



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

## PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND STATUTORY PURPOSE OF IFOAM

### 1. IFOAMs Statutory Purpose

The purpose of the federation is to protect humankind, nature and the environment by promoting Organic Agriculture. The federation is leading, uniting and assisting the organic movement in its full diversity. Its goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the principles of Organic Agriculture. IFOAM promotes throughout the world the production of high quality food sufficient to feed all people, while protecting the soils and enhancing their fertility, as well as minimizing environmental pollution and the use of non-renewable natural resources.

### 2. The Principles of Organic Agriculture

The Principles of Organic Agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity. They guide IFOAMs development of positions, programs and standards. Furthermore, they are presented with a vision of their worldwide adoption. Organic Agriculture is based on:

#### **Principle of health**

Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

#### **Principle of ecology**

Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

#### **Principle of fairness**

Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities

#### **Principle of care**

Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Approved by the World Board, October 1997

Latest amended by the World Board, August 2002, Victoria, Canada

Statutes revision and Principles approved by IFOAMs General Assembly 2005.