



Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change

Criteria for Collaboration and Admission of New Members

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Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change
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THE ROUND TABLE ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE (RTOACC) AGREES ON THE FOLLOWING GOVERNANCE CRITERIA FOR COLLABORATION AND THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS:

1. ORGANISATION

All Members

- (a) acknowledge the objectives, principles and criteria of the RTOACC;
- (b) promote the potential of organic farming as a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- (c) agree on the objectives of the RTOACC as described in the funding document "Roundtable on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change";
- (d) initiate, support and facilitate the research on organic agriculture and climate change;
- (e) promote and communicate this commitment throughout their own organisation and to their customers, suppliers, subcontractors and other relevant actors;
- (f) are therefore required to inform about their activities on organic farming and climate change;
- (g) accept that the costs for the attendance in the RTOACC cannot be fully covered.



The RTOACC

- (a) is a transparent and open organisation that makes every effort to disclose its processes to the public and share its findings and conclusions with members and non members;
- (b) grants free access to information, documents and papers produced during the process to other members and the public;
- (c) commits to open and transparent engagement with interested parties, and actively seeks resolution of conflict;
- (d) pursues its objectives without any profit purpose;
- (e) installs a secretariat.

The secretariat of the RTOACC:

- (a) is responsible for the effective implementation of policies;
- (b) is responsible for communication to members (e.g. mailings, website newsletter, promotion);
- (c) provides support for all RTOACC activities and is responsible for the finances, accounting and administration of the RTOACC;
- (d) disseminates the idea of the RTOACC and guarantees that all stakeholders are properly informed on the process;
- (e) coordinates and liaises with other institutions, agencies and organisations;
- (f) intensifies the cooperation with existing initiatives on climate change;
- (g) may instead of holding a meeting take a "Circular Decision" by obtaining the written approval of all members in writing (email suffices), if an issue is undisputed;
- (h) interacts with the coordinators responsible for the work of other committees or working groups;
- (i) is established and will be managed by one participating member.



2. DECISION MAKING

The members of the RTOACC aim at taking decisions by consensus.

If no consensus can be achieved, the RTOACC decides on majority voting. Each member has one vote (simple majority vote of the representatives of each member organisation).

3. MEMBERSHIP

RTOACC Members agree to support organic agriculture, the organic movement and its potential to mitigate climate change in line with the RTOACC-Considerations and RTOACC-Aims. RTOACC shall be composed of two categories of members: Participating Members representing organisations and Observing Members (individuals).

Organisations from following sectors are permitted to request membership as Participating Member:

- Associations in the organic sector, standard-setting organisations and certification bodies operating in organic agriculture;
- Environmental organisations;
- Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs);
- Organisations involved in the management of voluntary offset mechanisms and CDM;
- Research organisations;
- Funding Organisations.

Individuals demonstrating agreement to the RTOACC-Considerations and RTOACC-Aims are permitted to request membership as Observing Members.

In order to become a member of RTOACC, an admission request for full membership (Participating Member or Observing Member) must be addressed to the secretariat of the RTOACC.

- (a) The RTOACC rules on current admission requests.
- (b) The RTOACC can reject an admission as Participating or Observing Member on grounds that the applicant has neither a publicly available commitment to organic agriculture nor a valid stakeholder interest in the objectives of the RTOACC.
- (c) A membership shall cease by resignation by letter to the RTOACC secretariat.

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Rights of the Members

- (a) Participating Members have voting rights at RTOACC meetings.
- (b) Observing members may attend RTOACC meetings, but have no voting rights.
- (c) Each Participating Member of the RTOACC shall be entitled to call for a formal meeting.

Obligations of the Members

- (a) Participating members are expected to participate actively in the RTOACC and contribute to its principles and goals.
- (b) Participating members are expected to report on progress towards the objectives of RTOACC.

4. FINANCES

The funding of RTOACC is managed through the Organic World Foundation or bilaterally between participating members.

Project money

Restricted funds for projects in line with the RTOACC activities are in the financial responsibility of the donor.