



Colorful Greetings from Retalhuleu, Guatemala!

Notes from the IOIA Secretary

By Monique Scholz

We have been meeting in a land of contrasts, with rich history, vibrant indigenous culture, and a bio-diversity unique to this isthmus connecting the Northern and Southern Americas. We have been building bridges, meeting old friends, making new alliances. It was very special for me to visit with Lidia Girón, Gabriela de Soto and Homero Blas Bastante, all members I first met in the early nineties at an organic training event in Colima, Mexico!

These *Notes from the IOIA Secretary* are in lieu of the Notes from the Chair, usually in this column. A quorum of our membership, some holding proxies, met here on March 02 2008 for our Annual General Meeting. Although complete minutes will be posted shortly on the IOIA website and will also be published in the next edition of the newsletter, your newly formed BOD would like to give you three immediate news bytes.

Firstly, the membership strongly responded to the Bylaws proposal and adopted the name change of our association from Independent Organic Inspectors Association to **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION**. Fittingly, we had members present from at least six countries, including Nepal, Canada and our host country, Guatemala. This change reflects our unique role in the global organic community: no other professional association has been founded and nurtured to represent and educate the staff and independent organic inspectors around the world. It was especially fitting to adopt this proposal, first raised by membership at the 2007 AGM, at an AGM being conducted with numerous Spanish-speaking members present.

Secondly, the new BOD, now reduced from 7 to 5 members (as voted on at the 2007 AGM for implementation in 2008), is composed as follows:

Chair: Bob Durst, USA
Vice-chair: David Konrad, Canada
Secretary: Monique Scholz, Canada
Treasurer: Gene Prochaska, USA

Director at large: Stephen Bird, USA
First Alternate: Erin Beard, USA
Second Alternate: Lidia Girón, Guatemala

And thirdly, the membership presented several awards. The Inspector Asset of the Year award was bestowed to Lidia Girón, for her untiring support to IOIA in Latin America, particularly in hosting the AGM and associated events. A new award was instituted, Friend of IOIA, and presented to Jean Hough (native of Powder River County, Montana). Jean is IOIA's guardian angel and madrina (godmother). Special thanks were made to out-going chair Garry Lean – and to his wife Margaret Dickson in appreciation for countless suppers interrupted, phone calls taken, and overall forbearance.

The AGM was preceded by a very professionally run 4.5 day Curso Basico de Inspeccion de Fincas Organicas (Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training) co-sponsored primarily by IOIA and Mayacert, a Central American certification body based in Guatemala, and supported by several other agencies. As is typical of Latin American trainings, the class was full to capacity, with 32 participants including yours truly, struggling with Spanish verbs – and thoroughly enjoying the Latino pace of events.

The AGM was followed by a two-day advanced training event, with concurrent Spanish and English language sessions. Some plenary sessions were also held, with translation from Cara Smiley, Garth Kahn and Luis Brenes. For many of us, the highlights were our keynote address, given just prior to the AGM. Dr Armando Cáceres passionately enlightened us on the subjects of Guatemalan history, culture, and agriculture...and explained the fascinating work of his company, FARMAYA. This business, which he runs with Lidia Girón, is devoted to preserving indigenous herbal lore, training growers, standardizing formulations and educating many groups, from local school children to international scientists. Dr Cáceres further blessed us with a visit to his farm, Kakawatal, where more than 100 species are grown and harvested within a 1.4 hectare plot of multi-level shade grown cocoa. Many thanks to all members who came, to those who sent proxies, and especially to Bob Durst who patiently participated via Skype in our pre-AGM BOD, the AGM and as a presenter during the advanced training. Heartfelt thanks to Lidia Girón and Armando Cáceres for their invaluable support in language, their excellent choice of an exceptional facility, and making us all feel like we'd like to stay longer!



Front row: Monique Scholz; Lidia Girón; David Konrad; Maheswar Ghimire; Erin Beard.
Back: Gene Prochaska; Garry Lean; Sue Baird Absent from photo: Bob Durst (USA), incumbent, chair; Catherine Cash (USA), out-going BOD member; Stephen Bird (USA), newly elected BOD member. Photo Credit: Luis Brenes

Member Directory/Updates

The 2008 IOIA Membership Directory is now available. If you ordered a copy, it will be shipped to you in early March. If you didn't but would like to order a copy, a limited number of extra copies are available for \$15 (member price) or \$30 (non-member price). Each member will receive a copy of their directory entry. Please review yours for accuracy.

Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2009 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2008 Online Directory.

Inspectors - Address Changes:

Elizabeth Dominick
Home Phone: 707.677.9529

Maarten Samsom
maarten@samsomassociates.com

Dr. agr. Vivian Vilich
office@organicspectionsservice.com

Welcome Returning Former Members (Not in 2008 Directory) - Inspectors:

Wendy Ziehl
522 Elgin Street
Weyburn, SK S4H 1T8
CANADA
Home: 306.842.0644
Work: 306.842.0644
Email: wziehl@yahoo.ca

Supporting Certification Agencies:

Primuslabs
Brian A. Mansfield
2810 Industrial Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Work: 805.922.0055
Fax: 805.922.2462
Email: brian@primuslabs.com

Welcome New Inspector Members:

Kenny Bogus
514 S 58th Road
Nebraska City, NE 68410
Home: 402.873.4049
Work: 402.477.2323
Fax: 402.477.4325
Email: kbogus@ocia.org

Alex Moreno Sotomayor
1340 N Cotner Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68505
Home: 402.466.0139
Work: 402.477.2323 x312
Fax: 402.477.4325
Email: amoreno@ocia.org

Welcome New Supporting Individual Members:

Leanord Meador (Rossville, IN)

AMS Announces NOP Reorganization

On February 4 the US Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced organizational and structural changes for the National Organic Program (NOP) after five-plus years of program implementation.

"The NOP has been experiencing growing pains along with the organic industry," said Lloyd Day, administrator of AMS, which oversees the NOP, "and this new year brings an opportunity to make changes in the Program to keep up with growth in the organic industry."

The NOP is reorganizing into three branches: Standards Development & Review; Accreditation, Auditing & Training; and Compliance & Enforcement. Deputy Administrator for Transportation & Marketing Programs Barbara Robinson will assume overall leadership for the NOP in addition to her other duties, while Mark Bradley will assume leadership for the Accreditation, Auditing & Training Branch, and Richard Mathews will head up the Standards Development & Review Branch. No decision has been made for leadership of Compliance & Enforcement at this time.

Also underway is the creation of an electronic reading room, where all NOP records that can be made publicly available will be accessible electronically, including a new Q&A site to provide answers to questions posed to NOP. Only answers posted on the Q&A site will constitute an official response from the NOP. The Q&A site will be a component of a reorganized NOP site called "NOP-AQSS" (Answers to Questions on the Standards by the Staff).

The NOP budget was increased for 2008 from \$1.5 million to about \$2.7 million.

The NOP plans to add more staff with the funds but could not say when or how many. These changes will help NOP continue to accomplish its goals - ensuring the integrity of the USDA organic seal, applying regulatory consistency, and providing transparency to its stakeholders.

USDA appoints new member to NOSB

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has appointed Dr. Barry Flamm to fill an environmentalist position on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to serve a five-year term, running Jan. 24 through Jan. 24, 2013. Dr. Flamm recently served as an adjunct professor in environmental studies at the University of Missoula in Montana.

Training for new organic food processors

A training for new organic food processors will be held in Santa Ana, CA, on March 13 and 14, 2008. Details. Questions? Contact Maarten Samsom (802-933-2195).

NSF, Int'l seeks comments on draft organic personal care standards

NSF, International has drafted private voluntary standards for organic personal care products. The proposed NSF Draft Standard 305 Organic personal care products can be viewed. To submit public comments on the draft, click on the tab labeled "add a comment" in the gray box on the top of the page. The ANSI public comment period will close on March 3 at 11:59 pm EST. All comments submitted on or before this date will be provided to the NSF Organic Personal Care Joint Committee for review and disposition. Comments received after this date will not be considered during this public comment period. Questions regarding the proposed draft Standard or on how to submit feedback should be sent to Lorna Badman, at 800-NSF-MARK, Ext. 6806, or 734-827-6806, or via e-mail. badman@nsf.org

IOIA Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Garry Lean, P.Ag..... | Chair |
| Bob Durst | Vice Chair |
| Gene Prochaska..... | Treasurer |
| Monique Scholz..... | Secretary |
| Catherine Cash..... | Director |
| Maheswar Ghimire..... | Director |
| Erin Beard..... | First Alternate |
| Sue Baird..... | Second Alternate |
| David Konrad.. | Ex-Comm Member-At-Large |

The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA, aka *Independent 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. Editorial Staff: 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. We strive for accuracy, but the Editor and IOIA cannot be held responsible for errors or for errors or omissions. Published quarterly on recycled paper.



Upcoming Trainings

Manitoba, CANADA IOIA and Assiniboine Community College (ACC) will sponsor Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training as a Distance Education course. The course includes a period of individualized study followed by a field trip during a weekend session held in Manitoba. The weekend session from Friday evening until Sunday evening will be held May 2-4, 2008. For more information and registration please contact Assiniboine Community College at phone: 1-800-862-6307 ext 6716; or 204-725-8700 from outside Canada; or e-mail: organic@assiniboine.net. Information is posted at www.ioia.net. Training for livestock inspection is under development for later in 2008.

Zona Norte Alajuela, Costa Rica IOIA/FUNDACION PROAGROIN and BCS LATINAMERICA will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference as well as EU (2092/91 and 834/2007). The course will be held in the Zona Norte Alajuela, Costa Rica (exact location to be determined) from March 31- April 4. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Luis Brenes or Vilma Cambronero Tel: (506) 536-6565 / (506) 473-3496 Fax: (506) 536-6565 / (506) 473-3534 or e-mail luisbrenes

Iowa City, Iowa IOIA and Iowa Organic Association will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop and Processing Inspection Trainings, running concurrently on April 16-20, followed by Basic Livestock Inspection Training running April 21-25. Each course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Livestock field trip options will include dairy operations. Poultry operations will be included if possible. Application deadline is February 29. Iowa Organic Association is a nonprofit umbrella organization dedicated to advancing opportunities in organic agriculture in the state of Iowa.

IOIA and the Non-GMO Project will cosponsor Advanced organic inspector training on April 20-21. The 2-day session will include one full day of training by the Non-GMO Project, for which a separate certificate will be issued. The non-GMO training will be open as a 1-day option to certification agency staff and other individuals, as well as inspectors. David Gould of the FoodChain Global Advisors will present this session. The Non-GMO Project is developing training for organic inspectors to do non-GMO verifications, most often in conjunction with the organic inspections of the same operation. FoodChain Global Advisors is the technical administrator for the project. This is the first collaborative training by IOIA and the Non-GMO Project. Deadline to apply is March 14. The Non-GMO Project describes itself as a non-profit organization, created by leaders representing all sectors of the organic and natural products industry in the U.S. and Canada, to offer consumers a consistent "non-GMO" choice. For more information about the Non-GMO Project, see www.nongmoproject.org.

Other topics will focus on NOP standards and policy updates and livestock topics for inspectors. Livestock topics will include doing feed audits for organic livestock, feed ingredient issues for organic livestock, organic hogs, and animal health (invited veterinarian).

Location for all trainings is the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Coralville, Iowa in the Iowa City area. Certification agencies that are active in the Midwest area are invited to participate in Certifier-Inspector receptions on April 16 and April 20. For more details and downloadable application forms, contact IOIA or visit www.ioia.net.

Hong Kong, China IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm 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 May 10-14 (Farm Course) and May 15-19 (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 or Isa Lin at e-mail: hkorc@hkbu.edu.hk or isalin@hkbu.edu.hk.

Langley, British Columbia, Canada IOIA and Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using the proposed Canadian National Standard (version CGSB-2006) as the reference. USDA National Organic Standards variations will be identified. The course will be held at Kwantlen University College in Langley BC, Canada from May 26-30. Please contact Karen Fenske at Ph: 205-260-4429 Fax: 250-260-4436 e-mail: admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Vermont: IOIA and Vermont Organic Farmers will cosponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspection training in Vermont late summer 2008. Tentative date is August 20-25. More details and application form are pending. They will be available at www.ioia.net.

Other trainings: IOIA and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) are developing Basic Crop and Processing Inspection trainings in Maine for summer 2008, tentatively in July. IOIA, CCOF, and Stellar Certification Services are discussing the possibility of joint Livestock and Biodynamic inspection training in northern California. Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as these and other trainings develop.

OTA Training Seminar at All Things Organic: Certifying to the Global Organic Textile Standard

Tuesday, April 29 from 1pm - 4pm. This seminar will provide NOP accredited certifying agents with the information necessary to apply for approval as a GOTS certifier. A certificate of completion will document that your staff and contracted inspectors have completed the OTA Training Seminar: Certifying to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)." More info and a registration form are available at http://www.organicexpo.com/08/custom/pdfs/GOTSrForm_1.pdf. Please note the discount for IOIA members.

Independent Organic Inspectors Association

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2007

| | <u>Dec 31, 07</u> | <u>Dec 31, 06</u> | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | |
| Certificates of Deposit | 15,387.44 | 25,000.00 | |
| Montana Checking | 4,273.12 | 57,457.56 | |
| Montana Paypal | 2,601.87 | 1,582.94 | |
| Montana Savings | 68,978.06 | 0.00 | |
| Vermont- Chittenden Bank | 2,513.42 | 5,372.44 | |
| Total Checking/Savings | 93,753.91 | 89,412.94 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | | |
| Accounts Receivable | -13,071.50 | -12,777.65 | **See Note Below |
| Total Accounts Receivable | -13,071.50 | -12,777.65 | |
| Other Current Assets | | | |
| Inventory Asset | 2,739.04 | 2,880.84 | |
| Petty Cash | 99.53 | 129.50 | |
| Undeposited Funds | 1,212.00 | 4,266.50 | |
| Total Other Current Assets | 4,050.57 | 7,276.84 | |
| Total Current Assets | 84,732.98 | 83,912.13 | |
| Fixed Assets | | | |
| Building | | | ***See Note Below |
| Acquisition Cost | 5,968.20 | 0.00 | |
| Market Value Adjustmt | 29,031.80 | 0.00 | |
| Total Building | 35,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total Fixed Assets | 35,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 119,732.98 | 83,912.13 | |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | |
| Equity | | | |
| Contributed Property-FMValue | 29,031.80 | 0.00 | |
| Opening Fund Balance | 0.00 | 442.57 | |
| Retained Funds | 83,912.13 | 61,045.89 | |
| Net Income | 6,789.05 | 22,423.67 | |
| Total Equity | 119,732.98 | 83,912.13 | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 119,732.98 | 83,912.13 | |

Explanatory Note re: Negative figures in Accounts Receivable.

**IOIA reports annually to the membership on a Cash Basis. Cash Reports sometimes show a negative Accounts Receivable where Accrual reporting would not. The reason is that whenever an item or service is invoiced and the invoice is settled in a matter other than by payment, it appears negative. Two examples: 1) If a cosponsor wishes to send several people to an IOIA training, they are invoiced for the total amount. However, they sometimes pay direct expenses such as payments to hotels with that amount credited to Accounts Receivable to remove the outstanding balance. 2) If IOIA owes a BOD member for reimbursement of phone calls, the payment of dues or other fees is treated as a journal entry with a credit to A/R and a debit to BOD phone expense.

Explanatory Note: Total Assets

***During 2007, IOIA took ownership of the office building and absorbed all costs of taking the building over. Based on the informal appraisal completed in 2007, IOIA's net assets increased by about \$35,000. This figure will be adjusted if necessary after the formal appraisal is completed in 2008.

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

This promises to be quite an INTERNATIONAL year for IOIA. As has been the case most often for the past several years, IOIA board members reside in three different countries. Our first AGM in Guatemala! A new Trainer in Korea (welcome Isidor Yu)!

Especially, this seems to be the 'Year of Canada'. Canadian inspector membership is increasing. IOIA membership has always ranged between 20 and 25% Canadian; the figure now is almost 25%. We've doubled our modest Canadian Committee budget for this critical year of implementation of the Canadian standard. We are considering Ottawa for our next AGM. I was in Guelph this year for the first time since our 2001 AGM there. We are considering returning to full sponsor status for that conference. It was great to see so many inspector members there: Maureen Bostock, Rochelle Eisen, Len Kormos, Simon Jacques, Dag Falck (who did I miss?) in addition to our dedicated booth volunteers. (See separate article.) IOIA is working with Canadian Organic Growers to develop a grant proposal that would make training to the new Canadian regulation within the next 12 months affordable, accessible, and available across Canada. What happens if we aren't successful? We'll keep doing what we do. We'll provide at least three to four trainings for inspectors across Canada and we'll invite certification agencies. IOIA will invest our own money into curriculum development and strive for industry collaboration to cut costs. And the result? Accessibility will be limited. If history repeats itself, those who attend will likely be the most active inspectors while many part-time inspectors will find our trainings out of reach. A problem is that much of the work is done by those part-time dedicated inspectors (many who are our members) who need training, too. What we aren't likely to do on these trainings is to make money. IOIA provides advanced trainings primarily as a membership service. Even at prices some inspectors find too high, we make a slim profit.

Changes in standards are one of the biggest challenges for inspectors. How do we keep up? We are on the brink of a new European regulation. We hope to repeat the very successful BCS EU Organic Regulation Training as soon the new regulations are final. Only two of the major certifiers in Canada have experience certifying to the new Canadian regulation. The NOP changes over the past year have been staggering. I found myself glad to be a contract inspector for the MT Department of

IOIA Accreditation News – Congratulations to:

New Accreditations - Margaret Dickson (Crop, Livestock, Processing)

Renewal Accreditations:

David Dahmen (Processing)
Christopher J. Kidwell (Crops, Processing)
Jack Reams (Crops, Livestock, Processing)
Philip B. Hale (Crops, Livestock, Processing)
Mary Wilson (Crops, Livestock, Processing)

Welcome new Accreditation Review Panel Member!

Melanie Saffer, PCO, certifier representative

Farewell to much appreciated Accreditation Review Panel member

Ami Greenberg, consumer representative, who served from the first ARP in 1995 to 2007!

Currently Needed:

The Accreditation Committee is looking for a new Chair and the Accreditation Review Panel is looking for a certifier representative. If you would like to volunteer or suggest someone, please contact Accreditation Committee BOD Liaison, Monique Scholz at mscholz@abacom.com.

Agriculture two weeks ago. Doug Crabtree shared with the inspectors the NOP training that he gained in Louisville at the combined NOP, ACA, NASOP training. I was glad to have this condensed summary of all the changes in one place. And now, off to Guatemala, to try to share it there. Thanks, Doug. É

Inspectors Form Consulting Group

Four veteran inspectors with 75 years combined experience have created a new consulting group, Organic Concepts LLC. The four – Patti Bursten Deutsch, Krista Wanser, Stanley Edwards, and Rick Martinez – provide compliance assessment to all the major organic standards, including the US NOP, European Union, JAS and CAAQ. They also provide assistance in the development of organic system plans, certification application, employee

training and inspection, and are fluent in English, Spanish and French.

Contact them at 402-367-8549, or email krista@organicconcepts.info

Correction

Last issue we reported that an ethics complaint had been filed against a standing NOSB member at the last NOSB meeting in November.

This bit of information was inappropriately placed in the context of a separate NOSB report. Furthermore, we should have included the NOP's response, which was that the case was without merit and wasn't going to be discussed. TIR apologizes for any misunderstanding this may have caused.



*IOIA is looking for a few dedicated **Trainers**, particularly in the USA. Demand for trainings has doubled in the last few years. While we've increased Trainers in Japan, Latin America, and Canada, we actually lost several active Trainers in the US to 'real jobs'.*

If you are an Inspector Member of IOIA and interested in assisting at Trainings as a speaker or field trip Group Leader with the goal of becoming a Trainer, please contact Margaret at the IOIA office, 406-436-2031, ioia@ioia.net for a trainer application.

IOIA Annual Report – 2007

Prepared February 1, 2008 by
Garry Lean, IOIA Board Chair, and
Margaret Scoles, IOIA Executive Director

This has been a “Big”, “Building” year for IOIA and, depending on the outcome of the vote, an international “Banner” year as well. The Board endeavored to focus on the mission directives and, in their long-range planning retreat, re-defined IOIA. “*We make sure organic is really organic*”. Ambitious? Perhaps. A definition to live up to and grow into? We think so.

A summary of progress on key ongoing/new initiatives during 2007 is listed below. Detailed information can be obtained from the newsletter (“The Inspectors’ Report” available on line at www.IOIA.net)

Issues and Concerns relevant to organic inspectors:

- ◆ The Inspectors’ Report (IR) – Volume 16; No 1 – 4.
- ◆ The Mini Membership Directory included with Vol.16; No 1 of the IR
- ◆ The hard copy 2007 Membership Directory, published January 2007
- ◆ IOIA Forum – an internet list-serve providing an essential communication tool for current issues, frequently cited as a valuable member service
- ◆ The Organic Standard – electronic international newsletter from Grolink AB for a nominal fee (based on IOIA as the primary subscriber)
- ◆ Secondary forums through YAHOO for Board Matters and the Canadian Committee.
- ◆ Inspector Membership Survey – survey results are currently being analyzed
- ◆ Spanish language section in each quarterly newsletter.

Promoting Consistency and Integrity:

- ◆ Doubled the promotional budget - \$2000 to \$4000
- ◆ Attendance at major organic events including:
 - ◆ Guelph Organic Conference in January
 - ◆ Expo West in Anaheim, California in March
 - ◆ All Things Organic in Chicago, Illinois in May
- ◆ Continued support of OTA, IFOAM, OMRI, Co-op America, Montana Non-Profit Association and COG (Canadian

Organic Growers) through membership and subscriptions

- ◆ Continued partnership with National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
- ◆ Promoted valid and rigorous inspection of Community Grower Groups (CGGs). When the USDA National Organic Program announced a controversial policy impacting inspection of CGGs, IOIA struck a committee, wrote formally to the NOP, and sponsored a delegation to Washington, DC.

Training:

IOIA sponsored the first-ever conference format advanced training, in conjunction with the AGM in Encinitas. The training provided concurrent and repeated sessions to maximize options for members. It helped increase attendance at the AGM (a new record for attendance).

A new goal was identified by the BOD at their retreat: Launch an Organic Training Institute. Repackaging the IOIA training program will diversify training opportunities and create an umbrella for collaborating with other institutions.

The Basic Crop curriculum was revised extensively. It is providing a basis for increased training consistency for all Trainings. The Basic Livestock and Processing Courses are being built on the same platform – including enhanced participatory and OSP exercises as well as a new grading system that includes value for pre-course assignments, homework and in class exercises. Course Evaluations are showing strong support for the developments and changes that have been implemented.

IOIA sponsors an average of two trainings each month, usually following one of two models. IOIA-managed trainings are limited in number (about 5 annually) and are administered out of the head office. Cosponsor-Managed trainings continue to increase each year. Cosponsors handle most of the administrative and logistical workload. IOIA-managed trainings continue to be the primary revenue source for IOIA. Spanish language trainings broke another record in 2007 (8 basic trainings and 2 advanced trainings). Revenue from cosponsor-managed trainings is much lower, but they are an important component in IOIA’s efforts to achieve our overall mission.

The trainees for basic courses continue to come from all areas of the organic industry. About 25 percent of the

participants are ‘non-inspectors’. Providing in-house training for certifier staff continues to be a rapid growth area. Trainings over the past year included:

IOIA-Managed Trainings

- ◆ California - Advanced at the AGM in Encinitas in February
 - * First Personal Body Care Products Inspection Training – 1 day
 - * JOIA/IOIA JAS Training – 1 day
- ◆ Montana – Advanced in March
- ◆ California – Basic Processing in February
- ◆ Ohio – Basic Crop and Livestock in April
- ◆ California – Basic Crop – (2 concurrent courses) in May
- ◆ Pennsylvania - Basic Crop, Livestock and Processing in November
- ◆ Pennsylvania – Advanced and EU Regulations in November

Co-sponsor Managed Trainings

- ◆ Crop - Costa Rica, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Japan, Jamaica, El Salvador, Korea, Peru, California
- ◆ Livestock – Korea
- ◆ Processing – Korea, Japan
- ◆ Advanced – Costa Rica, El Salvador

FINANCES

The details of the budget will be presented by the Treasurer in *The Inspectors’ Report* and at the AGM. Key aspects include:

- ◆ The BOD adopted a Cash Reserve Policy.
- ◆ IOIA had the first full financial audit according to international accounting principles. Based on the results of this audit, IOIA improved internal controls and the Finance Committee drafted an Audit Policy for IOIA.
- ◆ IOIA membership supported IOIA with a fundraising auction associated with the AGM.
- ◆ Inspector and Supporting Certification Agency dues were increased.
- ◆ IOIA celebrated its largest single donation to date, the gift of our office building.

A balanced budget was presented at the AGM in Encinitas. The Board is pleased to announce that a modest surplus was accomplished, primarily with strong income from IOIA managed trainings.

On the other hand, significant expenditures needed for non-budgeted activities included:

- ◆ One-time building acquisition costs associated with taking ownership of the IOIA Office Building in Broadus, MT (finalized in August 2007)
- ◆ A four day Board Retreat in Broadus during October with a professional facilitator, Bill Milton
- ◆ Continued curriculum development for the Basic Inspector Training Courses

STAFF

Margaret Scoles continues as Executive Director.

IOIA is blessed with a support staff of dedicated and talented part-time individuals:

- ◆ Judy Hessong, Membership Services, continues as primary support for membership including scholarship, accreditation, on-line database, and annual Membership Directory.
- ◆ Diane Cooner continues as Newsletter Editor, Website Manager, and moderator of the IOIA Forums.
- ◆ The 2007 year began with a farewell to Lisa Pierce, who served as International Training Manager 2002-2006.
- ◆ Sascha Drayne stepped in to handle most of the administrative duties for cosponsor-managed trainings, leaving a gap in training support for IOIA-managed trainings.
- ◆ Lynell Denson and Ben Brewer stepped in to fill that gap. Ben Brewer left IOIA for a full-time job in May. He continues as Information Transfer (IT) support on a limited but much appreciated basis. Lynell remained as Office Assistant.
- ◆ Gordon Mulkey took on the maintenance tasks associated with building ownership and helps out with a variety of tasks around the office
- ◆ Teri Lindberg started as our bookkeeper in early January 2008.

COMMITTEES

At the 2007 AGM, the membership voted to reduce the size of the BOD to 5 Directors, with the goals of reducing costs and shifting more energy away from the BOD and to the IOIA Committees.

The Board extends a sincere thanks to all of the IOIA members who have volunteered to be part of IOIA committee activity and for their accomplishments

IOIA Mission

- To address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors
- To provide quality inspector training and
- To promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process

over the last year. A brief summary of highlights is listed below (more details are included in The IR Vol.16; No 4).

Membership – thank you to outgoing chair Sandra Conway and welcome new chair Kelly Monaghan.

- ◆ First member survey in five years. Results summary is printed in IR-Vol.17; No. 2. The full report will be posted in the “Inspectors Only” section of the website in Spring 2008 Response (81 members replied, a 36% response rate) was more than three times the average for this type of survey.
- ◆ Nominations Committee – a full slate of candidates has been prepared for this year’s election

Scholarship – Special thanks are due for their efforts in handling a high number of Spanish language applicants.

- ◆ Awarded the Andrew Rutherford Scholarship and the Organic Community Initiative Scholarship (OCIS) in 2007.
- ◆ Through member initiative and donations, IOIA established a fund to help defray travel costs for OCIS winners.

Bylaws – responded with three alternatives to the Board proposal for a bylaws amendment to change the name of IOIA to incorporate the word “International”. The results from the vote on name change will be announced at the AGM.

Accreditation and Accreditation Review Panel (ARP)

– This has been a year of major changes. A **big thank you to outgoing Accreditation Committee Chair Jake Lewin**. Special thanks to outgoing ARP Chair **Stephen Grealy**, and ARP members **John McKeon and Ami Greenberg**. Ami served as the certifier representative on the ARP from the time it began dealing with the first applications in 1995. All applications received in 2007 were processed by the ARP.

- ◆ Three (3) New Accreditations and Five (5) Renewals

Canadian Committee - Thank you to outgoing Co-Chair **Leanne McCormick**. Co-Chair **Janine Gibson** represented IOIA on the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Organic Committee and invested many hours into the new Canadian organic standards. In the face of imminent implementation of regulations and standards, IOIA will increase support of the committee in 2008 and plans training to the standards for inspectors. (See Vol. 16; No 4, page 8 for a full report on the Canadian Organic Standards Update).

IOIA BOARD – 2007 Activity Summary

The Board had 4 new members and 2 new alternates as the result of the AGM in Encinitas last year. Newly elected members included Bob Durst, Monique Scholz, Catherine Cash and Alternates – Erin Beard and Sue Baird. Alternate Maheswar Ghimire was appointed by the Board to fill a vacancy.

Outgoing members included Luis Brenes (Chair), Marina Sexty Buchan (Secretary), John Trinterud (Director), Ann Baier (Director) and Ann Lameka (Alternate). **THANK YOU for your dedication, time and energy.**

The 2007 Board Retreat details are available on page 10 and 11 of The IR Vol. 16; No 4.

Four target impact areas for the longer term (12 months/3 years) were identified:

- ◆ Develop Inspector Protocols
- ◆ Develop the Accreditation Program
- ◆ Become a significant player
- ◆ Foster financial Viability

The short term work plan (4 months) included:

- ◆ Create a draft written plan for financial viability
- ◆ Launch the IOIA Organic Training Institute
- ◆ Establish a Training Advisory Group
- ◆ Repackage the training program
- ◆ Prepare BOD job descriptions

The work in progress is aimed at meeting these goals and objectives – 2008 will be a busy year for the Board of Directors. Your help as volunteers and committee members is necessary and greatly appreciated. É

Guelph Conference: 27 Years and Going Strong

By Monique Scholz

The 27th annual Organic Agriculture Conference was held in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, from January 24-27 2008. This longstanding Canadian event includes educational programming, workshops, research poster session, key note speaker, public forum, tradeshow with 160 exhibitors, and an organic banquet. Surrounding the conference program, several national and regional organisations host receptions and industry meetings, and others hold their annual meetings or brainstorming sessions to maximize having so many like-minded supporters of organic food and agriculture in the same place at the same time.



L to r: Garry Lean, IOIA BOD Chair, and Monique Scholz, BOD Secretary, at the IOIA Booth with Michel Saumur, National Manager of the Canadian Organic Regime

For conference proceedings and more information about the organising Committee and the Sponsors, please go to the conference website (www.guelphorganicconf.ca).

This year as in the past, IOIA has had a display in the tradeshow, promoting our training activities, answering questions about the role of inspectors, and acting as a meeting place for inspectors, who always seem to be starving to meet fellow members! The booth is usually staffed by IOIA members on a volunteer basis.

As many of you know, Canada is in the process of finalising its' COR (Canada Organic Regime), a regulation and standard package which will come into effect December 14 2008. This context made a strong showing of IOIA at the Guelph event of utmost importance. **Janine Gibson**, Canadian Committee Chair, has actively represented IOIA at previous Guelph Conferences for over a decade. She currently serves on various industry boards and committees. She was unfortunately not able to attend the conference this year. Fortunately, ED **Margaret Scoles** flew east from the Broadus headquarters to be part of the conference, and three BOD members, Garry Lean, David Konrad, and myself, were present for several days each.

Accomplishments

Five main accomplishments can be reported:

- ◆ IOIA presence at CFIA presentation of COO QSM to industry: ED Margaret Scoles attended this three hour session on Jan 25, in which the implementation plan envisioned by the COO was presented, followed by a question and answer session.
- ◆ Meeting with Michel Saumur and Ken Bruce of the COO (Canada Organic Office within the CFIA): For an hour on Jan 26, ED Margaret Scoles and IOIA BOD members Lean and Scholz discussed in further detail how the COO is presently structured and staffed, the COO implementation plan, and our inspector training concerns. The COO will be informing industry participants about the COR but it is not their role to train them to the standard. Their primary role is enforcement and compliance. Note that the COO QMS refers to organic inspectors as CBVOs (certification body verification officers), a way to differentiate 'Organic' inspectors from those on staff with the CFIA.
- ◆ IOIA presence at industry breakfast and roundtable discussion: ED Margaret Scoles, and BOD members Konrad, Lean and Scholz, as well as IOIA members Kelly Monaghan and Bill Barkley attended an industry breakfast hosted by the CHFA and sponsored by Natures Path on Jan 27. There were approximately 80 participants, from government, CBS, manufacturing, OACC (Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, different regional conferences etc. Aply presided by Tomàs Nimmo, participants had an opportunity to voice their concerns about the impending COR. A burning issue for many is that the current Canadian standard (dated 2006) is only used by two certifiers (ProCert and OPAM); it has been found to have many flaws and 'unworkable' clauses. A substantial revision process has been undertaken, under the leadership of Jean Duval – but won't likely be finalised in time for the Dec 14 implementation date.
- ◆ Meeting with OFC (Organic Federation of Canada) coordinator Nicole Boudreau, OFC president Stephanie Wells and COG (Canadian Organic Growers) ED Laura Telford: On Jan 27 for about an hour, ED Margaret Scoles and IOIA BOD members Lean

-
- ◆ and Scholz had an opportunity to learn how the OFC is put together, and to explore how the OFC, COG and IOIA could collaborate on training the various players across the country on the finer points of the COR. We identified 5 sectors requiring training: farmers, processors (handlers), retailers, certifiers and inspectors (CBVOs). The OTA is already working on training processors and handlers; COG and IOIA decided to present a proposal to ACAAF for a comprehensive training program for farmers, CBs and CBVOs. OTA and OFC might be included as partners. The proposal must be drafted for March 2008; we agreed the training program should be delivered from Nov 2008 to Mar 2009.
 - ◆ Processor curriculum meeting: On Jan 25, Margaret Dickson shared her curriculum development expertise and experience with Monique, who has been re-vamping the IOIA Basic Processor Inspector Training. She had specific questions about development of pre-course work assignments, grading loads during the course and keeping Basic course materials Basic. Margaret and Garry were also in attendance.

In addition to these meetings, our display was an active spot, with questions and comments from farmers, certifiers and consumers. Take note of a remark from an Ontario dairyman who stated that for the last three years, his organic inspector was great at filling in forms....but did not know his/her way around a field or barn! Special thanks to members **Margaret Dickson, Tom Cassan, Kelly Monaghan and Bill Barkley**, who so ably fielded questions at our booth.

And of course, there were some notable 'informal' events which ED Scoles and BOD members were able to attend: the Organic Banquet Jan 25, the CHFA reception Jan 26 and the crown jewel, an OTA reception with live music, beautiful fair trade flowers, and fabulous food and wine, all organic!

Post Guelph 'To-do list'

Summarily, here are some of the questions and projects to work on, coming out of Guelph:

- ◆ Obtain update from Jean Duval, regarding Standards revision process, with an eye towards have a functional if not finalised standard in November.
- ◆ Grant application with COG, followed by project realisation, regarding CBVO and CB training to COR.
- ◆ Plan to have a CBVO training event in conjunction with 28th Guelph Organic Conference.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of Canadian CBVOs who are IOIA members.
- ◆ Continue work on Basic Processor Curriculum; seek inout and validation from other trainers.

In closing, thanks to all who took time to stop in at the booth, meet informally at the banquet or reception or nab one of us in a hallway to share your concerns. These are exciting (if overly political) times for organics in Canada, and it is essential that we keep communications open, and row together to grow together.

THE 16TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

ModenaBio 2008 – A Top Level Congress

The Sixteenth IFOAM Organic World Congress will be held in Modena, Italy, from June 16th to 20th. Over 750 papers have been sent in from all over the world. Registration opens on 20th February.

If names and numbers are anything to go by, the Modena Congress promises to be one of the most noteworthy and top level organic sector conferences ever.

In addition to Indian scientist Vandana Shiva and the Ethiopian scientists Tewelde Berhan and Gebre Egziabher, both winners of the Right Livelihood Award, also attending will be Bolivian President Juan Evo Morales, former trade union leader of the "cocaleros"; food and wine connoisseur Carlo Petrini, founder of the Slow Food movement and recently featured in the authoritative columns of The Guardian as "one of the 50 people who could save the planet"; agro-ecologist Miguel Altieri, from the University of California, Berkeley; the doctor and obstetrician Michel Odent, pioneer of natural childbirth; and the American Frances Moore Lappé, author of the book "Diet for a Small Planet". Also confirming attendance are the sociologist Wolfgang Sachs, Scientific Director of the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy; agronomist and geneticist Howard-Yana Shapiro, who has been one of the major exponents of organic agriculture for the past 35 years or more; the Director General of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Achim Steiner; the anthropologist and economist Serge Latouche, one of the greatest advocates of downscaling society and localism; and the Indonesian obstetrician and environmentalist Ibu Robin Lim.

The Conference is being organized by IFOAM and ModenaBio, a consortium created by the Province of Modena and AIAB Emilia-Romagna, and is expected to bring together about 2000 participants. It will run for five days and will provide a platform on which the latest developments in scientific research will be expounded and it will act as a catalyst for the strategies and instruments needed to preserve diversity and to disseminate ecologically and economically sustainable methods of production. Two main threads will drive the discussions: information (Systems Values Track) regarding the presentation and exchange of practical experiences, and science (Scientific Research Track), which will illustrate the most outstanding on-going research projects. In over 100 sessions, scientists, producers, consumers and activists from all over the world will debate themes ranging from nutritional safety to the role of women in organic agriculture, international cooperation in renewable energy, market access and the importance of widespread health education, from GM products to the right to food, the protection of biodiversity to the very real contribution that Organic can make towards mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. Wine and viticulture, textiles, organic cosmetics, aquaculture and fruit farming will be dealt with in specialized pre-conferences and modules.

For further info, program updates, and booking info, please go to www.ifoam.org.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

(aka Independent Organic Inspectors Association)

IOIA has several publications for sale. Order here or through our website, www.ioia.net.

Please add 15% for Shipping and Handling.

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



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Please specify category – all funds payable in US
\$ - All dues are annual

- " Inspector - \$150
- " Supporting Individual - \$100
- " Business/Organization \$125
- " Certifying Agency - \$275
- " Patron - \$500
- " Sustainer - \$1000

" The Inspectors' Report – 4 issues/yr - \$30

" 2007 IOIA Membership Directory:

" \$15 members " \$25 non-members

IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual:

" \$45 members " \$60 non-members

Soil Assn. Says No to Nano

Nanotechnology - working with particles thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair

Now that you can drive your 'nano' car, listening to your iPod 'nano' while wearing 'nano' sunscreen and 'nano' clothing, the UK's largest organic certifier has just introduced the perfect nano-antidote – a 'nano-free' standard for consumer products. The Soil Association – one of the world's pioneers of organic agriculture – announced on January 14 that it is has banned human-made nanomaterials from the organic cosmetics, foods and textiles that it certifies.

According to the U.S.-based Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, there are over 500 manufacturer-identified consumer products on the market that contain nanomaterials. However, since manufacturers are not required to disclose the presence of nano-scale materials, it's virtually impossible for people to make fully informed choices. In its newly published standard, the Soil Association bans the use of human-made nanomaterials whose basic particle size is less than 125nm and whose mean particle size is less than 200nm. While the Soil Association's ban only affects organic production for goods certified in the UK, other organic certifiers worldwide are expected to follow suit.

"We welcome this sensible move by the Soil Association and encourage other certifiers, companies and governments to follow their lead," said Jim Thomas of ETC Group (formerly known as the Rural Advancement Foundation International, or RAFI). "A decade ago the Soil Association led the way in creating a safe alternative to GM crops when they declared organic production to be GM-free and now they are trailblazing again – acting to protect the public from potential risks of engineered nanoparticles." In 2003 ETC Group first called for a moratorium on nanotechnology research until governments adopt agreed-upon safety standards and regulatory oversight. Despite a flood of commercial nanotech products and a paucity of studies on the health, safety and environmental impacts of nano-scale materials, the regulatory vacuum persists today. A 2007 survey by 15 governments estimates there are at least 70 nanotech food-related applications already on the market. According to Helmut Kaiser Consultancy,

the nanotechnology market for food and food processing could reach \$20.4 billion by 2010, and most major food and beverage corporations are investing in nanotech R&D.

Trailblazers

The Soil Association has a long history of safeguarding food and agricultural products from potential threats. In 1967 they published the world's first organic standard explicitly banning pesticides, antibiotics and other chemicals from organic farming. In 1983 they banned animal protein from animal feed 3 years before the first case of BSE (mad cow disease) was discovered in Britain. In 1994 they banned GM crops from food and farming -- five years before the UK food industry followed suit. In the wake of the Soil Association's 'no-nano' decision other organic agriculture groups in North America and Europe are now examining whether to ban nanomaterials from their organic standards as well.

A Nano-Free Symbol

A year ago ETC Group announced the result of its graphic design competition for a universal warning symbol for nanotech that could be used in workplaces and on products. The Soil Association have gone one better. Their certification mark is now effectively the world's first nano-free symbol. It is already found on over 80% of organic products that are sold in the UK.

Growing Concerns

The Soil Association ban comes in the same month that the UK's largest consumer association, Which? (<http://www.which.co.uk/>) will launch its campaign to protect the public from risky nanomaterials in consumer products, following the lead of the US Consumers Union which has called for mandatory labeling, regulatory oversight and increased funding for risk-related research. It also follows growing annoyance in civil society that repeated warnings over nanotech safety risks are being ignored by nano-boosting governments. In mid-2007 over 40 civil society groups endorsed a statement of principles calling for precautionary action, manufacturer liability and new nano-specific regulations for nano-products. To date no government has enacted legislation to assess the safety or societal impacts of nanomaterials.

So Why is it Scarier?

Consider this: In Australia, the regulatory authority now faces the difficulty of ruling when packaging becomes part of the food. The CEO of Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Steve McCutcheon, says it is called interactive packaging, where the food takes in chemicals from the packet as it sits on the shelf.

"At the moment, the shelf life of prepacked salad vegetables is fairly short, but with the application of this technology we understand that you could actually package fresh salads, and they would be fresh still after the 30-day period on the shelf," he said. Yum.

Nano Resources

- ◆ For more information about the Soil Association's new nanotech standard, contact the Soil Association's Media Officer Clio Turton at cturton@soilassociation.org
- ◆ The Woodrow Wilson Center nanotech consumer product inventory is online at www.nanotechproject.org/inventories/consumer/
- ◆ Details of the winning Nanohazard warning symbol from ETC Group's 2007 design competition are at www.etcgroup.org/en/materials/publications.html?pub_id=604
- ◆ The Soil Association's certification mark is visible at: www.soilassociation.org/web/sacert/sacerttweb.nsf/B3/why_certify_with_us.html
- ◆ Which? UK-based consumer organization nanotech campaign, www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/technology/technology.html?in_page_id=1965&in_article_id=505561
- ◆ Principles for the Oversight of Nanotechnologies and Nanomaterials (developed by broad coalition of civil society, public interest, environmental and labour organizations): <http://tiny.cc/azFEj>
- ◆ http://www.etcgroup.org/en/materials/publications.html?pub_id=669
- ◆ <http://www.nanocafes.org/>
- ◆ *Thanks to Margaret Weigelt for putting this topic on our radar via the IOIAForum!*

IOIA CCOF Training - December 2007

By Stanley Edwards

In anticipation of a future expansion, California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) has leased a large office space adjoining their current offices in Santa Cruz CA. While it is still vacant and used as a yoga studio for the staff, this was the setting of the IOIA Basic Crop Inspection Training held for CCOF on December 17-21. CCOF cosponsored the training, managed logistics, and offered some openings for other interested individuals. Three employees of OFRF (Organic Farming Research Foundation) and six dedicated individuals hoping to enter the career of independent organic inspectors joined the CCOF employees for a total of 18 participants.

This class was a continuation of the grand experiment to implement a standardized curriculum, rich in exercises, activities, evaluations and stimulating PowerPoint presentations. Luckily for me, I had the honor of working with Margaret who pretended to be my "assistant" but was actually the main force in maintaining the rigorous schedule and pace of the course. We tested our curriculum on an extremely well informed and attentive group of students / scientists and were continuously impressed by their ability to absorb the material with virtually no whining! Actually, I was the one whining at the amount of grading necessary to provide the students with up to date feedback on their performance but eventually accepted this new reality...

Everyone was so absorbed by this class that it was not until the very end that we received numerous outrageous statement awards. Jane Sooby of OFRF now owns an organic IOIA cap for saying, "Maybe each inspector should be issued their own little money".

"in reference to the isolation we experience as inspectors and the requirement to maintain confidentiality in our work. Congratulations Jane and thanks for accepting the award because it was a close call for me!



El Salvador - BCS Latincert e IOIA

BCS Latincert es una empresa acreditada desde el 11 de mayo de 1992 como agencia privada de inspección con el fin de llevar a cabo la ejecución del llamado "reglamento ecológico de la CE". BCS Latincert, Empresa Certificadora de Producción orgánica está establecida en Costa Rica desde el año de 1995 y su finalidad es la de efectuar inspecciones y certificaciones en producción orgánica. BCS Latincert efectúa inspecciones y certificaciones de empresas y productos agro-ecológicos en los sectores de la agricultura, transformación, exportación e importación.

Cuenta con un convenio con BCS ÖKO Garantie de Alemania para co-certificar empresas de producción orgánica lo cual le permite otorgar un sello internacional de certificado de garantía Öko-Garantie BCS² como certificado de la calidad ecológica. Gracias a este convenio, BCS Latincert tiene acceso a la certificación para la Unión Europea, el NOP de Estados Unidos y el JAS de Japón entre otros y puede establecer vínculos de cooperación a nivel internacional con prestigiosas organizaciones de la agricultura ecológica tales como QAI (USA), KRAV (Suecia), Soil Association (GB), Bio Suisse (Suiza), CCI (Colombia), PTRE (Poland), Ernte, ABG (Austria).

BCS Latincert colabora con la IOIA para desarrollar cursos de formación. En este marco, solamente entre el 2005 y 2006, BCS ha impartido 5 cursos para inspectores avalados por la IOIA que han beneficiado a unos 260 técnicos/profesionales de Centro América.

Adicionalmente BCS ha organizado en el mismo periodo: i) unos 5 cursos relacionados con agricultura orgánica, beneficiando a 150 personas y ii) cursos de formación de auditores de buenas prácticas agrícolas (Eurepgap) para unas 70 personas, principalmente en El Caribe.

Los cursos para formación de inspectores en agricultura orgánica han sido diseñados siguiendo las normas establecidas por la IOIA capitalizando la experiencia adquirida en más de 15 años de seguimiento e inspecciones en la Región. De la misma manera, los cursos de actualización de inspectores siguen las normas de la IOIA y son avalados por ésta Asociación Internacional.



2008 Scholarship Recipients Announced

IOIA is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Rutherford Scholarship and the Organic Community Initiative Scholarship. Congratulations to **Francisco Lorenzo Lopez** of Mexico, Rutherford recipient, and **Mohan Joseph Ghale** of Nepal, OCIS recipient. The scholarships entitle the recipients to free tuition, meals, and lodging at any IOIA organic inspector training of their choice in 2008. The award does not include any travel expenses for travel to and from the training. The approximate cash value of this award is \$1350.



QUE ESTOY HACIENDO ACTUALMENTE: Considerando que las áreas verdes, son muy importantes para las ciudades y centros urbanos como puntualiza la Organización Mundial de la Salud, sosteniendo que para una mejor calidad de vida de las personas se requiere un promedio de 10 a 15 metros cuadrados de área verde por habitante, o como lo afirma Iván Restrepo en el diario Electrónico *La Hora de México*, que uno de los indicadores utilizados en el mundo para medir la calidad de vida que disfrutan los habitantes de las ciudades, es el promedio de área verde per cápita, entre otros temas relacionados a mi profesión, estoy como líder de un movimiento de la sociedad civil que trabaja en la protección de las áreas verdes en la ciudad de Quetzaltenango, República de Guatemala, una actividad que en mi país tiene sus riesgos, pero tengo la firme convicción que el cuidado del medio ambiente tanto en las ciudades como en el área rural es un trabajo que vale la pena asumir la responsabilidad con todos sus riesgos, si deseamos un desarrollo sostenible y con valores sociales.

MIS PLANES FUTUROS: Tomando en cuenta que Guatemala y los demás países de Centro América actualmente han firmado tratados de libre comercio con países donde no solo importa la calidad de producción sino que también la calidad ambiental con que se produce, aspectos donde los pequeños productores sin lugar a dudas enfrentarían dificultades serias para producir y vender en los mercados de países desarrollados, por ejemplo de acuerdo a PH.D. Olman Segura, el 42% del total de las exportaciones de Centro América van hacia Los Estados Unidos y que además un 49% de estas exportaciones dependen de los recursos naturales, como parte de mi especialización ambiental estoy muy agradecido con IOIA al permitirme participar en sus cursos altamente calificados, porque con este entrenamiento estoy seguro que podré aportar muchísimo al desarrollo rural donde se requieren profesionales muy calificados y comprometidos con el uso racional de los recursos naturales y la producción libre de químicos ideal para el consumo humano. *Atentamente: Francisco Lorenzo Lopez*

WHAT I AM DOING AT THE MOMENT: Consider that it is very important for cities and urban centers to have green spaces. As noted by the World Health Organization, maintaining an average of 10 to 15 square meters of green space per person provides a better quality of life for the inhabitants, or as Iván Restrepo notes in the electronic newsletter *The Hour of Mexico*, one of the indicators used in the world to measure the quality of life which the inhabitants enjoy in the cities is the average green space per capita. I am like a leader of a movement in the civil society that works to protect green spaces in the city of Quetzaltenango in the Republic of Guatemala. This activity, in my country, has its risks, but I have the firm conviction that the care of the atmosphere means as much in the cities as in the rural areas and is a work that is worth the trouble to assume the responsibility with all of its risks, if we wish to have sustainable development with social values.

MY FUTURE PLANS: Guatemala and the other countries of Central America at the moment have signed the Free Trade Agreement with countries where the quality of production matters little and the quality of the environment are not taken into account. These aspects make it difficult for small producers to produce and sell in the markets of developed countries. For example, according to Safe Olman, PhD., 42% of the total of Central American exports go towards the United States and in addition, 49% of these exports depend on the natural resources. Because of my environmental specialization, I am very thankful to IOIA for allowing me to participate in this course to help increase my qualifications. With this training I am sure that I will be able to contribute much to the rural development. It is important to require professionals to be qualified and engaged in the rational use of the natural resources and the production of food for human consumption free from chemicals.

Organic Community Initiative Scholarship

My name is Mohan Joseph Ghale and I am an agricultural entrepreneur from Kathmandu, Nepal.

Since my early childhood, I have been exposed to agriculture and started vegetable, flower seeds business in 1988. My business, Dikpal Trading Center has imported various vegetable and flower seeds from USA and distribute all around Nepal and some part of Northern India. I have started the process of expanding our business into the Organic agriculture in Nepal. In Nepal, there is no support from the government and very little information available in organic agriculture. Therefore, I have applied for Organic Community Initiative Scholarship and planning to attend Independent Organic Inspectors Association training in April 2008. I want to help promote and develop our own Nepalese organic farming by promoting heirloom seeds and protect, select our native organic seed, which is available in Nepal. I am looking forward to provide technical assistance to farmer in the field all over Nepal.



B1. What standards do you currently inspect to?

| | | |
|-------------|----|-------|
| NOP | 77 | 95.1% |
| JAS | 46 | 56.8% |
| EU | 53 | 65.4% |
| Canadian | 19 | 23.5% |
| CAAQ | 26 | 32.1% |
| COABC | 7 | 8.6% |
| OC/PRO | 6 | 7.4% |
| Demeter | 12 | 14.8% |
| Fair Trade | 7 | 8.6% |
| Sustainable | 4 | 4.9% |
| Humane | 7 | 8.6% |
| HACCP | 3 | 3.7% |
| ISO | 7 | 8.6% |
| Others: | 0 | 0.0% |

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Sanitation | 28 |
| Audit Control | 45 |
| HACCP & Other QA | 35 |
| ISO | 31 |
| Fair Trade | 35 |
| Others: | Analysis in Process |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Advanced Farm: | 20 |
| Fertility Management | 24 |
| Farm Audit Control | 34 |
| Specialty Crops | 21 |
| Wild Crops | 15 |
| Bio Dynamic Farming | 27 |
| Sustainable Cert. | 19 |
| Others: | Analysis in Process |

B3. Ever applied to become an accredited inspector?

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-------|-----------|----|-------------|
| YES | 24 | 30.4% | NO | 55 | 69.6% |
| Total | | | 79 | | 100% |

IF YES, what benefits do you feel this has provided for you?

| | | | | |
|---|----|-----------|-------------|--|
| Increased fee rates from certifiers | 3 | 6.4% | | |
| Increased interest in consulting services (if applicable) | 9 | 19.1% | | |
| Enhanced reputation among certifiers and other inspectors | 13 | 27.7% | | |
| Personally, to have an evaluation by my peers | 11 | 23.4% | | |
| Other: | 11 | 23.4% | | |
| Total | | 47 | 100% | |

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Advanced Livestock: | 20 |
| Manure Management | 14 |
| Preventative Health Care | 31 |
| Dairy | 24 |
| Humane Certification | 17 |
| Honey Bees | 22 |
| Leaf Cutter Bees | 6 |
| Specialty Livestock | 8 |
| Others: | Analysis in Process |

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Discounts for travel | 29 |
| Insurance | 40 |
| Others: | Analysis in Process |

If you have not ever applied for or become an IOIA Accredited Inspector:

| | | | | |
|---|----|-----------|-------------|--|
| I was not aware that IOIA offered accreditation | 6 | 9.8% | | |
| The apparent value/benefit does not seem worth the effort | 27 | 44.3% | | |
| Too expensive | 5 | 8.2% | | |
| Other | 23 | 37.7% | | |
| Total | | 61 | 100% | |

B6. % of your income derived from organic inspection:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-------|-----------|----|-------------|
| 100% | 14 | 17.5% | 40-59% | 13 | 16.3% |
| 80-99% | 13 | 16.3% | 20-39% | 8 | 10.0% |
| 60-79% | 12 | 15.0% | 0-19% | 20 | 25.0% |
| Total | | | 80 | | 100% |

B7. Do you also provide consulting services specific to organics?

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|-----------|----|-------------|
| YES | 37 | 47% | NO | 42 | 53% |
| Total | | | 79 | | 100% |

B8. Are you an independent inspector, or certifier-staff?

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|------|-----------------|---|-------------|
| Independent | 69 | 0.85 | Certifier-Staff | 9 | 0.11 |
| | | | Both | 3 | 0.04 |
| Total | | | 81 | | 100% |

C1. What services would you like IOIA to continue to provide or add for its members if possible?

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Advanced trainings on internet | 55 |
| Adv Processing: | 35 |
| Pest control | 19 |

C2. Please rate the usefulness of the following IOIA resources, where:

1= not at all useful; 2=not very useful; 3=somewhat useful; and 4=very useful

| N= | Ratings descriptions | Avg | Low | High |
|----|----------------------|-----|-----|------|
| 67 | Online memb. Dir | 2.8 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 71 | Hard copy memb dir. | 2.6 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 69 | Office support | 3.2 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 74 | Trainings | 3.5 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 76 | Newsletter | 3.3 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 66 | IOIA Forum | 3.2 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 53 | Discounts | 2.5 | 1.0 | 4.0 |

C8. What do you personally see as the benefits of IOIA membership?

| | | |
|---|----|--------|
| Trainings | 69 | 100.0% |
| Networking, info exchange | 67 | 97.1% |
| Professional representation | 48 | 69.6% |
| Participating as a member of the larger "organic" community | 50 | 72.5% |
| I don't get anything out of my membership | 0 | 0.0% |

C9. How would you rate your satisfaction with IOIA with regard to membership fees compared to services and benefits received?

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|-------|
| Fee is a bargain | 17 | 21.0% |
| Fee well worth it | 32 | 39.5% |
| Generally satisfied | 18 | 22.2% |
| Fee not justified | 11 | 13.6% |
| Don't receive any value | 0 | 0.0% |
| Undecided | 4 | 4.9% |

2007 IOIA Membership Survey – Preliminary Results

By Kelly A. Monaghan, Membership Committee

Please keep the following in mind while reviewing this data:

- Where “N=” appears, that number indicates the number of survey respondents who responded to that particular question. The total number of surveys received was 81.
- Where percentages are shown, sometimes they may equal greater than 100% due to multiple responses by one individual.
- The currency exchange difference between the US dollar and the Canadian dollar is assumed to be zero.

Complete results of all questions surveyed, including the qualitative answers that need further compilation, will be posted later this spring on the IOIA website in the Members Only section.

| Q # | Topic | N = | Results: | | | Q # | Topic | N = | Results: | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|-------|
| A1 | Sex | 81 | Female | 38 | 46.9% | A4. | Level of Education | 81 | High School | 6 | 7.4% |
| | | | Male | 43 | 53.1% | | | | College | 10 | 12.3% |
| A2 | Age | 81 | 15-24 | 1 | 1.2% | | Master's Degree | 28 | 34.6% | | |
| | | | 25-34 | 8 | 9.9% | | Master's Degree | 23 | 28.4% | | |
| | | | 35-44 | 15 | 18.5% | | Ph.D. | 4 | 4.9% | | |
| | | | 45-54 | 29 | 35.8% | | Diploma/Cert | 5 | 6.2% | | |
| | | | 55-64 | 21 | 25.9% | | College; Diploma | 1 | 1.2% | | |
| | | | 65-74 | 5 | 6.2% | | Bachelor's | | | | |
| | | | 75+ | 2 | 2.5% | | & Diploma | 3 | 3.7% | | |
| | | | 81 | 100.0% | | Ph.D./Diploma/ Cert | 1 | 1.2% | | | |
| A3 | Where do you reside? | 79 | CA | 12 | 15.2% | A5. | Field of study | 74 | Agriculture | 33 | 44.6% |
| | | | FL | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Biology | 10 | 13.5% |
| | | | HI | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Social sciences | 8 | 10.8% |
| | | | IA | 4 | 5.1% | | | | Business Admin | 6 | 8.1% |
| | | | IN | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Engineering | 3 | 4.1% |
| | | | MA | 3 | 3.8% | | | | English Lit | 3 | 4.1% |
| | | | ME | 2 | 2.5% | | | | Education | 2 | 2.7% |
| | | | MN | 4 | 5.1% | | | | Env't'l Science | 2 | 2.7% |
| | | | MO | 2 | 2.5% | | | | Fine Arts2 | 2.7% | |
| | | | MT | 2 | 2.5% | | | | Nutrition 2 | 2.7% | |
| | | | ND | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Agronomy | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | NE | 2 | 2.5% | | | | Anthropology | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | NJ | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Art | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | NM | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Biochemistry | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | NY | 5 | 6.3% | | | | Comm'ty Plan'g | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | OH | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Computer | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | OR | 3 | 3.8% | | | | Ecology, entomology, microbiology | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | PA | 2 | 2.5% | | | | Env't'l Education | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | TN | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Family & Consumer Sciences 1 | 1.4% | |
| | | | UT | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Food Science | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | VT | 3 | 3.8% | | | | Forestry | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | WI | 6 | 7.6% | | | | Horticulture | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | USA | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Human services | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | Total USA | 60 | 75.9% | | | | Int'l Dev'mt | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | BC | 4 | 5.1% | | | | Journalism | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | MB | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Liberal Arts | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | ON | 3 | 3.8% | | | | Music | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | PEI | 1 | 1.3% | | | | Philosophy | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | QC | 2 | 2.5% | | | | Political Science | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | SK | 3 | 3.8% | | | | Sociology | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | Canada | 3 | 3.8% | | | | Sust Ag | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | Total Canada | 17 | 21.5% | | | | Welding | 1 | 1.4% |
| | | | Japan | 1 | 1.3% | | | | | | |
| Nepal | 1 | 1.3% | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 79 | 100.0% | TOTALS: | 93 | 112.2% | | | | | | |

2008 Calendar

Ongoing through May 13 The CCOF Foundation's *Going Organic* project launches its fall and winter season packed with over 20 educational trainings throughout California. For info, contact Fred Thomas at fred@ccof.org or go to: www.ccof.org/goingorganic.php

March 2 IOIA AGM, Guatemala. See page 3.

March 6 – 8 The 8th ACORN Organic Conference and Trade Show, Memramcook, New Brunswick, Canada.
www.acornorganic.org/conference.html

March 25 - 27 2008 SARE Conference, Kansas City, MO. Join SARE and its many partners to learn the latest about forging an agriculture that is profitable, environmentally sound and good for people and communities.
www.sare.org/2008conference

March 31 – April 4 IOIA Cosponsored Basic Crop Inspection training, Zona Norte Alajuela, Costa Rica, see page 3 for details.

April 1 – 2 Women in Agriculture Educators Conference. Oklahoma City, OK. Pre-conference the afternoon (1-5p) of March 31, focusing on Agricultural Law Topics for the Farmer/Rancher and Educator.
www.agrisk.umn.edu/wia/Conferences/WIA/

April 5 The Role of Raised Beds in the Farm Organism, Chestnut Ridge, New York.
www.pfeiffercenter.org

April 16 – 20 IOIA and Iowa Organic Association will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop and Processing Inspection Trainings, running concurrently on April 16-20, followed by Basic Livestock Inspection Training running April 21-25. Iowa City, Iowa Details on page 3.

April 19 – 20 Fifth Mid-Atlantic Ecological Restoration Conference, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA. www.esa.org/midatlantic

April 29 - OTA Training Seminar at All Things Organic: *Certifying to the Global Organic Textile Standard*. See page 3 for details. Please note the discount for IOIA members. More info and a registration form at http://www.organicexpo.com/08/custom/pdfs/GOTSrForm_1.pdf.

May 5 – 7 Southwest Marketing Network Annual Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico
www.swmarketingnetwork.org

May 10 – 14 & 15 – 19 IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm and a 4.5 day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training. See page 3 for details.

May 26 – 30 IOIA and Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using the proposed Canadian National Standard (version CGSB-2006) as the reference. Langley, British Columbia, Canada See page 3 for details.

June 16 – 20 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress: *Cultivate the Future*. Cultivating the future is the fundamental motivation common to farmers, consumers, producers, researchers, scientists, activists and all those who believe that Organic Agriculture guarantees future generations with a healthy and fair environment. Modena, Italy. Expanded article on page 9. www.ifoam.org/modena

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

July 26 - July 30 SWCS Annual Conference. The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is now accepting proposals for symposia sessions, oral presentations and poster presentations for the annual conference to be held in Tucson, Arizona. Tucson, Arizona
www.swcs.org/en/conferences/annual_conference/call_for_papers/

August 20-25 IOIA and Vermont Organic Farmers will cosponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspection training in Vermont late summer 2008. Tentative date is August 20-25. More details and application form are pending. They will be available at www.ioia.net.

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



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