



Media release

Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change established

(Frick/Copenhagen, December 16, 2009) Climate change directly influences food production and food security. To address these new challenges, the Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change has been established on December 16, 2009, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

"Organic agriculture has a strong potential for mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon in the soils at high rates and by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases due to avoidance of synthetic fertilizers and optimal use of organic material," said Urs Niggli, Director of FiBL and member of the Round Table.

The Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change (RTOACC) is a multi-stakeholder initiative with eight founding members. It brings together stakeholders and partners along the organic food production chain. The principal objectives of the round table are

- > Initiate, support and facilitate research on organic agriculture and climate change.
- > Advise the international community on organic agriculture and climate change issues,
- > Develop a measurement method to enable reliable quantification and certification of carbon sequestration in organic agriculture.

- IFOAM, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
- FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation, Rome, Italy
- the Environmental and Ethical Certification Institute ICEA from Italy
- KRAV as key player in the organic market in Sweden
- the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL
- the Soil Association from the UK
- ICROFS, the International Centre of Research in Organic Farming Systems from Denmark
- The Rodale Institute from the US

To achieve these goals, the members agreed on an action plan for the years 2010 and 2011. The main activity in 2010 will be the development of a methodology for the carbon market that will comply with general development goals such as the

Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change

c/o Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL

Ackerstrasse, CH-5070 Frick

Tel. +41 (0)62 865 72 72

info.suisse@fibl.org, www.fibl.org, www.organicandclimate.org



Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change

benefits for smallholders in developing countries. The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL coordinates these activities.

Antonio Compagnoni of ICEA agrees that the round table is a kick-off for putting organic agriculture on the agenda of the negotiations on a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol and that it is an effort by the global organic community to make organic agriculture the leading system of sustainable agriculture.

The members of the Round Table: Contacts and links

- > **Antonio Compagnoni**
ICEA, Italy
E-mail acompagnoni@interfree.it
- > **Niels Halberg**
International Centre for Research in Organic Farming Systems ICROFS, Denmark
E-mail niels.halberg@icrofs.org
- > **Urs Niggli**
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Switzerland
Tel. +41 62 865 72 72, Mobile +41 79 218 80 30
E-mail urs.niggli@fibl.org
- > **Johan Cejie**
KRAV ek för, Sweden
E-mail Johan.Cejie@krav.se
Tel. +46 706 65 93 76
- > **Timothy LaSalle**
Rodale Institute, US
Mobile +1 80 56 30 12 42
E-mail timothy.lasalle@rodaleinst.org
- > **Peter Melchett**,
Soil Association, UK
Mobile +44 77 40 95 10 66
E-mail pmelchett@soilassociation.org
- > **Markus Arbenz**
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements IFOAM, Germany
Tel. +49 228 926 5010
E-mail m.arbenz@ifoam.org



Round Table on
Organic Agriculture and
Climate Change

> **Nadia El-Hage Scialabba**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO, Italy
Tel. +39 06 5705 672

Further information

> **Dr. Matthias Stolze**

Chair of RTOACC, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Ackerstrasse,
5070 Frick, Switzerland
Tel. +41 62 865 72 55, Mobile + 49 179 209 41 85
E-mail matthias.stolze@fibl.org;

Related information on the internet

- > www.climate.fibl.org: FiBL pages on climate change and organic farming
- > www.rodaleinstitute.org: Information on organic farming and climate change on the pages of the Rodale Institute.
- > www.soilassociation.org: Info on soil carbon at the homepage of the Soil Association
- > www.fao.org/organicaq

This media release on the internet

This media release is available on the internet at <http://www.fibl.org/en/media.html>