



## Meeting minutes of the Round Table for Organic Agriculture and Climate Change (RTOACC)

Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 (9.30 – 18.00) at FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

### Participants

<b>Members</b>	
CEDECO – Costa Rica (Corporación Educativa para el Desarrollo Costarricense)	Jonathan Castro
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations)	Nadia Scialabba, Noémi Nemes
FiBL – Switzerland (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture)	Andreas Gattinger, Adrian Müller, Urs Niggli
ICEA – Italy (Institute for Ethical and Environmental Certification)	Paolo Foglia Antonio Compagnoni
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)	Andre Leu (also OFA), Robert Jordan
ICROFS – Denmark (International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems)	Lise Andreasen
Louis Bolk Institute - the Netherlands	Sjef Staps
OFA – Australia (Organic Federation Australia)	Andre Leu (also IFOAM)
Organic Research Centre Elm Farm - UK	Laurence G. Smith
Spanish Society of Organic Farming (SEAE)	Eduardo A. Fernandez
Soil Association - UK	Emma Hockridge
<b>Observers</b>	
Soil and More International	Tobias Bandel
<b>Guests</b>	
CRA-CIN - Italy (Research Centre for Industrial Crops)	Lorenzo D'Avino
University of Aarhus, Denmark	Marie Trydeman Knudsen
University of Aarhus, Denmark	John Hermansen



## Agenda

- 9.30 **Welcome and introduction to programme and tasks**  
*Andreas Gattinger (FiBL), Nadia Scialabba (FAO)*
- 9.45 **Session 1: In-depth scientific exchange on the available data on GHG emissions and the carbon sequestration potential of organic crop and livestock systems incl. gaps in the available data and ideas on how these could be filled; Moderation: Nadia Scialabba (FAO)**  
**Carbon levels in agricultural soils under organic and non-organic management; Andreas Gattinger (FiBL)**  
**GHG Emissions and C sequestration in Mediterranean Croplands: Available information and Gaps; Eduardo Aguilera Fernández (SEAE)**  
**Concept for the end report Andreas Gattinger (FiBL)**  
**Joint discussion of session 1 contents/conclusions**
- 11.15 Break
- 11.30 **Session 2: The climate change mitigation potential of organic farming systems and the development of a methodology for the carbon market; Moderation: Lise Andreasen (ICROFS)**  
**Organic farming systems and the development of a methodology for the carbon market – state of the art/Concept for the end report Adrian Müller (FiBL)**  
**Joint discussion of session 2 contents/conclusions**
- 13.00 Lunch Break
- 13.45 **Ex-act, a carbon balance tool Marianne Tinlot (FAO)**
- 14.15 **Session 3: Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) - methods, models and databases with focus on GHG emission and sequestration potential of organic farming systems and organic food; Moderation: Urs Niggli (FiBL)**  
**Presentation of Draft Report on: LCA research, data gaps and LCA method development and databases for organic farming systems Marie Trydeman Knudsen and Dr. John E. Hermansen, Aarhus University, Denmark**  
**Concept for the end report Lise Andreasen (ICROFS)**  
**Joint discussion of session 3 contents/conclusions**
- 15.30 Break
- 15.45 **Session 4: Future of RTOACC Moderation: Andreas Gattinger (FiBL)**  
**Goals/organizational structure/funding Noémi Nemes (FAO)/future activities**  
**Joint discussion of session 4/conclusions**
- 17.30 End of meeting



## Sessions 1-3

Sessions 1-3 followed the agenda according to plan. After each presentation the participants posed questions and comments which were helpful for clarification of the work. The presented papers of FiBL and ICROFS will be incorporated into two separate reports which will be submitted by December 15 2010 to the FAO (Nadia Scialabba). by end of 2010 and beginning of 2011, respectively As already discussed during the Bari meeting it is envisaged to prepare a common report of the FiBL and ICROFS work and the results of the RTOACC meetings as an outcome of the RTOACC which will be made illustrative in a brochure/booklet and will be open to the general public. The deadline for this is end of February 2011.

## Session 4

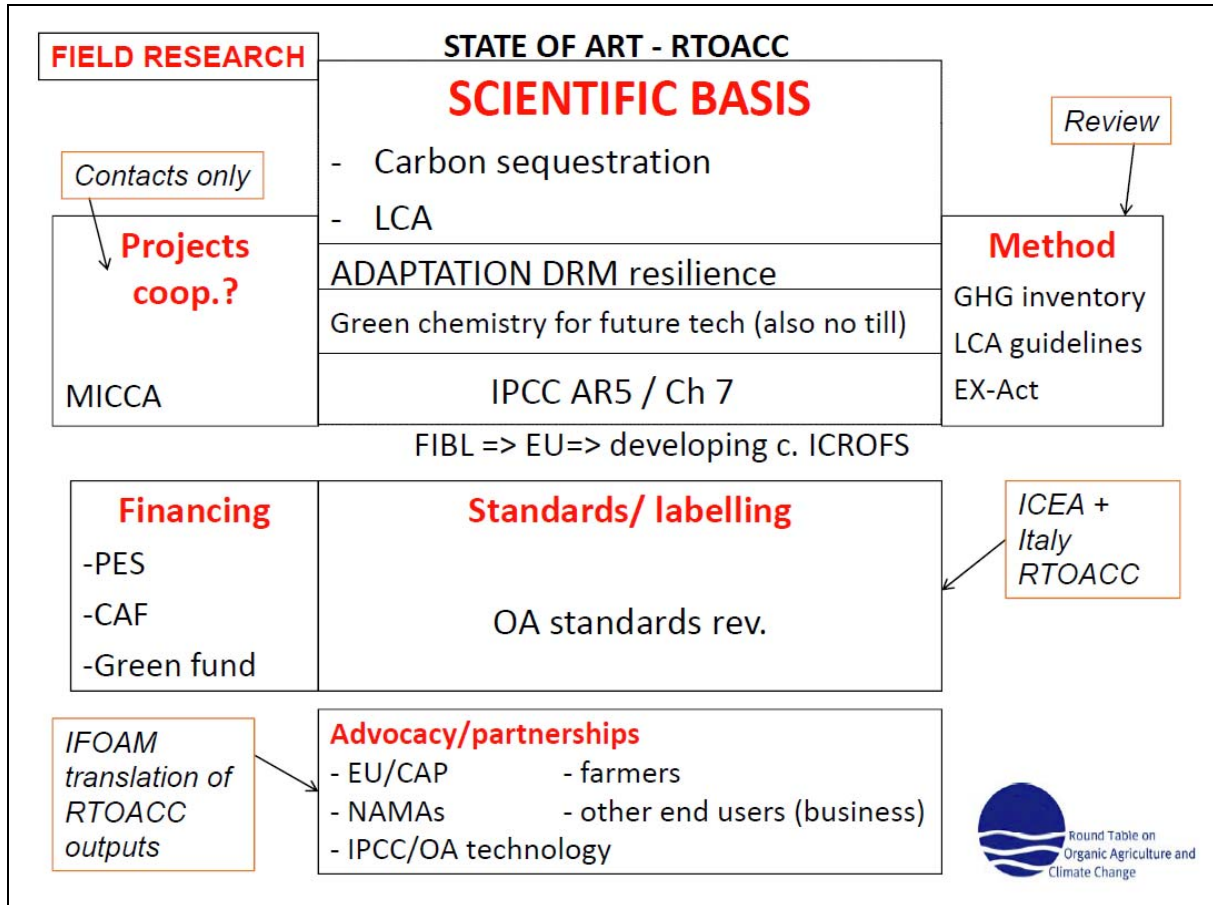
During this session the goals of RTOACC, its organizational structure, funding and future activities were discussed.

Urs Niggli opened the discussion by stating that the goals for 2010 have been achieved and that the RTOACC can be very content with the outcome. This statement was confirmed by many other participants of the meeting. U. Niggli further argued that the 2010 goals and activities of the RTOACC are still valid for 2011. Following that line other participants added their views and ideas. These were incorporated in a work flow diagram as displayed in Fig. 1. It basically says that the **scientific basis** has to be further developed. This addresses carbon sequestration, LCA approaches, adaptation to climate change through resilience and green chemistry (incl. reduced and no till practices). This has to be done by integrative research approaches by combining field research with modelling and upscaling tools (GHG inventories, LCA, *EX-Act* tool, etc.). Synergies/cooperation with projects like MICCA (Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture) (<http://www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/en/>) should be used. The main goal of MICCA is to support efforts to mitigate climate change through agriculture in developing countries and move towards carbon friendly agricultural practices. The scientific results of research related to RTOACC should also feed into the fifth assessment report (Chapter 7) of the IPCC.

The development of climate-relevant **standards and labelling** forms the second pillar of the RTOACC work. In this context the existing standards relevant to organic agriculture (OA) will be reviewed and further developed with a significant input by ICEA and the Italian RTOACC.

The third pillar consists of **advocacy/partnerships** in which mainly IFOAM translates the RTOACC outputs to the public outside RTOACC. Assessing and contributing to the processes in the context of the EU common agricultural policy (CAP) and country-specific climate policies such as NAMAs are some examples of such work.

It was also decided that FiBL chairs the RTOACC in 2011. The current chair Andreas Gattinger, FiBL agreed to continue at least for the first six months in 2011.



**Fig. 1. Work flow of the future activities of the RTOACC as elaborated by the participants of the Rome meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010 (Drawing by N. Scialabba and N. Nemes)**

**Contact**

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