



“Organic ASIA – The Way Forward”

Innovations, Challenges and Collaboration for the Future!

28th – 31st October 2008

Sarawak Cultural Village, Kuching, Sarawak Malaysia

Conference Programme & Input Participation

Conference feature

The conference is organised in collaboration with IFOAM, UNCTAD and the International Task Force for harmonisation and equivalence in organic agriculture (ITF). It will

- *show case Innovations in Production, Processing and Market development in the region*
- *provide input on Best Practice for Organic Policy and Building Sustainable Organic Sectors in collaboration with UNCTAD and IFOAM*
- *host policy framework and public - private sector partnerships discussions between stakeholders*
- *facilitate action planning on harmonisation in organic norms and collaboration in certification to facilitate trade in organic products within the Asia region.*

Conference scope, projected output and potential follow up

The conference is projected to be the first in a series of regional conferences on Building Sustainable Organic Sectors and regional collaboration in organic policy and equivalence in organic norms in collaboration with UNCTAD and IFOAM.

The IFOAM Organic World Congress (OWC) will take place in South Korea in 2011. It will be in Asia for the first time ever. This conference is an opportunity for the organic movement in the region to gather in Sarawak, to discuss their respective sector development plans and work out a regional collaboration goal with an achievement timeframe corresponding to the OWC 2011 event.

A suggested regional collaboration target is achievement of a regional (Asia) equivalence agreement on organic.

Proposed programme

The 4 day programme is proposed as follows: *Also see attached draft programme schedule outline.*

Day 1: Challenges and Innovations in production & processing

- *Morning plenary: Challenges & Innovations in organic production*
2-3 presentations on key innovations in production, development challenges and prospects for the region.
- *Morning plenary: Challenges Innovations & in organic processing*
2-3 presentations on key innovations in processing, development challenges and prospects for the region.
- *Afternoon workshops: Methods and techniques*
Up to 4 parallel workshops, each with 2-3 short panel presentations and moderated discussion on production/processing conditions, successful methods and techniques related to the selected topic, e.g. rice; fruits; vegetables, aquaculture, textiles, etc.

Organised by:



In collaboration with:



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE
IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ITF)



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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- *Afternoon workshops: Development recommendations*
Continuation of workshop discussion from methods and techniques to Success factors & Development recommendations for enhancement of production, productivity and product quality.

Day 2: Challenges and Innovations in market development

- *Morning plenary: Challenges & Innovations in export market development*
2-3 presentations on key innovations in export marketing, challenges and prospects for the region.
- *Morning plenary: Challenges & Innovations in local market development*
2-3 presentations on key innovations in domestic marketing, challenges and prospects for the region.
- *Afternoon workshops: Business models and management*
Up to 4 parallel workshops based on different marketing business models, e.g. exporting; domestic wholesaling (fresh produce/dry goods); retail; direct marketing, etc. Each with 2-3 short panel presentations and moderated discussion on market conditions, successful business models, management DOs and DON'Ts
- *Afternoon workshops: Development policy recommendations.*
Continuation of workshop discussion from business models and management to Market trends, Success factors & Development policy recommendations for enhancement of local markets, fair farm gate price, wages and market competition for the organic sector in the region.

Day 3: Policy and Sector development initiatives [UNCTAD & IFOAM development options input]

- *Morning plenary: Public Sector development initiatives*
2-3 presentations on key and innovative public sector development initiatives for the organic sector, relevant to the region.
- *Morning plenary: Private Sector development initiatives*
2-3 presentations on key and innovative private sector development initiatives for the organic sector, relevant to the region.
- *Afternoon plenary: UNCTAD & IFOAM input: and Workshop reports [from 1st & 2nd days]*
 - Best Practice for Organic Policy and Building Sustainable Organic Sectors
 - Policy recommendations for enhancement of production, productivity and product quality.
 - Policy recommendations for enhancement of local markets, fair farm gate price, wages and market competition in the organic sector in the region.
- *Afternoon workshops: National sector development and regional collaboration priorities*
Country or regional based discussion groups on national sector development and regional collaboration priorities, including recommendations for private sector association management, advocacy & public-private sector partnership.

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Day 4: The Way Forward_Regional collaboration for the future [ITF input & regional action planning]

- *Morning plenary: ITF input: Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture; Sector development discussion groups' report and regional collaboration follow up proposal.*
- Morning workshops: Country or regional based groups review of National sector development priorities and regional collaboration action plan.
- Afternoon plenary: Workshop groups report; Discussion and Summary of recommendations for regional collaboration and follow up.

Input proposals

Proposals for the above inputs are welcomed. Please send an abstract description of up to 300 words to Ong Kung Wai, Conference Programme Coordinator, email: kungwai@tm.net.my by 15th Aug. 2008.

Funding support

Input contributors will be offered funding for conference fee and accommodation. Travel support will depend on available funding.

For more information, contact:

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