

The Inspectors' Report

Published by the
International Organic
Inspectors Association*
Vol 17 No 2 Spring 2008

US Farm Bill Passed – Big Gains for Organic

With an overwhelming 82 to 13 vote, the US Senate completed the override of President Bush's veto of a comprehensive farm bill on May 22, shrugging off concerns about an embarrassing legislative glitch to make the \$300 billion bill the law of the land. A whole section of the bill on trade policy was inadvertently dropped from the version vetoed on May 21. Lawmakers said they would take up the farm law's trade section as a separate bill and pass it after their Memorial Day break.

About two-thirds of the law would pay for nutrition programs such as food stamps, which would see increases of around \$1 billion a year. About \$40 billion is for farm subsidies and almost \$30 billion would go to farmers to idle their land and for other environmental programs.

While it fails to reverse decades of deregulation that have increased agricultural market volatility to the benefit of global food corporations, this bill does include substantive and far reaching gains for sustainable agriculture. It moves the ball forward for the Conservation Security Program, beginning farmers, local food systems, organic agriculture, sustainable biomass production, and rural development.

Organic Agriculture Organic agriculture took a starring role in this farm bill. The Conferees agreed to provide \$22 million in mandatory funding over 5 years for organic certification cost share, an increase of \$17 million. The bill also provides \$5 million to fund an organic data collection initiative and a new program to provide financial assistance for organic conversion housed within the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Conservation Security Program will include an easy cross walk to eligibility for organic farmers. The Organic Research and Extension Initiative, a competitive grants program, will be funded at \$78 million over 4 years. While the bill retains the organic crop insurance surcharge, it directs USDA to review risk data for organic and conventional crops and unless they find a significant variation, the surcharge must be dropped or reduced.

Conservation The Conservation Security Program, renamed the **Conservation Stewardship Program**, is going national with a continuous sign up. The bill provides the resources necessary — \$1.1 billion in new and mandatory funding — to enroll approximately 115 million acres in the CSP by 2017. The program and payment structure have been streamlined without weakening the environmental standards necessary to qualify. It also includes special payments for establishing resource conserving crop rotations.

Funding was also increased for EQIP. This shift towards working lands conservation was made possible by an infusion of \$4 billion in new funding as well as a \$2.5 billion savings from the Conservation Reserve Program. [see **Farm Bill**, page 22]

Notes from the Chair

By Bob Durst

This is my first opportunity to address folks directly since I missed the deadline for the last *Inspector's Report* which mostly reported on the AGM from Guatemala (which I unfortunately missed). My injured back (which is what prevented my joining folks at the AGM) is virtually back to normal and no longer restricting what I can do (thank goodness). I'll pass on this personal note that after over 20 years with the Food Science Dept. at Oregon State University, I have moved to the Linus Pauling Institute (still at OSU). I will still be doing similar work on the chemistry of fruits and juices, but with more focus on the health benefits of these foods and their components.

We recently returned from the Global Food and Style Show in Chicago, of which **All Things Organic** is one of the three co-located shows. Thanks to all of the volunteers who were at the show and helped set up and man the IOIA booth which keeps us inspectors in the forefront of the industry's mind as the monitors of organic integrity. [see **Notes**, page 4]

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- PLUS trainings in**
- ◆ Hawaii
 - ◆ Guatemala
 - ◆ Iowa

and Still More!

*aka Independent Organic Inspectors Association

2008 Membership Directory Updates

Please make the following changes to your 2008 Membership Directory. Other parts of the addresses remain the same unless noted. Any additions or corrections to information categories can be viewed in the 2008 Online Directory.

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Organic Grassfed Beef Coalition
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Organic Valley CROPP Cooperative
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WA Department of Agriculture
Miles McEvoy
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SUPPORTING CERTIFICATION AGENCIES:
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Vermont Organic Farmers - VOF
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Welcome New Members:

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IOIA Board of Directors
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Lidia Girón Second Alternate
The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the International Organic Inspectors Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization, whose mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Editor: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. 707-869-3017, fax 707-869-1478. ioiaweb@ioia.net
Deadlines are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 & Nov 1.
Published quarterly
on recycled paper.



Upcoming Trainings

Japan IOIA and JOIA will cosponsor a 3 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection and a 3 day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training using JAS Standards as a reference. The courses will be held in Miyagi, Japan May 28-30 (Farm Course) and in Osaka, Japan June 9-11 (Processing Course). Please contact Yutaka Muruyama at JOIA for more information about the courses. Tel: +81 3-5524-6080 FAX: +81 3-5524-6083 E-Mail: joia@joia.jp www.joia.jp

Gyeonggi, Korea IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Associations (KFSAO), will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation as a reference. The course will be held in Gyeonggi, Korea July 8-12. For enquiries, please contact Isidor Byeongdeok Yu at Ph: +82-10-9133-5431 Fax: +82-2-796-2615 e-mail: community02@hanmail.net

Unity, Maine IOIA and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop and a 4.5 day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training using the NOP Standards as a reference. The courses will be held at Unity College, 90 Quaker Hill Road, Unity, Maine July 14-18 (Crop Course) and July 19-23 (Processing Course). For more information about the courses please contact Mary Yurlina at ph: (207) 568-4142, e-mail: ioiacourse@mofga.org or visit MOFGA's website at: www.mofga.org

Hong Kong, China IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop and a 4.5 day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training using the HKORC-Cert Organic Standards as a reference. The courses will be held at Sin Hang Campus, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, China August 6-10 (Crop Course) and August 11-15 (Processing Course). Application forms and more information about the course are available at the website of HKORC at www.hkbu.edu.hk. For enquiries, please contact Sharon Chan hkorc@hkbu.edu.hk or Isa Lin isalin@hkbu.edu.hk.

Vermont IOIA and Vermont Organic Farmers will cosponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspection training in Vermont on August 19-23. More details and application form are pending.

Gangwon, Korea IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Associations (KFSAO), will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Process Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation as a reference. The course will be held in Gangwon, Korea September 29 - October 3. For enquiries, please contact Isidor Byeongdeok Yu at Ph: +82-10-9133-5431 Fax: +82-2-796-2615 e-mail: community02@hanmail.net

Corvallis, Oregon IOIA, Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO), and Stellar Certification Services are developing Basic and Advanced training at Oregon State University in Corvallis Oregon in late 2008. This event will include Crop, Livestock, Processing and Advanced (Biodynamic) inspection training. Tentative date is September. Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as these and other trainings develop.

IOIA Scholarships Available for Organic Inspector Training

IOIA is accepting applications for the annual **Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award**, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored organic inspector training course during the following year.

Both prospective and experienced inspectors are eligible to apply for the Rutherford Scholarship. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and potential as judged by the IOIA Scholarship Committee. Applicants can choose to attend any IOIA-sponsored training. The Scholarship pays for tuition, room and board but does not cover transportation or other expenses.

The late Andrew Rutherford was a farmer, organic inspector, and organic agriculture researcher from southern Saskatchewan. He served on IOIA's initial steering committee and then several years as a Founding Board Member.

IOIA also offers the annual **Organic Community Initiative Scholarship**, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored basic organic inspector training during the following year. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and their potential to have a positive impact on their regional organic community. The Organic Community Initiative Scholarship is only open to applicants from outside of the US or Canada. Applicants can choose to attend any basic IOIA-sponsored training. The Scholarship pays for tuition, room and board but does not cover transportation or other expenses.

For application materials and information on IOIA training programs, contact IOIA, P.O. Box 6, Broadus, MT 59317-0006, ioia@ioia.net, or visit www.ioia.net to download application forms. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is October 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

WELCOME NEW SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Ana Luiza Andrade (Deerfield Beach, FL)
Jason Avent (Austin, TX)
Andrea Berical (Lincoln, NE)
Christopher Barnier (Little Falls, MN)
Perry Bosshart (Modesto, CA)
Joshua Bryceson (Marine, MN)
Sonia I. Carlo Acosta (Cabo Rojo, PR)
Richard Ewing (Bonita Springs, FL)
Kris Folland (Halma, MN)
Ariana Gehrig (Auburn, CA)

Terrie Gent, Colonel, USAF (Sierra Vista, AZ)
Mohan Ghale (NEPAL)
Mary Himmelsbach (White Bear Lake, MN)
Ruth Knight (Ontario, CANADA)
Maryann Kohl-Barsé (Vandalia, MO)
Patricia Kubik (Clutier, IA)
Justin Leste (Berkeley, CA)
Joshua Montoya (Portland, OR)
Elizabeth Moriarty (Fish Creek, WI)
Casey Palmer (Fort Collins, CO)

Owen Parker (Louisville, KY)
Daniel E. Pehan (Missoula, MT)
Ivy Z. Sievers (Tama, IA)
Justa H Small (Wilton, WI)
Paula Sterken (New Hartford, IA)
Tim Vos (Sante Fe, NM)
Carrie K Young (Portage, MI)
Dorthea Walker (Sacramento, CA)

Survey/FUNdraiser Winners!

Congratulations to **Mark Geistlinger** of Madison, Wisconsin, who won the Mystery Prize for submitting his name along with his membership survey. All survey participants who submitted their names went into a drawing. Geistlinger's name was drawn from the group. He receives **\$25** for a shopping spree from the IOIA List of Resources for Sale.

Philip Hale of Ohio and Costa Rica won \$90 credit toward membership dues with the **2008 IOIA Membership FUNdraiser**. Eighteen members participated, bringing in a total of \$180. IOIA kept half and the other half goes to Hale, one of the founding members of IOIA, as a dues rebate.

Thank you to all participants!

Notes, from page 1

For those of you that weren't in attendance, the organic portion of the show was significantly enlarged from previous years, but the show in total was noticeably reduced with the departure of two of the conventional groups that had previously co-located at the show. The other large group at the show (Fancy Food Show) had a substantial number of booths and products displaying organic status of their products. It really shows how organics have moved into the mainstream of the American food scene. The name change from **Independent to International** approved at the AGM is proving to be timely and appropriate as trainings are occurring or being planned at a variety of international locations (Pakistan, India) that have never before been visited by IOIA.

Trainings are moving at a greater pace than we have ever seen before, mirroring the increasing demand for organic products in the marketplace. More concrete structure to the **Training Institute** (initiated at last fall's Board retreat) is being developed. How the Training Institute will be presented to outside entities (processors, certifiers, etc.) is being sussed out and will eventually be the primary face that IOIA presents to the rest of the world. The new standardized processing curriculum is moving into the review stages. This will be a major advance in our ability to insure that we continue to provide top notch training in this important and growing segment of the industry.

Now it's time to sign off and go outside and enjoy the beautiful spring day we're having here in Oregon. Å

Mentor Sought

This is a follow-up letter from Md Moshuur Rahman of Bangladesh, who was the 2006 recipient of IOIA's Organic Community Initiative Scholarship.

Dear Margaret Scoles

Sorry for being late to reply. I give you warm thanks for giving me a recommendation letter. My visa status is changed this week as a permanent resident. Your recommendation letter helped a lot for taking this decision. I made a work agreement with OCIA last year as an independent contractor, but I didn't do any inspection due to my visa status. I also think I need more practical experience prior to real inspection. So I need to work as an intern under any mentor before I go to real life inspection. I also need to attend basic farm and processing training again to update myself. Current schedule of IOWA is not convenient for me. Therefore, I think to participate in training in any convenient time at the end of this year or next year.

I again appreciate your continuous cooperation. I request you to find any mentor with whom I can work as an intern and build my career in the field of organic agriculture in a long run.

You suggest to me that the appropriate category of membership would be supporting individual. Please inform me how I can apply for this membership.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thanking you & Sincerely yours



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North Miami Beach
FL-33162 USA
Cell-786-395-7355*

GOTS Training Seminar

By Grace Gershuny

The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) got its start in 2002, when the Organic Trade Association (OTA) joined a working group to help harmonize international standards for organic textile processing. Other GOTS Working Group members include the Soil Association, Eco-Institute (Germany, formerly IVN), and the Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA). The first draft of GOTS was created in 2004, and formally adopted by the OTA Board in 2007, replacing the American Organic Fiber Processing Standards (AOFPS, which is still used as a guidance document) as the OTA approved organic textile standard. There are now six certifiers approved under GOTS, including US-based certifiers Oregon Tilth and OneCert.

With the GOTS program well under way, the biggest need now is for qualified certifying bodies and trained inspectors to offer this option to interested manufacturers. Europe has a long tradition of ecological textile certification schemes, but there are few NOP accredited certifiers with experience in textile processing--a "chicken and egg" problem for a certifier who needs to document sufficient expertise to be approved under the GOTS.

OTA began taking steps to address this dilemma by offering a three-hour certifier training program in conjunction with All Things Organic™ Conference and Trade Show on April 29th in Chicago. Counting presenters there were over 25 attendees, mostly representatives of several certifiers and a handful of manufacturers, as well as a few IOIA members. Grace Gershuny, IOIA member and OTA's representative to the GOTS Technical Committee organized the seminar and presented information about GOTS history and administration, as well as comparisons with NOP and the AOFPS. Sam Welsch of OneCert, IOIA member Fred Ehlert, Sam Moore, a knowledgeable textile chemistry consultant, and Matthew Mole of Vermont Organic Fiber helped untangle the strands of information about how textile certification works, what to look at, and how to assess materials used for textile processing.

GOTS addresses all of the requirements for organic textile processing according to the stages of production (e.g., spinning, sizing and weaving, wet processing, dyeing).

[see **GOTS**, page 6]

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

All Things Organic, Chicago: Thanks to IOIA members including George Danner, Kelly Monaghan, Fred Ehlert, Maarten Samsom, and others who joined the team of Susan Colwell, Bob Durst, and me, our IOIA booth was well staffed.

Implementation of the Canadian regulations was the hottest topic this year. I attended the first of a 2-part presentation on Policy and Standards Update: (Part 1: Food). **Michel Saumur** represented the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and **Mark Bradley** the USDA National Organic Program on the panel. Standing room only gave way to people lining the walls and the floor for this session. Mark Bradley reported on the new look of the NOP website (early April) and the progress on the master list of all certified operations, to be updated annually. He listed key issues as equivalency negotiations with Canada, dairy herd replacement, pasture for ruminants, aquaculture, final rule for the Interim 205.606 additions, and the new system for commenting on-line. Anyone can visit www.regulations.gov to view or to comment. This website is now the only way to comment electronically. Michel Saumur was encouraging about easing the transition to implementation on December 14, 2008. **A key difference between the US and Canadian organic programs** is that the sector is responsible for the standards in Canada. The Canadian regulation allows for certification of anything from animal or plant origin, but standards must be developed for it. He explained that aquaculture is not yet covered by the standards, so fish could not be certified. There will be no 100% organic or MWO labeling categories. Imported products must be clearly labeled as imported. He noted that they are training their 5000 inspectors to be ready for monitoring and enforcement. Their E-training tool will be made available to certifiers.

Julie Wiseman (NOSB) member and **Ray Green** (CA State Organic Program) rounded out the panel. Julie reported that multi-site certification remains a key issue with the NOSB. NOP has clarified that multi-site certification does not extend to retail chains or handlers. Ray addressed

activity in California and progress with personal body care product certification.

The OTA Welcome Party was a feast of blues music, incredible food and drink, and lots of just plain visiting.

Important contacts were planning the Oregon trainings with Jim Fullmer and Sally Lammers of Stellar, Kristy Korb of OTCO, and furthering the Non-GMO collaborative training with the Non-GMO Project and FoodChain Global Advisors.

Rebecca McClellan of *Longview Strategies* is working with Susan Colwell, the BOD, and ED on a promotional publication that IOIA can use in fundraising and promotion. Rebecca attended ATO and we spent many hours in planning and brainstorming.

IFOAM: Jim Riddle and Joyce Ford will represent IOIA at the IFOAM General Assembly in Italy in June.

Big Changes in the IOIA office: IOIA will take a major step with the addition of **Rita Wenzel** as Office Manager (4 days/wk). Rita has been IOIA's bookkeeping troubleshooter for the past 9 years. She will move across the street from our accountant's office.

Judy Hessong left us in early April. Those of you who worked with her with Membership updates, Accreditation, and Scholarship will now be working with Teri, Lynell, or Rita as we restructure the office.

Susan Colwell has joined IOIA as a volunteer fundraiser (or development manager, in the latest lingo). She made the trip to Guatemala at her own expense to visit with the BOD and assist with the training and AGM. With a MS degree in Plant Protection and an IOIA Crop Inspection training (2001) under her belt, she brings a good basic knowledge of the work of IOIA and inspectors to her work.



Could US-Canadian Equivalency be this easy? We wish. Saumur & Bradley pause from a chat to pose at ATO.

Big Projects for the Summer: IOIA will continue to work with Canadian Organic Growers on a funding proposal to create training to the Canadian regulations.

Big Questions: Where will the 2009 AGM be? In Canada, certainly. But where in Canada? **Please help us decide.**

Best wishes for a good summer. I hope you are able to get your hands in the soil frequently. Good medicine for sure, for body and soul. I'm enjoying my moments in the garden. A highlight of my spring was helping with the biggest and best **Arbor Day** in Broadus history. We sponsored an 'Adopt A Tree' program, gave trees to 65 elementary students, and planted a tree with each of the 8 classes. Peas and potatoes, hastily planted before I left for the Iowa trainings, are up. The tomatoes just went into the garden. Spring is always interesting here. Our area was struck with an awesome storm on May 1, just a day after I returned from Chicago. Our area made the national news, with over 1000 electricity poles down in southeastern MT. Some are still without power. We always welcome moisture, no matter how it comes...

Minute Note

BOD minute highlights will be printed next issue. As the minutes of each meeting are finalized and approved, they are posted on the IOIA Website (Inspector Members only section).

Survey Results Posted

Full results of the IOIA 2007 Membership Survey are now available in the Members Only Section at www.ioia.net.

Sector News

NOP web site has new look

The US National Organic Program (NOP) web site has taken on a new look as part of a new design of the entire Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) web site. One of the changes is the creation of an electronic reading room. The newly renovated NOP web pages also include Q & A's that have been submitted to staff as well as relevant original Q & A's that had been on the former web site; updated fact sheets; a listing of all accredited certifying agents and their certified organic operations; a list of completed recent Audit, Review and Compliance (ARC) on-site audits and document reviews of ACAs for 2005-2006; and appeals decisions by the AMS Administrator. As new information becomes available, it will be posted in the NOP Reading Room under the appropriate section. These are big changes in information sharing, and members should log on soon to determine what matters of importance may be posted.

New web site provided for 205.606 ingredients

The Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc. (ACA), is administering a new web site for listing organic versions of the non-organic agricultural ingredients permitted for use under National Organic Program Section 205.606. ACA encourages manufacturers of organic forms of ingredients listed on 606 to go to the site, complete the production information form, and attach the current organic certificate. There is no fee for submitting an ingredient for listing. For further information, contact Patricia Kane (607-648-325). <http://www.606organic.com/>

Private sector effort unveiled for personal care standard

OASIS, Inc., a 501(c) (6) trade association, was incorporated in late August 2007 to provide verifiable standards to support and promote organic and sustainable production for the health and beauty care industry. In March, OASIS (Organic and Sustainable Industry Standards) unveiled its private sector-sponsored organic standard for the U.S. beauty and personal care market. Billed as a 'consensus standard,' it has the support of 17 founding members, and includes a seal that can be used on products. <http://www.oasisseal.org/>

Caren Wilcox Departs OTA

Executive Director Caren Wilcox has informed the Board of OTA at its recent meeting in Washington, DC, that she would be leaving OTA at the end of OTA's fiscal year on June 30, 2008. The Board accepted Ms Wilcox's resignation with regret and appreciation for her two years leading OTA. Wilcox expanded OTA's presence in the public arena and created new financial planning systems that can help OTA accomplish both short and long-term goals, as well as strengthening staff capabilities in several areas.

The Board of Directors plans to begin a search for a new Executive Director as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Board is pleased to report that OTA COO, David Gagnon, will step into the role of Interim Executive Director after June 30 and until a new Executive Director is hired. Dave came to OTA in 2000 as the Director of Operations. In 2006 he was appointed Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining OTA he headed an environmental education organization, and also founded and ran an environmental consulting firm based in Brattleboro, Vermont.

OTA expects to take up to six months to complete the hiring process for the new Executive Director.

Former IOIA Board member honored

The Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA) has awarded **Dag Falck**, Organic Program Manager at Nature's Path Foods, Inc., with the CHFA Organics Achievement Award. Falck is currently serving on OTA's Board of Directors as Vice President-Canada.

Dag served on the IOIA BOD for 2 years, from 2003 to 2005.

Number of Canadian organic farms continues to increase

The number of organic farms in Canada increased by almost 60 percent in five years, according to Statistics Canada. The agency has reported that Canada had 3,555 farms offering certified organic products in 2006, up from 2,230 in 2001. Another 640 farms were in transition to organic, and 11,937 produced food described as organic but not actually certified. The most commonly certified organic crops are hay, grain and oilseed crops.

Cloned animals and by-products to be prohibited in the Canadian organic standard

The final meetings under the current round of review of Canada's organic standards were held March 31-April 2 in Ottawa. These were the last face-to-face meetings of the committee before Canada's Organic Products Regulations are to be implemented in December. An OTA submission to specifically prohibit all cloned animals, their descendants or by-products was unanimously endorsed for formal balloting by the committee. This new language will join the other fundamental prohibitions of the Canadian organic standards, which include materials and products of genetic engineering, ionizing radiation, sewage sludge, and synthetic pesticides and other substance not specifically allowed by the permitted substances list.

Several States Move to Label Meat and Animal Products from Cloned Animals or their Progeny

At least 13 states are working toward passage of legislation that would require a label or warning sign on meat, milk, or eggs from cloned animals. The biotech industry is aggressively opposing the bills, and pushing legislation of their own that would outlaw labels on food alerting consumers that milk is from cows not treated with rBGH injections.

Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski introduced legislation in 2007 that would have required the following wording on product labels: "This product is from a cloned animal or its progeny."

Source: Pallavi Gogoi, "States Move to Label Cloned Food," BusinessWeek

GOTS, from page 4

The processing requirements include criteria for substances that may be used at each stage of manufacturing, but there is no positive list provided of allowed and prohibited substances. OTA's American Organic Fiber Processing Standards, however, includes lists of substances that have been determined to meet these criteria. Other GOTS provisions include product composition and labeling, accessories and practices such as packaging, environmental management, product quality parameters and minimum social criteria.

For more information about GOTS, check the web site: www.global-standard.org. Å

NOP Update for Inspectors

By Margaret Scoles, with appreciation to Doug Crabtree, MT Dept of Ag, for information gleaned from the NOP Certifier training in Louisville, KY in January and to Jim Riddle, for assistance with clarification.

Important reminders: Note, most of these changes have been published previously, but are summarized here as the NOP Rule Changes in the past year. This information was shared at the Guatemala and Iowa advanced trainings.

1. Non-organic agricultural ingredients

- Effective June 21, 2007, all non-organic agricultural ingredients must be listed on 205.606 (full document posted on NOP website)
- Commercial non-availability must be documented.
- Otherwise, non-organic agricultural ingredients cannot be used.
- 38 substances were added to the list (19 colors and 19 other ingredients or processing aids).
- This change remains an Interim rule, not a final rule.

2. Processed Animal Manures

- Effective July 16, 2007, guidance from NOP (full document posted on NOP website)

- Heat processed animal manure products that do not meet the compost definition may be used as soil supplements without regarding the prescribed 90 or 120 day interval, if they meet the prescribed guidelines (temperature, drying, etc)

• Based on the NOSB recommendation (April 18, 2002)

- Inspectors should keep a copy of the guidance document and clarify with individual certifiers how they are applying it.

3. Inerts in pesticides

- Effective September 6, 2007 (Full document posted on NOP website).
- The EPA removed 8 substances from the "List 4"
- The EPA has reclassified some "List 3" inerts to "List 4".
- The EPA will not be republishing the Inerts lists. Eventually they will become obsolete.
- The NOP Rule refers to the List 4 as published, and the EPA will not be republishing the list.
- The NOP has clarified that those substances removed from List 4 are now prohibited and those that were added to the list also remain prohibited.

4. Added pesticides to 205.601 and 205.603

- Effective December 11, 2007

- Adds one synthetic substance, sucrose octanoate ester (SOE)

- Used for control of mites and aphids

5. Chitosan

- Published December 11, 2007 with the same rule change as above.
- NOP has clarified that chitosan can not be added to the National List.
- Chitosan may be used as an adjuvant in pesticides other than fungicides.
- Chitosan is prohibited as a fungicide or any other use in organic agriculture, including growth enhancer or active ingredient.

6. Excipients in Livestock Medications

- Effective December 13, 2007 (full document posted on NOP website)
- Adds 2 definitions and 9 substances (most with lengthy annotations)
- Adds excipients as a new category to 205.603.
- If the active ingredient of a livestock medication is allowed, we may generally assume that other ingredients are allowed as excipients.
- Guidance on excipients applies only to health care products, not feed.

7. Calculating the % of organic ingredients in processed products

- "Organic" ingredients are assumed to be only 95%, unless the actual percentage is known.

Big News Concerning OMRI and Verification of Materials

Effective March 5, 2008, NOP notified all certifying agents that they will now allow certifying agents to recognize reviews conducted by other certifying agents and competent third-party reviewers.

- Documentation must accompany the resulting determination.
- Guidance will be forthcoming for assistance in choosing a reputable, third party source for materials review.
- For branded (formulated) products, ACAs have three options available for determining compliance:
 - 1) ACAs can verify the material complies by performing the due diligence themselves (e.g., contacting the manufacturer to obtain disclosure of the contents of the product);
 - 2) ACAs may consult with another ACA who has performed the due diligence and accept that ACA's determination on material compliance with the NOP regulations; OR
 - 3) ACAs may consult with a reputable third party source, (e.g., the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)), that performs the due diligence on material review and accept the resulting determination from that source on compliance with the NOP regulations.

OMRI provides contract services for a nominal fee to their subscribers, which should make it much easier for certifiers to rely on the OMRI lists for materials review.

You can view the full document at:

www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5066877&acct=nopgeninfo.

Inspector Training near Hilo, Hawaii

By Heather McLean

Hawaii Organic Farmers Association (HOFA) cosponsored a Basic Crop training February 22-26, 2008 in the town of Opihikao, just outside of Hilo on the Big Island. Lisa Pierce was the trainer, and I was lucky enough to be her assistant. The 14 participants came from as far away as Wisconsin and as close as Volcano, only a 30 minute drive away. James Boswell and Faith Tuipulotu came from Molokai, one of the smaller Hawaiian islands. This is the first time anyone from Molokai has attended an organic inspector training.

Deborah Ward of HOFA gave a fascinating introduction to the largest Hawaiian island, including how it was formed and where the lava was flowing on that particular day (not very far away!). The red glow was even visible from the beach in the evening.

The classroom and on-site accommodations were provided by Elvira and Hugh Johnson, the creative and hardworking owners of "Your Hawaiian Retreat" centre. Most people were able to stay on-site in this beautiful, tranquil, tropical farm setting. Elvira outdid herself meal after meal, providing delicious and filling dishes for vegans to omnivores. The only complaint I heard was, "I ate too much!"



The Ultimate Barrier to Inspection

The participants ranged from graduate students to professors and farmers to administrators. Despite the small classroom space, everyone cooperated to make the training enjoyable. Lisa interjected break-out groups and bingo-type activities to keep bodies and minds awake. Lively discussion and laughter was heard at every break and in the evenings, and long-term friendships were forged.

The second Group Leader for the field trip was Jenella Loye from Davis, CA. Everyone attended the same site, dividing into "tour" and "audit trail" groups. The gracious host was David Webb, the new owner of Sunny Kapoho Citrus. He and his able assistant, Mori, answered the participants' many questions about the orange production and asked some questions of their own. It was a great learning opportunity for all. Å

Demo on how to overcome Ultimate Barriers to Inspection



Costa Rica Comentarios

El participar en este curso, me va a ser una persona con mas criterio, para desarrollar mi trabajo en forma mas eficiente, como encargado de la certificación organica de la empresa para la cual trabajo. La tematica desarrollada posibilita que ahora logre abarcar areas que estaba descuidando y que son importantes, ademas hizo que me diera cuenta de la otra realidad que puedo vivir como inspector y la que estoy viviendo como parte de un proceso de inspección, me hace ser mas conciente de la importancia de muchos detalles que como productor no estaba percibiendo. Fue una gran experiencia y espero realizar otros cursos similares, me da mas seguridad en el trabajo que hago.
Harold Eduarte B., Finca Luna Nueva.



“Considero que fue un curso intensivo, de buena calidad y que sobrepasó mis expectativas respecto al contenido. Debido a que es un curso de inspección, me gustaría haber tenido un poco más de tiempo para realizar otros casos prácticos.”

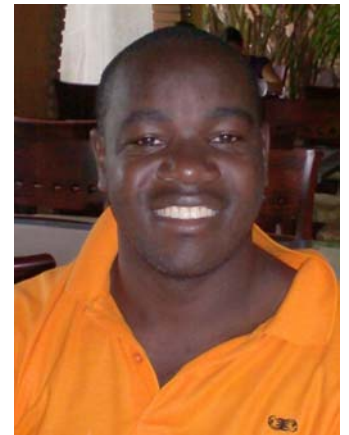
Jessica Linares Orozco,
Investigación y Desarrollo,
FUNDACIÓN PROAGROIN-ZN

“El curso lleno mis expectativas y ahora conozco la responsabilidad que implica ser el inspector de un proyecto orgánico y cuales son los alcances de una inspección y el compromiso con los productores que desean ser inspeccionados, así como el poder garantizar al consumidor final que los productos que compra con un sello orgánico, son realmente orgánicos” Carlos Moya



“Wonderful course, Luis Brenes and Humberto González are really great instructors. Through their explanation, question answering and examples given, they really demonstrated that they are true experts in discussion of issues related to organic agriculture certification. They rounded up a wide course in just five days which left everyone tired, but most importantly, without any outstanding doubts. My scope of organic agriculture and certification issues was broadly widened. Thank you for organizing such a great event.”

Ing. Julius Mbuga
Auditor interno
Fundación Proagroin-ZN



“El curso cumple con las diferentes normas orgánicas nacional e internacional, y científico, social, económico, cultural, al dar herramientas sólidas de protección y seguridad tanto al medio ambiente como al productor y al consumidor, al formar inspectores orgánicos de clase mundial.”

Dr. Ignacio López



Guatemala Advanced Inspector Training

Submitted by Bob Howe, Trainer

This two-day training was held March 3rd and 4th. The site for the training was the spectacularly beautiful, somewhat exotic "IRTRA" resort in Guatemala. Twenty-five participants representing Mexico, Guatemala, Canada, USA, Nepal, and Costa Rica attended, counting the Spanish language Trainer (Humberto Gonzales) and English Trainer (Bob Howe). Sessions were conducted in both English and Spanish with interpretations done by Cara Smiley, Garth Kahl and Luis Brenes.

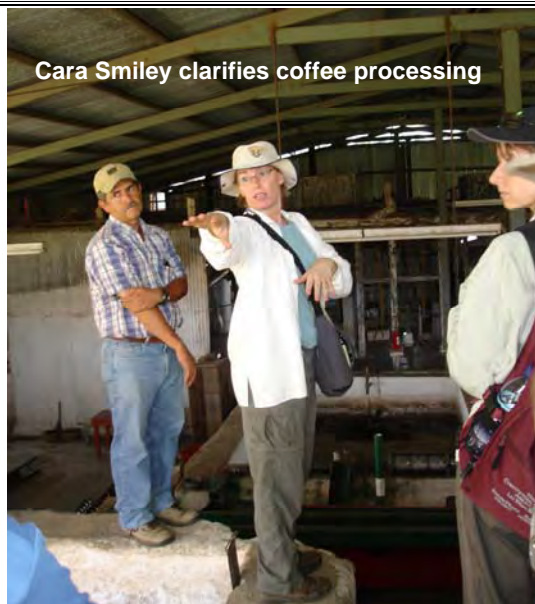
There were two options for field trips and, a new activity, "open forum" one evening after dinner.

The training was initiated on Monday with concurrent field trips to a cooperative coffee plantation and to a medicinal herb farm.

The coffee plantation is operated by 18 people who are members of the cooperative. Some live on the farm and others nearby. Crops and livestock produced on the farm, included coffee, which is the only certified organic crop, macadamia nuts, pineapples and cacao. Non-organic livestock included dairy and meat cattle, chickens for laying and meat, pigs and tilapia. There is a large composting operation on the farm. The farm is being purchased from a local church, which, along with another investor, provided the resources to acquire the property with the intention of turning it over to the cooperative as the cooperative was able to pay it off.

One impressive point about the farm is that it is very clean and maintained. The cattle manure is gathered at the milking barn on a daily basis and taken to the composting site. All the cultivation and maintenance of the fields and livestock is done manually. A coffee processing plant on the site has equipment for extracting the bean and roasting but all the sorting, bagging, etc., is done by hand. The only pest for the coffee is a tiny insect that bores into the bean on the bush. The farm has deployed hundreds of homemade alcohol lures which trap the insect and drown it in a soap and water reservoir, proving to be very effective.

The medicinal herb farm, Kakawatal, is a rural development project of Dr. Armando Cáceres and Lidia Girón (see last issue).



Cara Smiley clarifies coffee processing



David Konrad presented "Risk analysis for Organic Inspectors". The presentation was similar to his Complex Auditing presentation at the training in Encinitas, which applied financial auditing techniques to organic inspection. The focus of the presentation on Risk Analysis was a thoughtful view of the audit trail and the proofing of mass balance. It gave us insight into judging the degree of accuracy of the organic audit and how that applies to the "risk" of determining inaccurate results or missing fraud and application of ineffective controls. He emphasized that the larger, more sophisticated operation probably needs to be audited on the controls more than the numbers in order to determine that they are being consistently applied and are in keeping with the documented procedures.

Margaret Scoles presented a review of the recent changes within the NOP; addressing mainly the changes in the National List and Livestock standards. Sue Baird assisted her.

Carlos Humberto Gonzales Guerrero explained the changes pending in the EU standards. The standards, which are to be implemented in 2009, add farmed aquaculture and sea vegetables, require certified organic seeds and planting stock, prohibit soluble NO₂ fertilizers and require that the product must be 95% or greater for certification, dropping the MWO category.

Luis Brenes' presentation covered inspection of Community Grower Groups. The presentation

was designed to cause the inspector to think and consider the circumstances under which the group functions, how they are affiliated and general proximity of the growers. He brought out that the standards are not translated into many of the languages or dialects that the CGG's exist in and that the environment and conditions for travel within the areas are often very difficult. He made it clear that the individual grower could not always be expected to have read the original version of the standards and that most of the responsibility to explain it and translate it into simple words was at the level of the organization's quality management. The presentation included an overview of documentation required and how the typical CGG is organized, either as a member cooperative or under the auspices of an NGO.

Bob Durst, who is recovering from an injury, could not attend and his presentation was done via satellite, with Bob talking to the group and Margaret advancing the PowerPoint. Bob's subject was Organic Control Points in Processing Facilities. Bob emphasized that HACCP does not directly relate to Organic controls. HACCP is a food safety program that minimizes risk of food borne illnesses. It works with other programs but it is not a substitute for them, such as GMP's, SSOP's, QA and NOP.



Cracking macadamia nuts

The principles of HACCP can be applied to Organic in that the risks are similar and the identification of CCP's makes it applicable to identifying OCP's. The HACCP sets up procedures for monitoring and documenting, which simplifies verification of organic integrity. Bob gave several examples of typical OCP's, such as those to prevent contamination and commingling, and documentation to verify organic and organic compliant materials. He emphasized that OCP's are often not clearly identified or explained in organic handling plans.

John Warner talked about antioxidants in processed organic foods. John operates a laboratory where the level of antioxidant is determined. He presented several startling statistics, such as the fact that organic milk is 90% higher in antioxidants than conventional milk. Also, organic foods generally are from 20% to 50% higher in antioxidants than the conventional form of the same food. One chart he put up showed the antioxidant level on a per gram basis. This chart, for example, showed that black raspberries had the greatest level while a red wine was at the lowest. He remarked that one does not usually have just one gram of red wine and it is important to look at the normal serving size to get a realistic picture. The per serving chart he put up showed that several common beans were very high as were blueberries.

The open forum session was held on the evening of the first day. Bob Howe made a brief presentation on the formats and technique he uses to schedule inspections. Interest in the information was voiced by those attending and Bob sent digital copies of the format and explanation to everyone. Andrew Black presented an explanation of the "monitoring" referenced in several places in the recently revised OTCO handler report format. This was of particular interest because of the discussions we have had on the IOIA Forum regarding the handlers and their programs for internal audit of their organic handling plans. The presentation bears out the value of the internal audit regardless of the Certifier. Å

Algunas de Mis Impresiones de la Finca Proyecto San Dionisio

de Monique Scholz

EL CONTEXTO En la última semana de Febrero 2008, MAYACERT y IOIA apadrinaron un Curso Básico para Inspectores de Fincas Orgánicas. El curso tuvo lugar en Retalhuleu, Guatemala. La región es calurosa y húmeda. La producción de hule, de caña de azúcar y de frutas tropicales domina el paisaje agrícola.

Como es habitual para un curso IOIA, los estudiantes practican los actividades de inspección durante una gira de campo. Un equipo del Proyecto San Dionisio recibió a toda la clase, de treinta y dos participantes y cuatro líderes. El Proyecto San Dionisio se ubica en San Felipe, bajo el ojo vigilante del volcán Santiaguito. El área certificada es de ciento cincuenta y siete hectáreas de café, cultivadas entre los 700 y 800 metros de altura.



Kitri Falxa of Oregon helps with translation

MIS IMPRESIONES Yo voy a hablar de tres impresiones. Primero, la finca muestra una biodiversidad ejemplar. Su café está asociado con banano, plátano o macadamiza, y muchas otras plantas. Por ejemplo, una leguminosa de la familia de los cacahuetes cubre el suelo. Los gigantes (caña India) previenen la erosión. Los árboles y flores atraen insectos, aves y mariposas. Las golondrinas me dicen ' ¡Nos vemos en Canadá en el mes de Mayo!'

Segundo, hay un ciclo cerrado de los nutrientes. Yo pienso en las fincas biodinámicas en mi país: la finca es un organismo completo. Las semillas de café vienen de la cosecha. La tierra para los injertos es de la finca. Los fertilizantes son fabricados en la finca con compost de lechería, con vermi-compost, con leche y con orines de vacas. Un insecticida y un fungicida son fabricados con plantas fermentadas. Y después del proceso de la despulpadora, la pulpa va al compost. La finca compra únicamente un poco de insumos.

Tercero, la finca el Proyecto San Dionisio es un modelo social muy interesante. Dieciocho socios poseen la finca juntos, trabajan con los empleados, y comparten los riesgos y los triunfos. Yo comprendo solamente una fracción de la historia guatemalteca, una historia compleja de conflictos y reforma agrícola. Me parece que este modelo tiene capacidad para curar e inspirar.

LA CONCLUSION Muchas gracias a todo el equipo de la finca: incluyendo las compañeras que cocinaron los pescados deliciosos de la finca para nuestros almuerzos. Muchas gracias también al equipo de Mayacert por la organización muy profesional de todo el curso, a los instructores Luis y Gabriela, a Lidia y a los participantes, por su bienvenida y paciencia con mis preguntas y errores de la idioma español. ¡Qué semana memorable! Å



Gabi Soto y Luis Brenes

Segundo Curso Internacional de Inspectores de Fincas Orgánicas en Guatemala. 2008

Por Ing. Agr. Francisco Lorenzo López,
Colegiado Activo No. 1726.

Los países latinoamericanos como es el caso de Guatemala, están gestando tratados comerciales con mercados importantes y desarrollados como: Los Estados Unidos de Norte América, Canadá, la Comunidad Económica Europea y otros, procesos que traen oportunidades y desafíos. Este es el tema de los productos agrícolas y sus derivados, que entre los mercados anteriormente mencionados, aproximadamente se compra el 80% de lo producido en Centroamérica; estos mercados cada vez exigen productos mas amigables con el medio ambiente y la salud de las personas, por lo que crece la expectativa entre los productores para promocionar sus ventas con sello orgánico o elaborado con orgánicos, sin embargo esta iniciativa demanda de profesionales que apoyen la certificación de los mismos ante las autoridades que administran o velan porque se cumpla con la normativa que tiene como objetivo asegurarle al consumidor productos que estén libres de químicos peligrosos para la salud humana.



En esa línea La Asociación de Inspectores Orgánicos Independiente-IOIA-, MAYACERT, Facultad de Agronomía de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, Unidad de Normas y Regulaciones del MAGA, Laboratorio Farmaya, CEMAT, Hivos, CONCYT y otras Instituciones, del 25 al 29 de febrero de 2008, organizaron el Segundo Curso Internacional de Inspectores de Fincas Orgánicas, que tuvo como sede física las instalaciones del IRTRA, en el municipio de san Martín Zapotitlán, departamento de Retalhuleu, Guatemala, con el objeto de fortalecer la oferta de profesionales aptos, para satisfacer la demanda de los productores que buscan el desarrollo sostenible a través de la certificación orgánica de sus productos. En este curso se tuvo la participación de 4 mexicanos, 2 norteamericanos, una nicaragüense y 24 guatemaltecos y la grata presencia de Monique Scholz, ciudadana de Canadá y miembro directivo de IOIA, que con su participación selló el prestigio internacional del curso. Por su parte los instructores de la Hermana República de Costa



Rica, con un alto nivel de conocimiento en el tema dejaron muy satisfechos a los participantes. Además es digno de reconocer la gran labor desarrollada por el personal de apoyo como lo son las y los académicos Vicente Martínez, Lidia Girón, Ingrid Lejá, Julio Velásquez, Marco Vinicio Fernández que demostraron su alta capacidad organizativa permitiendo que el curso finalizara con un 100, agradecimiento especial también a personeros de la finca San Dionisio, por la colaboración, al permitir que nosotros los estudiantes hiciéramos la práctica que complementa el aspecto teórico recibido. Espero no haber dejado de mencionar algún nombre valioso en esta actividad, personalmente agradezco a IOIA por el apoyo económico que se me hiciera para participar en este evento, lo cual al igual que todos los participantes asumo el compromiso de hacer un trabajo honesto y serio que se pueda traducir en beneficio tanto para el productor como para el consumidor que tiene todo el derecho a exigir alimentos sanos. Con Muestras de mi alta estima y consideración para todas y todos, hasta la próxima. Æ



Joint Training for harmonisation or risk assessment in India

by Dr. P V S M Gouri

Regulations on group certification were introduced in India in 2005. Since then the Government of India has played an active role in promoting organic farming and group certification for small and medium sized farmers.

In many parts of India, farmers are poorly educated and often have difficulty maintaining the required level of documentation for certification. To overcome such constraints the Government has introduced support programmes for service providers to help small farmers comply to the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) standards. Service providers, such as NGOs, self help groups and unemployed educated youth, may apply for funds to organize grower groups, assist farmers in adopting organic farming in a systematic manner, establish an internal control system (ICS), prepare and maintain documentation for the farmers for third party certification by certification bodies accredited under the NPOP.

Based on the norms of group certification, certification bodies conduct a sample based inspection (selected number of members in the group) for determining the status of the ICS in a group before considering certification. This process involves risk assessments by the certification bodies and inspectors. There are presently 295 groups, ranging in size from 50 to 5,000 farmers, covering a total of 140,904 farmers under certification in India. In some areas, the ICS was established by NGOs, in other areas the ICS was established by the farmers themselves. Risk assessment, as such, differs from group to group as well as being conducted by different certification bodies.

As secretariat to the National Programme for Organic Production, APEDA, a government department, is responsible for maintaining a credible organic guarantee system in India. APEDA believes in capacity building and emphasizes on improving the knowledge-base among farmers, inspectors, NGOs and other stakeholders with the aim of maintaining the credibility of grower group certification in India. As grower groups are very variable APEDA believes in a systematic approach to risk assessment of

ICS operations, and that all inspectors of the accredited certification bodies should be trained together to enable them to apply a uniform methodology.

With this thought, in March 2008 APEDA organised a training programme for 49 inspectors from the 12 certification bodies accredited under the NPOP. Grolink, a Swedish based organisation with expertise in certification and training, and Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA), a US based inspectors' training organisation, were invited as trainers. The training was conducted over two locations, Delhi and Bangalore, for a duration of six days each. The training conducted by trainers, Ong Kung Wai (Grolink) and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi (IOIA), using group discussions, mock inspections, peer assessment, presentations, and tests, fully involved the participants in the learning. The training, the first collaboration between Grolink and IOIA, and which brought together training methods from Grolink and IOIA, and included IFOAM training material, was well received by the participants. It was also the first event where inspectors from different certification bodies were jointly trained together. Participants had to share, cooperate and work together as fellow trainees instead of as competitors. Many, much to their surprise, enjoyed the experience and have urged APEDA to continue to provide such joint learning opportunities. Discussion about forming a national CB forum was rekindled. When addressing the participants, Mr Dave, the Director of APEDA, further encouraged the certification bodies to work together as team India. With such a diverse number and range of scenarios, Grolink trainer, Ong Kung Wai, remarked that India is probably an incubator for innovations in risk assessments and group certification. Indian trainees today are likely to be teachers in the near future if they keep on sharing and learning together.

Dr P V S M Gouri

Advisor (Organic Products), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. email: gouri_org@apeda.com

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Non-GMO, from page 16

Project Verification Program in conjunction with organic inspections.

This is the first time training in non-GMO verification was offered, according to IOIA.

David Gould, FoodChain's director of technical services, conducted the training. Gould has expertise in organic inspection and certification, having worked with eight organic certification agencies.

The training included an overview of genetically modified crops, the purpose of the Non-GMO Project, an overview of the Non-GMO Project Standard, verification of the supply chain, and sampling plans, among other topics.

Gould said the organic industry has had a "don't ask don't tell" policy regarding GMOs. "The organic standard is falling short with regard to GMOs," he said. The Non-GMO Project has emerged to address the GMO threat.

Group, cooperative effort

Gould stressed that the Non-GMO Project is "doable" for organic and natural food manufacturers. "For the first time, we are seeing a group cooperative effort," he said.

The Non-GMO Project has been developed as an industry wide initiative with input welcome from all segments of the industry. "The only way to succeed was to build consensus," Gould said.

Because of the GMO threat to seed, Gould said that one of the main goals of the Non-GMO Project was to create a new seed supply to meet the needs of the organic industry.

He said the project is driven from the top down by food manufacturers, but that it functions from the bottom up with suppliers getting their products non-GMO verified first.

The Non-GMO Project will be implemented in stages. The first is a transition period to assess and identify GMO challenges and implement protocols to address the challenges. "We want to take the reality (of GMO contamination) as it is now and make it better," Gould said.

The aim of the Non-GMO Project

[See **Non-GMO 2**, page 15]

Basic Crop Inspection Training Brandon, Manitoba

By Tanya Brouwers, Penticton, BC

The practicum weekend for a distance based, Assiniboine College sponsored IOIA basic crop inspection training program, was carried out from May 2 to 4 in Brandon, Manitoba. The 11 students, representing BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, converged upon the town with pens and highlighters poised for action. Janine Gibson, with Stuart McMillan assisting, led the troops into what proved to be both a highly enriching and memorable three days of learning, learning and, did I say, more learning?

Included in all this “learning” was the highlight of the weekend; the mock inspection. Pat and Larry Pollock, of Pollock Farms, a certified organic mixed

grain and alfalfa operation, generously opened up their home and their minds to this highly inquisitive group of potential inspectors. On top of all this and somewhere in between the endless barrage of questions and the frantic shuffling of inspection report papers, Pat even managed to prepare an astonishing feast of organically produced fare, much of it from the farm itself. Many thanks go out to this wonderful couple. The pride they showed in their farm and their obvious dedication to organic farming philosophies and principles makes this pair an inspiration to organic farmers everywhere.



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The mock inspection also reinforced what Janine, a truly wise and wonderful teacher, had been advocating from the start: that organic inspection is all about promoting organic integrity with respect. It is easy for a newcomer to the world of organic inspection to slip into the role of a standard-toting citation-slinger. This group, however, was lucky enough to draw on the experience of a highly successful inspector whose gentler approach yielded the best results. Thanks Janine! And thanks to all the rest of the group for making the weekend one I, personally, will never forget. Ë



IOIA/ACC

Crop Inspection Course

May 2-4, 2008

- ◆ *On-site practicum and tests completes 6 weeks of distance learning*
- ◆ *Pat and Larry Pollock, of Pollock Farms, provided the field trip host site*

The group inspection experience remains an essential component of all IOIA basic courses and is frequently cited as one of the most valuable aspects.



After the field trip, learning how to write the report

Iowa Basic Crops & Process Training

by Monique Scholz and Margaret Dickson

At the request of regional umbrella organization IOA (Iowa Organic Association), IOIA put on a major training event in Coralville, Iowa, April 16-25. Events included Basic Crops (2 classes), Basic Livestock and Basic Process Inspector Trainings, as well as a Crop Standards refresher and a two day Advanced training program. Close to 100 participants attended one or more of the sessions, coming not only from central Iowa communities but also from as far away as Nepal. The trainings were held at the newly-opened Riverside Coralville Marriott, where regional artists are prominently featured on all available wall space...and the Iowa Writers Group Reading Room comfortably accommodated some evening work sessions. With a large majority staying on-site, participants found it a very uplifting living and learning environment.

The lead trainers for these sessions were Garry Lean (Crops and Livestock) and Monique Scholz (Process and 2nd Crops session). IOIA ED Margaret Scoles was present throughout, speaking at the Advanced Training along with David Gould (FoodChain Global Advisors on behalf of the Non-GMO Project), Joe Ward (feed specialist) and Sarah Flack (the organic dairy queen from Vermont). Assistant trainer for crops and additional group leaders for the basic events were Margaret Dickson, Joyce Ford, Erin Beard, Jacklyn Smith and Margaret Scoles.

Joe Ward, representing the cosponsor IOA, had the formidable task of arranging for 9 field trip destinations. It was quite wonderful to have field trips within a 30 minute drive and to be so warmly received by the Amish and Mennonite farming families for the 'mock' inspections. The weather cooperated on field trip day and participants got to experience the best weather of the week – outdoors.

IOA members also arranged for Iowa Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Bill Northey to speak at dinner on the second evening. Northey was introduced by Jerry Rossman, IOA Executive Director. Several Certifying Bodies were represented through brief presentations. Displays by CB's and other companies were set up around the room for perusal before and after the meal.

Thanks to several organic food suppliers, organic food donors, and a creative, flexible staff, folks enjoyed some superb meals. Highlights were the scrumptious desserts twice a day and the organic steak dinner with Biodynamic wine. How does Marg Scoles arrange for all this?

Special thanks to Susan Colwell, who assisted our Executive Director with registration, binder assembly, coffee break duties and the plethora of behind-the-scenes tasks which make a major training event run smoothly. The training 'office' was a hub of activity at all hours of the day and night with administrative activities, research, assignment completion, and some report printing taking place. Susan had a smile for everyone as they came through the door.

Needless to say, the agenda was full and participants took advantage of the wide range of opportunities to learn, not only about inspecting organic operations but also about the broader scope of IOIA activities and the role of inspectors in the organic sector. Ě



Jacklyn Smith as Group Leader on left

Non-GMO Training 2, from page 13

Verification Program is continuous improvement. The Non-GMO Standard allows variances for GMO thresholds with 0.25% for seed, 0.9% for food, and 1.5% for feed with the goal of achieving 0.1% for seed, 0.5% for food, and 0.9% for feed.

"Now is the time to take action"

The Non-GMO standard is a process-based standard supported by a testing component.

Gould stressed that the non-GMO Project aims to "spare farmers of the burden" of GMO testing.

Non-GMO inspections will be coordinated with organic certifiers. "We want to burden the certifiers as little as possible," Gould said. Gould acknowledged that non-GMO verification will be difficult for micro ingredients, such as vitamins, and processing aids derived from GM material. Several inspectors also discussed the challenges of finding the GMO status of livestock vaccines.

Gould emphasized that the Non-GMO Project is necessary to deal with the GMO threat to organics. "Twelve years of GM production is enough. Now is the time to take action."

More non-GMO inspectors will be needed. "We will need to train the majority of organic inspectors," Gould said.

Inspectors thought the training was valuable. "We're getting a perspective that we don't get in organic inspector trainings," said Tony Fleming, an organic inspector from Albion, Indiana.

Names of inspectors who have taken the non-GMO training will be listed on the Non-GMO Project's website, www.nongmorproject.org. Ě

Livestock Inspection Training, Iowa City, Iowa, April 21-25 2008

by Linda Coffey and Margo Hale

Note: NCAT Specialists Linda Coffey and Margo Hale recently attended the organic livestock training in Iowa. Several other NCAT Specialists have previously completed IOIA organic inspector trainings. Linda and Margo share their experiences:

I (Linda) am typing this as Margo drives us south, having just completed an intense week of organic livestock inspector training with International Organic Inspectors Association.

The training consisted of four days of instruction in the National Organic Program standards, review of organic production practices, guidance on materials approved for organic production, and evaluation of organic livestock operations. Our teachers included Garry Lean, Sarah Flack, Guy Jodarski, DVM, and Erin Beard (group leader for Margo's tour). Our group also received supplemental materials contributed by NCAT Specialist Dr. Anne Fanatico (poultry) and by Dr. Ann Wells, DVM (sheep and goats).

We also took the half-day crops pre-course on Sunday afternoon (April 20) to give us necessary background in soil management, basic concepts, and familiarity with standards and the National List (205.600). (We have learned to cite everything using the appropriate standard!) We heard a very inspiring and enlightening talk about organics (presented by Jim Riddle).

On Monday, the livestock course began, and we met the 14 other students in the course. The group consisted of organic farmers, inspectors, those who work for certification in the US and in Canada, several hoping to become inspectors, and a USDA Compliance Officer. The group was diverse and interesting and the size of the class contributed to effective learning.

Let me just say we have been very busy with learning activities, homework, reading, discussions, debates, a farm tour (VERY illuminating), reports, practice, skits, and other fun organic activities too numerous to mention. We have been immersed in organic livestock production! (side note: I am glad to be speaking figuratively; it was a near thing in the dairy barn on the farm I toured). The training was extremely valuable, and also fun. Garry was great at drawing out discussion. He also provided us with a lot of "applied" exercises, where he presented situations and made us practice using the standards and our information given to figure out what the inspector should do. We were given lots of opportunity to practice our skills and reinforce the learning, including role play, math problems, discussion exercises, and group work. We practiced using the standards and discussed various interpretations of the rules. Many real-world and hypothetical situations illustrated use of the Standards and practice in conducting audits.

This training was very intense and required a lot of work, both before the training (pre-course assignments) and during the training. We worked hard on studying and completing assignments from about 8:00 a.m. until 11 p.m. (or later) each night. The only way to really get a break would be to skip a meal, which we were all reluctant to do since all the meals were excellent.

The course concluded with an exam and a student-conducted inspection of an organic dairy operation. Course students were required to write inspection reports, as if they were inspecting the operation for an accredited organic certifying agency.

While it took a long time to write the exam, I feel good about it because this week prepared me well. We have much more knowledge about the standards and how they are applied, and can more fully appreciate the wise advice we have been taught, to tell clients to CHECK WITH YOUR CERTIFIER. We understand what an inspector's job is and can see how a farmer would need to operate to comply with the standards and to be a good organic farmer.

Margo and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to take this training. Our work with farmers requires that we be familiar with the concepts of organic agriculture and with the standards, and this week was highly beneficial in making us more educated about practices and standards.



Sixteen Livestock Course Participants with Trainer Garry Lean, Group Leader Erin Beard of Iowa, on the balcony of the Marriott Hotel, with the river in the background

IOIA holds first inspector training for non-GMO verification

By Ken Roseboro

The Independent Organic Inspectors Association and the Non-GMO Project co-sponsored a one-day training program in non-GMO verification for organic inspectors. Twenty-two organic inspectors attended the training, which was offered as an addition to an organic inspector training program in April in Iowa City, Iowa.

The training focused on verification to the non-GMO standard developed by the Non-GMO Project in consultation with FoodChain Global Advisors and members of the organic food industry. The Non-GMO Project and Food Chain developed the training for organic inspectors to conduct Non-GMO [see **NonGMO**, page 13]

Advanced Training in Iowa

By Margaret Scoles

When David Gould of FoodChain Global Advisors contacted IOIA in February to explore collaborative training options, the timing was perfect. IOIA was developing what became the largest and most complex training in IOIA's history. The four basic trainings, cosponsored by Iowa Organic Association, were a formidable project on their own. Coupled with that, IOIA was planning its most adventuresome AGM and Advanced Training combination in Guatemala. Yet another training to occur in April just didn't seem possible.

In spite of those challenges, IOIA put together an excellent training opportunity on very short notice. IOIA sent out a message to the members. "Would you be interested in a 2-day advanced training, if the first half was Non-GMO Verification Training that could lead to another inspection opportunity to complement organic?" Midwestern IOIA inspectors (and a few from far flung places like Korea and Utah), a group of 18 in all, responded "Yes!" to the query. An additional five came for Day 1 only (the Non-GMO Verification Training). Added to that group of seasoned veteran inspectors were a group of excellent Day 2 speakers. Based on course evaluations, this was one of the highest rated advanced trainings ever.

David Gould (FoodChain), Megan Johnson (Non-GMO Project), and Margaret Scoles (IOIA) met at ATO in Chicago to discuss future opportunities. Tentatively, the one-day training opportunity will be offered again in Vermont in late August and in Oregon in conjunction with the large complex of basic and advanced trainings this fall. Each participant receives a Letter of Attendance for NON-GMO PROJECT PRODUCT VERIFICATION PROGRAM TRAINING by FoodChain Global Advisors, Technical Administrator for the Non-GMO Project.

I served as Trainer and ended Day 1 by sharing NOP updates with sometimes spirited and humorous and exchange with Jim Riddle. Jim spoke as dinner speaker on "The Constellation of Organic Values" and served as a resource person throughout the training.

Day 2 speakers focused on Livestock Topics. Dr. Joseph Ward, spoke on Feed Ingredient Issues for Organic Livestock. (Watch the next newsletter for his guest article.) He provided many supplemental resources and helpful inspector tidbits. For example, by law poultry feed labels must show the % methionine. Inexperienced inspectors sometimes mistakenly interpret labels on all-natural products to contain synthetic methionine.

Sarah Flack, inspector and NOFA-VT Organic Dairy & Livestock Technical Assistance Program followed with a clear and helpful inspector-oriented discussion of Understanding Dairy Rations. When she asked the question, "How many of you have ever done a complete feed audit on an organic inspection?" very few hands were raised. She noted that the job is lots easier when the certifier requires the producer to provide a feed inventory. Flack has been working with IOIA on the basic livestock curriculum on the same topic.

James Frantzen, Organic Pork Pool Coordinator for Organic Prairie (CROPP), shared his down-to-earth experiences with a wide variety of different organic hog production systems. He addressed physical alterations, animal ID, access to outdoors, and body condition scoring. James grew up on an organic farm near New Hampton, Iowa, producing pork, beef, and crops, and helping with the family feed business. He currently coordinates live hog production through 25 farms in the Midwest for CROPP.

Dr. Guy Jodarski, veterinarian and independent dairy consultant from Wisconsin, ended the day with Organic Livestock Issues, including scoring body condition scoring of dairy cattle. He works in organic and sustainable livestock practice with an emphasis in dairy cattle herd health. Dr. Jodarski has consulted with livestock producers and food animal veterinarians throughout much of the US and has traveled widely to present information on how to keep food animals healthy without the use of antibiotics, synthetic hormones and chemicals. His presentation included many simple things inspectors can look for on that one visit per year that give clues to year-around compliance with the standards.

NCAT Poultry Specialist Anne Fanatico is working with IOIA to create a Technical Bulletin on Organic Poultry Inspection Issues. Ann Wells, DVM, is working with IOIA to create a similar bulletin on Organic Sheep and Goat Inspection Issues. Their drafts were distributed as a supplemental resource. IOIA intends to provide these resources as resources for basic livestock training and also make them available to IOIA Inspector members.

The only downer for the training was that the Marriott Hotel misplaced the case of donated Frey biodynamic wine for the evening presentation. Fortunately, an audit of the hotel invoice 2 days later revealed that the wine was still on-site. An extensive search by staff produced it. Much to the chagrin of experienced inspectors, the advanced training was over, and the participants in the basic trainings enjoyed their wine. The experience was a great learning experience for the basic trainings. ED Margaret Scoles said, "If I'd just looked at the stack of paper and said, "looks great", we never would have found the wine. I reviewed the actual numbers on the invoice detail for all of the charges. When I noticed that they'd only served 11 bottles of 24, I made them look again!"

Outrageous statement award was given by acclamation to **Tony Fleming**. During his talk about hogs, James Frantzen said, "They aren't focusing on anything but gain and pork." Tony followed with, "Just like Congressmen." E



Tema de Actualidad

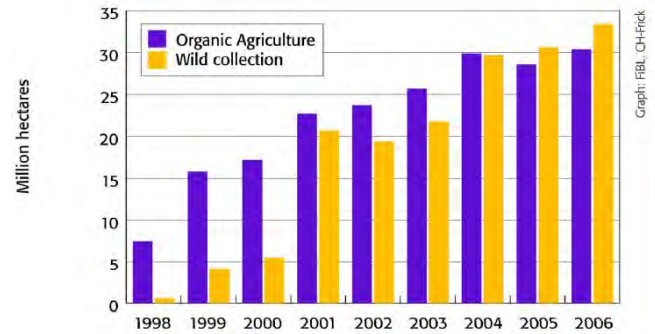
Escrito Por Carlos Andres Escobar Fernandez, Conexión Ecológica

Desarrollo de la Agricultura Organica Certificada entre 1998 a 2006

Reflexión: Los Principios Organicos en la Auditoria Organica

Según las ultimas estadísticas, la situación de la agricultura orgánica a Diciembre de 2006 dice que, entre otros detalles:

- En 135 países se ubican experiencias de producción orgánica certificadas.
- 69 países tienen su propia regulación y 21 están en proceso de revisión - oficialización
- 30.4 millones de hectáreas agropecuarias están certificadas como orgánicas
- 33 millones de hectáreas silvestres certificadas como orgánicas
- 468 certificadoras están actuando tanto a nivel internacional como nacional y local.
- 38.6 billones de dólares corresponde al valor comercial de los productos orgánicos durante el 2006, 16 % más que el 2005.



Source: FiBL, SOEL & IFOAM Surveys 2000 - 2008. Data consolidation in progress.

Graph: FiBL, CH-Frick

En términos generales, el panorama de la agricultura orgánica es alentador a pesar de la situación actual de la disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos, precios de los combustibles fósiles, aumento acelerado de las áreas para agrocombustibles y cultivos modificados genéticamente, entre otros aspectos, que están poniendo en riesgo la sostenibilidad cultural, social, ambiental y económica de la humanidad.

También los datos indican que la certificación orgánica continúa siendo uno de los procesos fundamentales para la credibilidad y diferenciación en el comercio en todos los niveles. Sin embargo, ha sido tanto su auge e importancia que otros aspectos fundamentales de la agricultura orgánica se están perdiendo de vista.

Cada vez más, los procesos de certificación se tornan pesados, insostenibles y descontextualizados dada la cantidad de documentación que se debe tener, mantener y completar de parte y parte, la falta de equivalencia y armonización entre las diferentes regulaciones nacionales e internacionales, los altos costos de acreditación que hacen necesario (en parte) mantener altos costos de certificación para los pequeños productores, especialmente; son parte de las consecuencias. Aun ante la posibilidad de sobrellevar todas las situaciones mencionadas, día a día se convierte en un proceso frío que responde simplemente a una lista de chequeo.

Visto desde el lado de los movimientos orgánicos, parte de los procesos de certificación realizados por las certificadoras no consideran los principios de la agricultura orgánica estimulados por la Federación Internacional de Movimientos de Agricultura Orgánica – IFOAM:

- **Principio de la Salud**, la agricultura orgánica debe sostener y promover la salud de suelo, planta, animal, persona y planeta como una sola e indivisible. Reconoce que el rol de la agricultura orgánica, ya sea en la producción, transformación, distribución o consumo, es la de mantener y mejorar la salud de los ecosistemas y organismos, desde el más pequeño en el suelo, hasta los seres humanos.

- **El Principio de Ecología**, la agricultura orgánica debe estar basada en sistemas y ciclos ecológicos vivos, trabajar con ellos, emularlos y ayudar a sostenerlos. Esto implica que los sistemas agrícolas orgánicos, pastorales y de aprovechamiento de productos silvestres, deben ajustarse a los ciclos y equilibrios ecológicos de la naturaleza por lo cual quienes producen, transforman, comercializan o consumen productos orgánicos deben proteger y beneficiar al medio ambiente común que incluye paisajes, hábitat, biodiversidad, aire y agua.

- **El Principio de Equidad**, la agricultura orgánica debe crecer basada en relaciones que aseguren equidad con respecto al medio ambiente común y a las oportunidades de vida. Esto significa que todos aquellos involucrados en la agricultura orgánica deben conducir las relaciones humanas de tal manera que asegure justicia a todos los niveles y a todas las partes – productores, trabajadores agrícolas, transformadores, distribuidores, comercializadores y consumidores. Asimismo, la equidad requiere de sistemas de producción, distribución y comercio abiertos y equitativos que tomen en cuenta los verdaderos costos ambientales y sociales.

- **El Principio de Cuidado**, la agricultura orgánica debe ser gestionada de una manera responsable y con precaución para proteger la salud y el bienestar de las generaciones presentes y futuras y el medio ambiente. Requiere que quienes practican la agricultura orgánica pueden incrementar la eficiencia y la productividad siempre que no comprometan la salud y el bienestar. Por

lo tanto, las nuevas tecnologías necesitan ser evaluadas y los métodos existentes revisados. Sin embargo, el conocimiento científico solo no es suficiente. La experiencia práctica, la sabiduría acumulada y el conocimiento local y tradicional ofrecen soluciones aptas, validadas por el tiempo.

Entonces, la invitación es mantener en mente los principios de la Agricultura Orgánica a la hora de actuar como auditores puesto que para muchos consumidores un producto orgánico es mucho más que una etiqueta que cumpla con el Artículo 5 del Reglamento Europeo 2092 de 1991 o la sección 205.301 del NOP. Es recomendable que las certificadoras también actúen como guardianes de estos principios. Es un reto que la totalidad de las áreas orgánicas certificadas se caractericen por seguir estos principios.

En otras palabras, los procesos de certificación no son la esencia de la agricultura orgánica. Ë

Latinoamerica en Acción

Recopilado Por Carlos Andres Escobar Fernandez, Conexión Ecológica

La Conferencia Regional de la FAO pone sus ojos sobre la Agricultura Organica

En la pasada 30ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO realizada entre el 14 y 18 de Abril del presente año en Brasilia (Brasil), diferentes delegados de asociaciones de productores, organizaciones no gubernamentales y gubernamentales de origen nacional e internacional provenientes del sector orgánico se hicieron presente con diferentes eventos y talleres para impulsar los sistemas de garantía participativo, los mercados nacionales y la agro biodiversidad, entre otros temas. Gracias a la labor política de estos delegados, los participantes oficiales de la 30ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO recomendaron que en la próxima Conferencia Regional se incluya el tema de la Agroecología y los sistemas de producción orgánica. Asimismo, solicito que la FAO ayude a identificar recursos para la estructuración de una red de entidades que trabajan en Agroecología en los países de la región. Dicha estructuración, debería incluir la realización de una agenda permanente de reuniones y apoyo para el desarrollo de las redes de cooperación Sur-Sur en Agroecología.

Fuente: GALCI – Grupo de America Latina y el Caribe de IFOAM

Brasil aprueba los Sistemas de Garantía Participativa

De acuerdo a gacetas oficiales, el pasado diciembre de 2007, el Presidente Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva firmo el Decreto N° 6.323 donde se reconoce a los sistemas de garantía participativo dentro del sistema brasilero de evaluación de la conformidad orgánica. También otros aspectos fueron abordados por el presente decreto.

Fuente: PhD Maria Fernanda Fonseca, Embrapa – Brasil



IV Simposio Nacional de Agroecología: Construyendo una Sociedad Agroecológica

Entre el 24 y 26 de Abril del presente año, en Palmira, Colombia; se realizo el IV Simposio Nacional de Agroecología y II Feria de Intercambio de Experiencias y

Productos de la Agricultura Ecológica con la participación de más de 200 personas provenientes de diferentes regiones y sectores de Colombia. Desde estudiantes hasta agricultores estuvieron presentes durante los tres días. Cerca de 50 organizaciones e instituciones presentaron sus productos y experiencias en la Feria paralela al evento principal.

Entre los temas incluidos en el Simposio fueron la situación de la agricultura orgánica en Colombia, experiencias en producción orgánica a nivel empresarial y campesino, fuentes de financiación para la agricultura ecológica y lecciones aprendidas sobre movimiento orgánico a nivel nacional.

También se incluyo la participación del Presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Productores Ecológicos del Perú – ANPE; una de las organizaciones de productores que vienen liderando el desarrollo de mercados locales a nivel latinoamericano aplicando un esquema de certificación participativa.

Al final del evento, la mayoría de los participantes manifestaron su total interés de conformar un movimiento agroecológico nacional.

Este evento fue apoyado por la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Palmira; la Corporación Ambiental Autónoma del Valle del Cauca – CVC; y Conexión Ecológica.

Fuente: Conexión Ecológica

Expertos de la IAASTD publican su informe sobre la agricultura

El estudio financiado por la UNESCO, FAO, OMS y el Banco Mundial, entre otras organizaciones no gubernamentales; y realizado por el panel de expertos de la International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) concluye que el mundo requiere transformaciones drásticas en la agricultura global. El informe indica que la agricultura industrial ha llegado a sus límites por lo que se hace necesaria la vuelta a los modos de producciones naturales y sostenibles.

Según el análisis hecho, la agricultura moderna ha logrado en los últimos 50 años aumentar significativamente la producción de alimentos pero sus ventajas no llegan a todos en forma equitativa y tienen un costo excesivo que pagan, principalmente, los pequeños campesinos, los trabajadores agrícolas, las zonas rurales y el medio ambiente. Sus actuales

consecuencias incluyen la degradación del suelo, la escasez de agua y la destrucción de la biodiversidad. De este modo la agricultura ataca al medio ambiente, contribuye al calentamiento global y es responsable de las graves consecuencias climáticas.

Dicho informe fue aprobado por 57 países entre quienes son Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brasil, Camerún, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Republica del Congo, Republica Dominicana, El Salvador, Etiopía, Finlandia, Francia, Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Irán, Irlanda, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao, Líbano, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Republica de Moldavia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistán, Panamá, Paraguay, Filipinas, Polonia, Republica de Palau, Rumania, Arabia Saudita, Senegal, Islas Solomon, Suecia, Suiza, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunicia, Turquía, Uganda, Uruguay, Vietnam y Zambia. Mientras que Australia, Canadá y Estados Unidos no lo aprobaron manteniendo sus reservas al respecto.

Fuente: Fundacion Agrecolandes y Resumen Ejecutivo IAASTD

Fechas para Recordar

22 mayo, Día Mundial de la Biodiversidad Biológica

5 junio, Día Mundial del Ambiente

17 junio, Día Mundial de la Lucha contra la Desertificación y la Sequía

24 junio, Día del campesinado

11 julio, Día Mundial de la Población

9 agosto, Día Internacional de las Poblaciones Indígenas.

12 agosto, Día Internacional de la Juventud

22 agosto, Día Mundial del Folklore

1 septiembre Día del árbol

16 septiembre, Día Internacional de la Preservación de la Capa de Ozono

27 septiembre, Día Mundial del Turismo.

4 octubre, Día Mundial de los Animales

16 octubre, Día Mundial de la Alimentación

1 noviembre, Día Mundial de la Ecología

2 noviembre, Firma del Protocolo de Kioto

20 noviembre, Día Universal de los Derechos del Niño

25 noviembre, Día Internacional de la No Violencia contra la Mujer.

1 diciembre, Día de la prevención del SIDA

3 diciembre, Día Internacional del No Uso de Agroquímicos

10 diciembre, Día de la Declaración de los Derechos Humanos.

Fuente: Boletín Compartiendo – Perú

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Expansion of Biotech in Brazil Brings Violence

On March 7th—International Women's Day—dozens of Brazilian women occupied a research site of the U.S.-based agbiotech giant Monsanto in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil, destroying the greenhouse and experimental plots of genetically-modified (GM) corn. Participants, members of the international farmers' organization La Via Campesina, stated in a note that the act was to protest the Brazilian government's decision in February to legalize Monsanto's GM Guardian corn, just weeks after the French government prohibited the corn due to environment and human health risks.

La Via Campesina also held passive protests in several Brazilian cities against the Swiss corporation Syngenta Seeds for its ongoing impunity for the murder of Valmir Mota de Oliveira. Mota was a member of the Movement of the Landless Rural Workers (MST)—the largest of the seven Brazilian movements in La Via Campesina—who was assassinated last October in the state of Paraná during these organizations' third occupation of the company's illegal experimental site for GM soybeans. While Brazil already has a high number of land activist murders, Mota's was significant because it was the first to occur during an occupation organized by La Via Campesina, and the first assassination in Brazil to occur on the property of a multinational agribusiness.

The expansion of agricultural biotechnology into Brazil is leading to increasing agrarian conflicts and exacerbating historic tensions over land. The movements in La Via Campesina reject seed patenting, claiming the practice traps poor farmers in a cycle of debt to corporations that own the seed patents, and undermines small farmers' autonomy to save and share seeds. They claim that GM technology threatens biodiversity and native seed varieties, and violates the rights of consumers and small farmers by contaminating conventional and organic crops. In the United States, where more than half of the world's GM crop acreage is grown, widespread contamination of conventional and organic crops by GM varieties is threatening the organic foods industry, which is finding it increasingly difficult to certify products. According to Greenpeace International, there were 39 cases of crop contamination in 23 countries in 2007, and more than 200 in 57 countries over the last 10 years.¹

These claims threaten a multi-billion dollar industry. In the midst of global economic downturn, Monsanto and Syngenta are realizing unprecedented profits—thanks largely to the agrofuels boom. In January, results showed Monsanto's stock appreciated 137% in 2007,² hitting a record on the New York Stock Exchange.³ In February, Syngenta—the world's largest producer of

herbicides and pesticides with control of one-third of the global commercial seed market—announced its 2007 sales amounted to \$9.2 billion. Latin America was Syngenta's "star performer" in 2007, where sales of herbicides, pesticides, and seeds increased by 37% respectively, and sales in Brazil increased for all product lines.⁴

An agricultural superpower, Brazil is the world's largest exporter of ethanol, the largest producer of sugarcane ethanol, the second largest producer of soybeans (the country produced almost a fourth of the world's soy crop in 2007), and the third largest producer of corn. The country holds particular strategic importance to the biotech industry's expansion. As global demand—and financial speculation—for Brazil's agricultural commodities ramps up due to agrofuels and increasing food scarcity, Monsanto and Syngenta are determined to expand sales and market control of GM seeds, herbicides, and pesticides in Brazil—at whatever cost.

Monsanto's Illegal Expansion into Brazil

Hours before the decision by the Brazilian government to legalize commercialization of Guardian corn on February 12th, Brett Begemann, executive vice president of global commercial business, told investors at Goldman Sachs in New York that the company's 40% share of the Brazilian corn seed market "serves as a foundation" for the introduction of the corn, "once approved by Brazilian officials." Begemann also highlighted that Monsanto's GM Roundup Ready soybean seeds account for 55% of total soybean acres planted in Brazil this season, and that the company expects 90% penetration of the country's soybean seed market by the end of the decade.⁵

Begemann did not, however, mention that the expansion of Monsanto's GM crops into Brazil has been accomplished illegally. In January, the Brazilian minister of science and technology acknowledged that GM soybeans and cotton were legalized only after they had already been smuggled into and planted in the country by large farmers.⁶ Various civil society organizations and social movements claim that Monsanto participated in this process illegally through *fait accompli*.⁷ Monsanto began legally selling and collecting royalties for Roundup Ready soybean seeds in the country in the 2003-04 growing season.

Roundup Ready soybean seeds are genetically engineered to resist glyphosate, the world's most commonly used herbicide and the primary ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup. Glyphosate has been shown to cause reproductive problems in rats, including spontaneous abortions, and liver damage.⁸ Begemann boasted that Roundup could deliver up to \$1.4 billion in profits for Monsanto in 2008, due to higher acreage planted to Roundup Ready soybeans.

Not surprisingly, Begemann did not mention that Brazilian federal deputy Abelardo Lupion is currently under federal investigation as to why Monsanto sold him a farm for two-thirds of its market value. In May 2006, journalist Solano Nascimento published an article in the *Correio Braziliense* with evidence that in return for subsidized purchase of the farm from Monsanto, Lupion used his political clout to legalize glyphosate in 2003.⁹

After glyphosate was legalized in Brazil, Monsanto's global sales of Roundup increased by more than 30%. In early 2004, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that despite a loss of \$97 million for Monsanto that quarter, Brazil was "blossoming" and "becoming a bright spot" for the corporation, due to "improved overall performance" in the country. A report from the non-governmental organization Assistance and Service for Projects in Alternative Agriculture (AS-PTA), based in Rio de Janeiro, reports that Monsanto presently controls 80% of the Brazilian market for glyphosate, and has elevated the price by 50% since its commercialization five years ago.¹⁰

A recent study on the environmental impacts of GM soybeans in Brazil by researchers at the Brazilian Department of Agriculture Research Service, found 13 weed species that have developed resistance to glyphosate, representing what could become a "large problem." Glyphosate is creating weeds that are harder to control, and require increased amounts of chemicals. Instead of reducing the need for agrochemicals—as proponents once claimed—GM technology has increased their use. The secretary for agriculture in Parana reports that between 2003 and 2006, glyphosate residue in soybeans harvested in the state increased by 97%. The Brazilian Institute for the Environment (IBAMA) reports that in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, for every kilogram of non-glyphosate herbicide reduced during the period of expansion of Roundup Ready, the use of glyphosate increased by 7.5 kilograms. To accommodate the increase of glyphosate residue in Brazilians' diet, Monsanto has solicited the Brazilian government to revise and increase the acceptable daily amount of the chemical.¹¹

Because Guardian poses similar risks to human health and the environment, and will increase the use of glyphosate, several Brazilian federal agencies, civil society organizations, and social movements were strongly opposed to its legalization. The National Agency for Sanitary Vigilance claimed that the information presented by Monsanto did not exhibit that the corn is safe for human consumption, citing the inexistence of studies on toxicity and the insufficiency of tests on allergens. IBAMA advised against the commercialization of GM corn due to the absence of environmental studies and risk of contamination of native seed varieties and organic crops. In response to the Brazilian

government's decision, La Via Campesina declared, "The political decision by the Lula government to place agribusiness over the health of the population, the environment, and agro-biodiversity is a huge irresponsibility that will mark his mandate."

Increasing Violence and Impunity

The decision to commercialize Guardian® came just four months after Via Campesina and MST member Valmir Mota de Oliveira was assassinated by an armed militia last October, during the movements' third occupation of Syngenta Seeds' experimental research station in the state of Parana. The movements first occupied Syngenta's site in March 2006, after they discovered that the company was illegally growing and testing GM soybeans within the federal boundary zone of the Iguazu National Park (IBAMA fined Syngenta about half a million dollars for the crime, which Syngenta continues to refuse to pay, even though a federal judge upheld the fine in December).

La Via Campesina's occupation of Syngenta gained international support, and in November 2006, Roberto Requião, governor of Parana, signed a decree of intent to expropriate the site from the multinational in the public interest, to convert it into a research and educational center for agroecology. Requião's decree—unprecedented in Latin America—was a huge political win for the social movements and a blow to agribusiness.

Yet Syngenta, thanks partly to its alliance with Deputy Lupion¹² and a good lawyer (the same lawyer as for Monsanto), was able to overturn Requião's decree in the state and federal courts. In July 2007, after the MST was forced to leave the site for the second time, Syngenta hired the NF Security company to guard the site from further occupations. While Syngenta claims that its contract with NF Security stipulates that the guards could not be armed, months before the killing, lawyers for the social movements had registered complaints with the local authorities that the guards were harassing residents on a nearby MST settlement with gunfire.

The MST reoccupied the site at dawn on October 21st when Mota was assassinated with two shots in the chest at point blank range. There is little doubt that Mota's killing was planned: in the months preceding his murder, he had received several death threats due to his cooperation with federal and state police investigations into NF Security for illegal munitions trafficking and formation of armed militias. Before his death, Mota's lawyers had requested protection from the national witness protection program.

Another client of NF Security was Alessandro Meneghel, president of the Rural Society of Western Paraná (SRO), an organization representing the interests of large landowners in the region. Requião's decree to expropriate Syngenta's site had infuriated Meneghel, who

declared, "For every invasion of land that occurs in the region, there will be a similar action by the [SRO]. We are not going to permit the rural producers to be insulted by ideological political movements of any kind."¹³ At the time of Mota's murder, Meneghel - who admits that some members of the SRO are clients of Syngenta's - was hiring NF Security guards to undertake illegal and violent evictions of land occupations in the region.

While Meneghel and the owner of NF Security have been charged for Mota's murder, Syngenta remains unscathed. Yet by the time Mota was murdered, the occupation of Syngenta's site had cost the corporation tens of millions of dollars, and had all but halted the company's operations in its most strategic market. Mota's murder highlights the increase of violent conflicts as Brazil's organized rural social movements come up against multinational agribusinesses allied with the landowning elite and protected by a state-sanctioned veil of impunity - a deadly combination.

Full Steam Ahead with the Agrofuels Boom

With Brazil's agrofuels boom just revving up, the Brazilian government shows no sign of holding Syngenta or Monsanto accountable, or reigning in agribusiness. With the passing of the 2007 U.S. Energy Independence and Security Act in December—in which the U.S. government mandated a fivefold increase of agrofuels consumption by 2020—the Brazilian government is poised to further industrialize Brazilian agriculture in order to meet U.S. demand for ethanol. The United States is already Brazil's largest market for ethanol exports. In 2005, the United States imported 31 million gallons of ethanol from Brazil; in 2006, this number jumped to 434 million gallons.¹⁴ Monsanto's push to legalize GM corn in Brazil was no doubt in anticipation of the agrofuels boom; because the infrastructure for ethanol in the United States is designed for corn, agribusiness is banking on ramping up Brazil's corn exports to the United States. Syngenta and Pioneer are currently awaiting legalization of their GM corn varieties in Brazil.

La Via Campesina vows that it will continue to struggle: "We will resist! Our struggle is in defense of peoples' life and environment."

Isabella Kenfield, Americas Program, Center for International Policy (CIP), March 14 2008
<http://americas.irc-online.org/am/5070>

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Schmeiser pleased with Victory

In an out of court settlement finalized on March 19, 2008, Percy Schmeiser has settled his lawsuit with Monsanto, with Monsanto agreeing to pay all the clean-up costs of the Roundup Ready canola that contaminated Schmeiser's fields.

The issue revolved around unwanted RR canola plants that arrived on Schmeiser's fields. Monsanto refused to reimburse or compensate Schmeiser for contamination unless he signed an agreement to not speak publicly on the matter and that he would never sue Monsanto for contamination. A significant part of the agreement is that there was no gag-order imposed on the settlement and that Monsanto could be sued again if further contamination occurred.

Schmeiser believes this precedent setting agreement ensures that farmers will be entitled to reimbursement when their fields become contaminated with unwanted RR canola or any other unwanted GMO plants. "In an indirect way, Monsanto has acknowledged liability for the contamination of a field by the unwanted appearance of its genetically altered product," stated Schmeiser in reaction to the settlement.

Farm Bill, from page 1

The \$450,000 payment limitation for the EQIP was reduced to \$300,000 over six years.

Renewable Energy

The bill provides \$70 million over 5 years in mandatory funding for the Biomass Crop Transition Assistance Program. BCTAP is a program that will encourage farmers to grow annual and perennial biomass crops. Selection criteria include some sustainability criteria and a preference for local ownership, both provisions pushed by the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture's renewable energy committee.

The Livestock Title

While we lost the packer ban in conference there are some significant farm bill gains for contract growers of livestock and poultry. Producers will be able opt out of arbitration clauses in their livestock or poultry production contracts. A contract grower will be able to have any dispute settled in the federal judicial district where he lives rather than where the company headquarters are located. Contract growers will have three days to cancel a contract after signing and the initial contract must disclose whether large capital investments will be required over the life of the contract.

The livestock title also directs USDA to define "undue pricing preference" to protect small and independent livestock producers from unjustified pricing practices that favor larger producers.

The bill also includes a Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) provision requiring retailers to label the country of origin of meat, fish, fruits and vegetables by September 30, 2008. The COOL provision retains the prohibition on the use of a mandatory National Animal Identification System to establish country of origin.

The bill also includes a compromise provision allowing the interstate sale of state inspected meat for certain small packers.

Rural Development

The new Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program was given \$15 million in mandatory funding over 4 years. RMAP will provide small loans and technical assistance to rural entrepreneurs with low and moderate incomes to establish small businesses in rural areas.

The Value Added Producer Grant program took a hit to its funding receiving just \$15 million in mandatory funding over 4 years although additional annual appropriations are authorized. The bill, however, provides new grant priorities for projects that support local food system development and for small and midsize family farms and beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Local and Community Food Systems

The Community Food Project program was funded at \$5 million annually over 10 years to make matching grants to community organizations working on local hunger, nutrition and food access issues.

The bill also includes a provision allowing local schools to establish a purchasing preference for locally produced fruits, vegetables, dairy and meats for school meals.

The bill establishes a new competitive grant program to spur innovation and local food infrastructure development particularly in underserved communities. The Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center will provide technical assistance and feasibility study grants to support enterprises to distribute and market healthy and locally produced food.

USDA's Rural Business and Industry Loan Program now includes a priority for entities engaged in local food distribution and marketing Five percent (about \$50 million a year) of the guaranteed loan funds are to be set aside for these types of enterprises.

Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Section 2501, a competitive grant program to assist socially disadvantaged farmers access USDA programs received \$75 million in mandatory funding over 4 years, a significant increase over current authorized levels and a first time mandatory allocation.

The bill creates a new Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Account pilot program available in 15 states to establish matched savings accounts for the purchase of farmland, farm equipment or livestock. No mandatory funding was provided so this new program will have to win funding in the annual appropriations process.

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program won mandatory funding of \$75 million over 4 years to administer a competitive grants program for organizations providing technical assistance and other services to beginning farmers. This program was created in the 2002 farm bill but was never funded.

Bush's Veto Threat

President Bush vetoed the compromise bill for its failure to "include much needed reform." His principal but not sole objection involves the payment limitations tied to adjusted gross income. The administration wants to exclude individuals with more than \$200,000 in adjusted gross income. Instead, the conference bill appears to deny subsidies to individuals with \$500,000 in non-farm income (\$1 million for married couples). Individuals with more than \$750,000 or \$1.5 million for married couples are ineligible for direct payments but can still receive counter cyclical payments and loan deficiency payments.

The National Campaign worked hard to win the inclusion of the Dorgan Grassley payment limitation amendment which would have put a hard cap of \$250,000 on farm subsidy payments and other reforms. Failure to win more substantial payment limit reforms is disappointing to us as well as to the Bush administration. But the many farm bill gains described above argue in favor of its passage.

On the Net:

For bill text: <http://thomas.loc.gov> The bill is H.R. 2419

Sources: National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, www.sustainableagriculture.net/fb_reports.php; Associated Press; Washington Post

Farm Bill – A Missed Opportunity

For a more in-depth look at the overall implications of the 2007 Farm Bill, go to <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/commentaries.cfm?refID=102665>

Crisis, What Crisis?

Check out 'Manufacturing A Food Crisis' in the June 2 issue of The Nation – Walden Bello chronicles how 'free trade' is destroying 3rd World agriculture. <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20080602/bello>

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2008 Calendar

June 16 – 20 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress: *Cultivate the Future*. Modena, Italy. www.ifoam.org/modena

July 8 – 12 IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Associations (KFSAO), will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation as a reference. See pg 3 for details.

July 14 – 23 IOIA and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop and a 4.5 day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training using the NOP Standards as a reference. The courses will be held at Unity College, 90 Quaker Hill Road, Unity, Maine July 14-18 (Crop Course) and July 19-23 (Processing Course). See pg 3 for details.

July 20 - 23 Denver, Colorado. *9th Inter Conference on Precision Agriculture*. www.icpaonline.org

July 26 - 30 Tuscon, Arizona. *2008 SWCS Annual Conference*, The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/

June 29 - July 5 IGC-IRC Congress
This forum will be the first time that these two important Congresses have met together to allow exchange and discussion on the multi-function of grasslands and rangelands in a changing world. The Congress will focus on discussing scientific and technological aspects. Huhhot, China. www.igc-irc.org/invitation.htm

August 6 – 15 IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) will cosponsor a

4.5 day Basic Organic Crop and a 4.5 day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training using the HKORC-Cert Organic Standards as a reference. The courses will be held at Sin Hang Campus, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, China August 6-10 (Crop Course) and August 11-15 (Processing Course). See pg 3 for details.

August 11 - 29 Dexter, Oregon. *Eco-Homes: An Introduction to Ecological Building and Appropriate Technology*.

Have you ever wondered how to create a home that is energy efficient, environmentally friendly and designed for both human comfort and integration into the natural surroundings? This three-week intensive offers a broad overview of the elements of home building and design with a focus on Permaculture. www.lostvalley.org/EPI

August 19 - 23 IOIA and Vermont Organic Farmers will cosponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspection training in Vermont. More details and application form are pending. They will be available at www.ioia.net.

September 1 Johnstown (just east of Columbus), Ohio. *Ohio Green Living Fayre*. A day of workshops, exhibits, demonstrations, old-fashioned family games, horse drawn wagon rides, the OEFFA organic farm tour, fishing, music and more. \$5 per person, 11 am to 6 pm. www.ohiogreenliving.org

September 6 Charlevoix, Michigan. *2nd Annual "C.A.R.E.ENERGY FAIR*. This fair is being organized by C.A.R.E. (Conservation and Renewable Energy), a group organized under WATCH, Inc. to help educate and promote conservation and clean, renewable

energy in Charlevoix County. www.charlevoixlibrary.org

September 18 - 19 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. *Fifth Annual Women in Agriculture & Small Business Conference* www.greatplainsrcd.org

September 28 - October 4 Crete, Greece (several locations: organic farms and villages). *Exchange Forum in Crete, Greece: Organic Agriculture & Traditional Foodways*. Professional Experiential Learning Program. *The Mediterranean Diet: Refreshing your understanding. Translating it to the plate*. A culinary-cultural immersion program for agriculture, nutrition and culinary professionals. Participate in dialog, presentations, cultural exploration. www.cookingincrete.com www.fieldtoplate.com

Sept 29 – Oct 3 IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Associations (KFSAO), will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Process Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation as a reference. See pg 3 for details.

October 4 – 8 Cherry Hill, New Jersey. *Re/Storing our Urban and Rural Communities*. Co-sponsored by The Food Trust and many other Philadelphia area organizations. Scholarships available. healthyfoodconference.com/

October 20 - 22 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. *SWCS Farming With Grass Call for Papers*. The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will convene a conference to address the factors driving change in mixed agricultural systems. www.swcs.org/fwg

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