



Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics International (TIPI)  
and the SysCom programme

## **Pre-conference at OWC 2017:**

***“Accelerating Innovation – the Role of Science, Policy and Practice”***

November 8, 2017 – Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, Behind Reserve Bank  
of India, New Delhi, 110001

### **Background**

Organic food and farming systems (OFFS) have great potential to meet global challenges – such as population growth, climate change, environmental pollution and deterioration of natural resources – while being economically attractive to farmers. However, OFFS remain a niche category with less than one percent of the global farmland certified, and only a small share of the global population consuming organic produce. Today, many research institutes and scientists in low- and middle-income countries working on novel knowledge and techniques of OFFS are facing challenges, and allocation of more resource to these areas is needed. Furthermore, OFFS are not adequately considered in the context of international research for development, and there is a growing disparity between smallholder/family farms and industrialised production within OFFS.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of this event is to offer a common platform for dialogue between science, policy and practice. In other words, this event will aim at initiating the development of scientifically informed policy for practice oriented solutions. A series of talks by national and international leaders from the fields of science and policy will prepare the floor for a moderated panel discussion addressing challenges and opportunities of science and policy to transform food systems. The event will explore the potential of innovation platforms to accelerate innovation in OFFS in the current science and policy landscapes of India and other countries of the global South. The afternoon will be dedicated more specifically to innovation platforms; after conceptual inputs, hands-on examples from Africa and India are going to set the scene for a two hour workshop with all participants. The targeted outcome of the event is a concept and compilation of success stories of bringing about innovation through transdisciplinary processes, and a collection of the most suitable approaches to facilitate such processes in various local contexts. These results will be converted to policy briefs which will be used to initiate the mentioned processes in India and other countries of the global South.

### **Format**

This event will be organized as a full-day pre-conference. After high-level representatives from the Agricultural Policy Commission and the Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board of the Government of India, as well as the representatives of Swiss authorities will have prepared the floor, thought-provoking speakers will present visionary inputs which are currently being developed at the forefront of respective UN bodies. These contributions will provide the basis for a moderated panel discussion. The afternoon will comprise of a series of talks as well as a workshop specifically dedicated to innovation platforms (see above). Lunch will be provided, and a limited number of sponsorships are available, mainly for participants from countries with a low to medium [Human Development Index](#). Please contact [christian.andres@fibl.org](mailto:christian.andres@fibl.org) for sponsorships.

### **Names and affiliations of organizers**

Prof Dr Urs Niggli, Director Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), President of TIPI

Dr Gurbir Singh Bhullar, Senior Scientist and Theme Leader – Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics, FiBL

Dr Amritbir Riar, Scientist, SysCom India, FiBL

Dr Brian Baker, Principal Belcainr Concerns, Vice-President of TIPI

Christian Andres, Scientist, FiBL, Scientific Secretary of TIPI, [christian.andres@fibl.org](mailto:christian.andres@fibl.org)

More information: <http://www.organic-research.net/tipi.html> (TIPI) & <http://www.systems-comparison.fibl.org/> (SysCom)

## Programme

### Morning: “Science & Policy” (moderated by Dr Gurbir Singh Bhullar)

Time	Topic and presenter
08:45 – 09:00	<i>Welcome and introduction</i> Prof Dr Urs Niggli, Director, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, Switzerland
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Opening address</i> Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), New Delhi, Government of India (GOI)
09:30 – 09:50	<i>Policy for scientific capacity building in India</i> Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, GOI
09:50 – 10:10	<i>Research and innovation to transform food systems in India – the Swiss approach</i> Marie Laure Crettaz, Head Swiss Cooperation Office India, Embassy of Switzerland
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Policy for development – UN perspective for developing countries</i> (title to be confirmed) Anne-Sophie Poisot, IPPM Programme coordinator, FAO, United Nations
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 11:20	<i>Global vision and strategy for organic farming research</i> Prof Dr Urs Niggli, Director, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, Switzerland
11:20 – 11:40	<i>What can organic agriculture contribute to sustainable development in the tropics? Findings from a long-term farming systems comparison program (SysCom)</i> Dr Gurbir Singh Bhullar, Senior Scientist and Program Leader, FiBL, Frick, Switzerland
11:40 – 13:00	<i>Panel discussion – “Science &amp; Policy to transform food systems – challenges &amp; opportunities”</i> Moderated by Dr Brian Baker, Principal Belcain Concerns, Vice-President of TIPI Panellists: Prof Ramesh Chand, Dr Gurbachan Singh, Marie Laure Crettaz, Anne-Sophie Poisot, Prof A.K.Dhawan, Dr Gurbir Singh Bhullar, Christian Andres
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>

### Afternoon: “The role of innovation platforms to accelerate innovation”

(moderated by Christian Andres and Dr Amritbir Singh Riar)

Time	Topic and presenter
14:00 – 14:30	<i>Role of innovation platforms &amp; participatory research in agricultural development in India</i> Dr Randhir S. Poswal, Assistant Director General Agriculture Extension, ICAR, New Delhi, India
14:30 – 14:50	<i>Systems approaches to agricultural innovation – Lessons from Africa</i> Dr Marc Schut, Social Scientist, IITA & Wageningen University, Kigali, Rwanda
14:50 – 15:10	<i>MilkIT innovation platform: changing women’s lives in the foothills of India’s Himalaya</i> Thanammal Ravichandran, Research Fellow, ILRI, Hyderabad, India
15:10 – 15:30	<i>Questions and answers with panel of speakers</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00 – 17:30	<i>Workshop – “How can we accelerate innovation in organic food and farming systems?”</i> Moderated by Dr Andrew Hammermeister, Director Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC), TIPI Council Member
17:30 – 18:00	<i>Synthesis and pre-conference closing</i> Prof Dr Gabi Soto, Member of IFOAM World Board of Directors, TIPI Council Member
18:15 – 19:45	<i>TIPI membership assembly</i>
20:00 – 21:00	<i>OFIA reception and dinner</i>

### Registration (compulsory to get your food voucher):

<https://anmeldeservice.fibl.org/event/accelerating-innovation>