave Konrad

Ethics: Jennifer Clifford

Finance: Eric Feutz

Fundraising: Michelle Sandy

Latin American: Julio Perez

Membership/Nominations: Michelle Sandy

Training/Editorial Review: Bob Durst

New Committee Chair:

Garry Lean, Bylaws Committee.

IOIA would like to thank **Arthur Harvey** for **10 years of service** as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

Resources

Organic Certification Guidebook - 4th Edition guidebook is now available for free via download from the MOSES website. Hard copies will be available at the end of April, and are also free. This 32-page guidebook includes answers to general production questions, a discussion on approved materials, and much more. Preview the online edition and print out the answers you need. <http://www.mosesorganic.org/guidebook.pdf>

Local Harvest: A Multifarm CSA Handbook Written by former CSA growers Scott Franzblau and Jill Perry, *Local Harvest: A Multifarm CSA Handbook* offers clear and straightforward guidance on an innovative practice that is helping CSAs stay strong and viable over the long term: cooperative marketing.

The 126-page book details how farmers can use CSA cooperatives to best market their produce, including advice on staffing, volunteer boards, distribution, legal topics and other practical information. Download for free or order print copies (\$3.99 plus \$5.95 s/h) online <http://www.sare.org/publications/csa.htm> Call 301/374-9696, Or send check or money order to SARE Outreach, PO Box 753, Waldorf, Maryland 20604-0753.

Call to Bust Up Big Ag The USDA and Department of Justice are hosting workshops on the impacts of corporate concentration on agriculture. A new IATP factsheet looks at the role of NAFTA in accelerating agribusiness concentration with testimony from farm groups in Mexico, Canada and the United States. <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?accountID=451&refID=107275>

USDA posts updated U.S. certified organic acreage and livestock data Certified organic acreage in the United States reached more than 4.8 million acres in 2008, according to updated data posted by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) on the web. U.S. total organic cropland reached 2,655,382 acres in 2008, while land devoted to organic pasture totaled 2,160,577 acres. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/organic/>

FDA posts Q and A on "organic" cosmetics In a March 8 Question and Answer posting on its web site, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) outlined the position that organic cosmetics must meet USDA regulations for the organic claim and all FDA regulations for cosmetics.

<http://www.fda.gov/Cosmetics/ProductandIngredientSafety/ProductInformation/ucm203078.htm>

New GOTS online database now available

Approximately 1,500 companies with a total of 2,811 facilities in 55 countries around the world were certified to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) in 2009, according to the online database that was launched last week. <http://www.global-standard.org/>

2010 Non-GMO Sourcebook Evergreen Publishing, Inc., has released The 2010 Non-GMO Sourcebook. This annual publication is a "farm to fork" directory of more than 700 suppliers of non-GMO and organic products and related services (GMO testing, Identity Preservation, and certification). Evergreen also publishes The Organic & Non-GMO Report, a monthly journal that helps farmers and food manufacturers respond to the challenge of GM foods. The sourcebook can be ordered for \$27.95 by phone (641-209-3426; 800-854-0586) or online (www.nongmo-report.com).

Organic Monitor publishes report on organic personal care Organic Monitor, a British company, has a 60-page report for £909 (US\$1172) on organic personal care around the world, " *Technical Insights: A Critical Assessment of Natural & Organic Cosmetic Standards*" . It covers standards from Ecocert, NaTrue, Soil Association, BDih, ICEA, OASIS, NSF, NPA, IBD, and the new European Cosmos initiative and notes that differences between the most popular standards in each region remain wide. <http://www.companiesandmarkets.com/Summary-Market-Report/technical-insights-a-critical-assessment-of-natural-organic-cosmetic-standards-191925.asp>

NOP posts a listing of re-certified operations and those suspended or revoked NOP has made available a list of previously certified organic operations whose certifications have been suspended or revoked since January 2010, as well as

a separate list of operations whose organic certification has been reinstated. This information is available by visiting NOP's web site, and clicking on the link to Accreditation and Certification. NOP will continue to update this information each month as it receives information from accredited certifying agencies.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/nop>

USDA publishes general crop insurance report

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has posted a general report on crop insurance for organic producers, as required by the Farm Bill (Section 12023). The 14-page report (with ten pages of technical attachments) is now available online at

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/2010/organics.pdf>

Organic Center v Hudson Institute

The great debate between Dennis Avery of the Hudson Institute and Charles Benbrook of The Organic Center, on whether organic really is better or just a marketing ploy, was captured on video, watch it at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfQ5QRACLuA> [bottom line – yes, it IS better!]

Everything is Totally Green There is a great article on Corporate Greenwashing of the Food supply, in the Yankton Press & Dakotan – reprinted in full on our website, www.ioia.net/latestnews

NASS releases 2008 Organic Production Survey data

The 2008 Organic Production Survey conducted as a follow-on to the 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 14,540 organic farms and ranches in the US, according to figures released Feb. 3 by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Represented were a total of 4.1 million acres, of which 1.6 million acres were harvested cropland and 1.8 million acres were pasture or rangeland. Of those farms, 10,903 were certified to the U.S. NOP and 3,637 were exempt from certification because their sales totaled less than \$5,000 annually. NASS has posted a four-page fact sheet about the findings http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Fact_Sheets/organics.pdf

as well as the whole report, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Organics/index.asp

Court allows planting of GE sugar beets

A federal district court judge on March 17 denied a request by organic seed growers, conservation and food safety groups to ban the use of genetically engineered sugar beet seeds until an environmental review of the seeds can be completed.

Judge Jeffrey White's decision allows growers in Colorado and other states to continue planting Monsanto Co.'s genetically engineered Roundup Ready sugar beet seeds when planting season arrives in May.

Last fall, a federal court in California ruled that the U.S. Department of Agriculture failed to adequately study possible environmental and economic risks that the genetically engineered beets might cause. A court-ordered review is under way by the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

While Judge White sided with Monsanto in rejecting the temporary ban, he said the "parties should not assume that the court's decision to deny a preliminary injunction is indicative of its views on a permanent injunction pending the full environmental review that APHIS is required to do."

The judge said he was allowing planting to go forward in 2010 because a lack of conventional seed might lead to a sugar beet shortage. In Colorado, about 40,000 acres of sugar beets were harvested last year, mostly from genetically engineered seeds.

Opponents of Roundup Ready seeds said they planned to seek a permanent injunction against their use at the next court hearing on July 9.

"Based on today's ruling, we are encouraged that Judge White will order permanent injunction relief," said Paul Achitoff, attorney for Earthjustice, in a statement. "We will ask the court to halt the use of genetically engineered sugar beets and seeds until the federal government does its job to protect consumers and farmers alike."

Commercial production of Roundup Ready sugar beets can result in genetic contamination of organic and conventional crops, increased use of Roundup and other herbicides, and loss of consumer choice to buy products with sugar not derived from GE beets.

A similar lawsuit blocked the planting of "Roundup Ready" alfalfa seeds in 2007, voided the deregulation of the seeds and

blocked future sales until a U.S. environmental study was conducted. The case is now on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's decision in this case could have far-reaching impacts that may ultimately weaken federal environmental laws. A court ruling overturning the injunction before the EIS is final would allow GE alfalfa to be planted, thus threatening organic alfalfa with GE contamination. It could also set a precedent against courts ordering injunctions for potentially environmentally threatening substances that have not undergone an EIS.

GE Corn Causes New Plant Pest

Large-scale cultivation of GE corn is causing the spread of a new pest in the US Corn Belt. The **western bean cutworm** infests the tips of the corn cobs. Massive damage is being reported from those regions where the corn MON810 (sold as YieldGard by company of Monsanto) is grown on a large scale.

The GE corn is clearly suppressing the competitor of the western bean cutworm and thus creating an ecological niche for this insect.

"Several reports show that the damage is increasing from year to year," explains Christoph Then, executive director of Testbiotech and author of a report reviewing the issue. "But not much information is given to the farmers about the causes. The agrochemical companies are mainly interested in using this as an opportunity to sell other genetically engineered corn and insecticides that are highly toxic."

On behalf of Greenpeace, Testbiotech analysed many reports on the spread of the western bean cutworm and exchanged opinions with several experts. The cause of the spread of the new pest is hardly known to farmers in US, despite the fact that the western bean cutworm has spread through the whole Corn Belt since the year 2000. Farmers have only been told how to identify infestation and which insecticides they can use. No warnings were given on the dangers of large-scale MON810 cultivation. Instead, companies like Monsanto are trying to sell new varieties of GE corn such as 'SmartStax' that produces six different insecticides in its plant tissue. The report is available to download at www.testbiotech.org

Bayer admits GMO Contamination Out of Control

Drug and chemical giant Bayer AG has admitted that there is no way to stop the uncontrolled spread of its genetically modified crops.

Two Missouri farmers sued Bayer for contaminating their crop with modified genes from an experimental strain of rice engineered to be resistant to the company's Liberty-brand herbicide. The contamination occurred in 2006, during an open field test of the new rice, which was not approved for human consumption. According to the plaintiffs' lawyer, Don Downing, genetic material from the unapproved rice contaminated more than 30 percent of all rice cropland in the United States.

"Bayer was supposed to be careful," Downing said. "Bayer was not careful and that rice did escape into our commercial rice supplies."

The plaintiffs alleged that in addition to contaminating their fields, Bayer further harmed them financially by undermining their export market. When the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the widespread rice contamination, important export markets were closed to U.S. producers. A report from Greenpeace International estimates the financial damage of the contamination at between \$741 million and \$1.3 billion.

Bayer claimed that there was no possible way it could have prevented the contamination, insisting that it followed not only the law but also the best industry practices. The jury disagreed, finding Bayer guilty of carelessness in handling the genetically modified crops. The company was ordered to pay farmers Kenneth Bell and Johnny Hunter \$2 million.

"This is a huge victory, not only for Kenny and me, but for every farmer in America who was harmed by Bayer's LibertyLink rice contamination," Hunter said.

According to Hunter, the company got "the wake-up call they deserved."

Bayer is still being sued by more than 1,000 other farmers from Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

David Gutierrez, staff writer, NaturalNews

Korea, from page 1

the MIFAFF office with Bob Durst, Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, and Isidor Byeondeok Yu. They expressed their concerns about the availability of organic products in the face of implementation. Mutsumi explained how Japan had handled equivalency with other countries. Deputy Director Kim, Il-Sang asked if the group could make a suggestion for what could be done. Scoles responded tentatively, "Change the regulation?" Although it wasn't intended as a joke, the response was a burst of good hearted laughter.

Change in government administration at the top levels. The Paldang Region, considered the birthplace of organic in Korea, was the venue selected for the IFOAM Congress. The Seoul government and the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation started the organic farming project to protect the watershed and the Paldang water supply. Organic farming began in the 1970's and 80's. Hansol community was founded about 20 years ago. Paldang Consumer's Coop was founded in 2001, followed by the non-profit Paldang Saengmyung Salim Organic Corporation in 2003. The operation formalizes a producer-consumer relationship similar to a CSA. By 2006, the operation included 94 farms, 17 employees, and about 3000 consumers. Intensive production of high quality vegetables, strawberries, and herbs reached a sales figure of 6.5 billion won/year (roughly 6 million US\$) in 2009. The farm offers children's educational programs and is a popular eco-tourism site for city visitors. While IOIA's Korean delegation visited the farm, city children were picking strawberries and making jam with organic sugar and delight. Each would go home with their own jar of organic strawberry jam. Locating the IFOAM conference in this region, IFOAM attendees would be able to visit and tour the farm as one of the most significant organic production areas in Korea.

Now, with the change in administrations, this entire area is slated for demolition before the IFOAM Congress to allow creation of a recreational park for walking and bicycling. The park slated for construction is part of a larger country-wide "Restoration of the Four Major Rivers' Project", a key project of the new administration. As many governments find funds to encourage local and organic foods, reduce food miles, and increase consumer contact with agriculture, this is clearly a step in the opposite direction. It will be devastating to the farmers involved, with everything potentially and poignantly happening on the eve of a World Congress which has a theme of small holder agriculture. In IOIA's visit to the National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (NAQS), IOIA Chair Bob Durst asked what, if anything could be done. The response was sympathetic but guarded. Government officials couldn't speak against the project. Meanwhile,

local activism is very high, even extending to hunger strikes. Two thousand Catholic monks organized there to protest on March 27. Protest banners hang on the greenhouses in view of major highway.

Last, but not least, the economic climate of the organic market changed considerably during the past two years. The double digit growth of 2008 in the US and Canada slowed to single digits. The Korean government has taken strong initiative to make agriculture greener in Korea. But the higher cost of organic products is felt by consumers everywhere.

IOIA plans to participate in the IFOAM World Congress and sponsor a meeting of Asian inspectors there. IOIA will tentatively sponsor inspector training as well. Only the next 16 months will tell what the organic climate will be like by the last week of September 2011.

Interested in supporting the Paldang protest? See: www.sobbul.com. IOIA has also posted IFOAM's letter to the President of the Republic of Korea on the IOIA website. Signed by IFOAM World Board President Katherine DiMatteo, it is a well-done and clear position statement.

Bees and CCD

A new survey by USDA found that up to 33.8% of the managed honey bee colonies nationwide were lost between Oct. 2009 and April 2010. Beekeepers said starvation, poor weather and weak colonies going into winter were the top reasons, according to the survey, conducted by the Agricultural Research Service and Apiary Inspectors of America.

This is an increase from overall losses of 29% reported from a similar survey covering the winter of 2008-2009, and similar to the 35.8% losses for the winter of 2007-2008. Researchers say that continued losses of this magnitude are not economically sustainable for commercial beekeepers.

The 28% of beekeepers who reported some of their colonies perished without dead bees present, a sign of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), lost 44% of their colonies. This compares to 26% of beekeepers reporting such dead colonies in the 2008-2009 winter and 32% in the 2007-2008 winter.

Key Discovery Strengthens Linkage Between Pesticide Use and CCD

Scientists around the world have been trying to identify the risk factors driving honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). There is near-universal agreement that the problem remains severe; many factors can trigger CCD, and of these, several appear to depend on a weakened bee immune system; and, exposure to pesticides, and in particular the persistent, systemic nicotinyl insecticides are likely to be involved in many CCD episodes.

In an important breakthrough, scientists in Europe have discovered a major new, widespread exposure pathway through which bees are ingesting nicotinyl insecticides in



A Korean organic strawberry farmer at the Paldang Cooperative explains his dire situation. His greenhouse will probably fall to construction equipment within the year, unless the activists and farmers are successful with their protests.

virtually all intensively farmed regions – honeybee sources of drinking water. In October, 2009 at a scientific meeting in Paris, Hedwig Riebe summarized recent research on this new exposure pathway (Riebe, 2009).

In the morning and throughout the growing season, essentially all plants emit water in the form of guttation drops. Guttation drops come from inside plant cells, and can carry with them, into the outside world, natural or man-made chemicals that are present in plant cells, such as residues of systemic pesticides that have moved, as they are designed to do, throughout plant tissues. The latest results from European research found 20 parts per billion of nicotinyl insecticides in guttation droplets, almost certainly enough to deliver a dangerous dose to nearby bees.

Inside hives during warm spring and summer nights, bees are hard at work fanning the hive with their wings to help keep the queen comfortable and the brood safe. Each morning at first flight, the bees are dehydrated and thirsty, and seek out a nearby source of moisture. The drops on leaves in nearby fields, typically a mixture of moisture from guttation and dew, are a favorite first stop and common source of hydration. If the field was planted to a seed treated with a nicotinyl insecticide, or if the field/crop has been sprayed with a nicotinyl, the bees will be exposed to some level of systemic nicotinyl insecticide.

In some cases this exposure will prove deadly, as documented in 2009 European research. In other sub-acute exposure cases, the bees ingest enough nicotinyl to weaken their immune system, or disrupt their sense of direction and ability to navigate, or both. These sub-acute impacts are widely recognized factors contributing to or occurring during CCD.

Source: "Exposition Paths of Neonicotinoids," Dr. Hedwig Riebe, DBID, Paris, France, October 12, 2009, http://www.organiccenter.org/science.pest.php?action=view&report_id=161

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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- Farming with the Wild: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches; Written by Daniel Imhoff, Watershed Media, 182 p.; 2003; \$20.00
- Organic Dairy Farming, Edited by Jody Padham, Community Conservation, Project coordinated by MOSES, 156 p.; 2006; \$15.00
- Building Soils for Better Crops (2nd Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20
- COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2nd Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2nd Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$19.00
- Organic Livestock Handbook, published by Canadian Organic Growers. Edited by Anne Macey, 179 pp, spiral bound, \$30.00
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- Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$18.00
- Introduction to Certified Organic Farming. Published by REAP Canada, 200 pg. 25.00



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2010 Calendar

June 3 – 5 PIERS 2010: Conference on the Environment New York City, NY.
<http://www.pace.edu/pace/dyson/research-and-resource-centers/academic-centers-and-institutes/piers/summer-2010-conference/>

June 12 – 13 From the Ground Up workshop series Milwaukee, WI. Growing Power in conjunction with the USDA's Risk Management Agency and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program present: Growing Your Community Food System "From the Ground Up"
http://www.growingpower.org/from_the_ground_up!.htm

June 15 – 16 2010 Workshop on the Economics of Local Food Markets The 2010 Workshop on the Economics of Local Food Markets will be held at the Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, <http://www.narea.org/2010/>

July 18 - 21 2010 SWCS Annual Conference. Join your colleagues in St. Louis for the 65th annual conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Includes workshops, concurrent sessions. St. Louis, MO

<http://www.swcs.org/10ac>

July 31 - August 1 2010 Florida Small Farms Conference, Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee Florida, near Orlando Benefits to small farmers include: - Discover the latest products and technologies.

<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/2010/index.shtml>

August 1 - 6 19th World Congress of Soil Science. The 19th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Brisbane, Australia.

<http://www.19wcss.org.au/>

August 2 - 6 USCC Compost Operations Training Course. The US Composting Council is pleased to bring its new Compost Operations Training Course to upstate New York. 40hr, 5 day course includes lectures, hands-on activities, and field trips. Cobleskill, NY.

<http://www.compostingcouncil.org/education/training.php?>

August 3 Conservation in Action Tour 2010 Williamsburg-Richmond, Va.

<http://www.conservationinformation.org/?action=article&id=68>

August 25 – 27 Looking ahead: Organic Dairy Conference. Madison, WI. Organic Valley will host an Organic Dairy Conference, designed as an educational event for stakeholders in the organic dairy community, To receive further details, contact [Aaron Miller](mailto:Aaron.Miller@organicvalley.com) (608-625-3453).

September 12 – 15 Goat Conference: Strengthening the Goat Industry Topics: -Nutrition and Pasture Management -Herd Health and Management -Marketing and Processing -Reproduction and Biotechnology -Genetics and Breeding -Food Safety and Food Science. Tallahassee, FL.
<http://www.famu.edu/goats/UserFiles/File/%20Goat%20Conference%20Promo%20for%20Website.pdf>

August 1 - 6 19th World Congress of Soil Science. The 19th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in Brisbane, Australia at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Brisbane, Australia
<http://www.19wcss.org.au/>

*For a complete listing of upcoming IOIA trainings,
please see page 3 of this issue*