

Organic Farmers' presentations at the Organic World Congress 2017 First call to the Organic Farming Community

For the first time in the history of IFOAM, the Organic World Congress is being organized with a predominant focus on organic farmers and their work.

Therefore, special efforts are being made to ensure large scale participation of practising organic farmers worldwide. Even greater efforts are being made to enable them to make presentations of their work and the innovations on their farms at the Congress.

Since 80 per cent of the global organic farming community is located in Asia, Africa, and South America, the OWC will attempt to ensure that a similar percentage of farmers making presentations at the Congress will also come from these three regions.

If you are an organic farmer and wish to attend the Congress and make a presentation of your successful organic farming work – focusing particularly on innovations which you have brought to organic farming or processing – then you should take the following steps:

- 1) Get in touch immediately with an organic farming association within your region or country and inform them that you wish to make a presentation at the OWC.
- 2) Inform the association or NGO about whether you or your organisation is able to pay your travel, registration, and accommodation cost or if you need assistance with any of these. Remember that organic farmers from Asia, Africa, and South America will pay only half the registration rates everyone else will pay. This has been specially done to ensure that costs do not deter farmers from attending.
- 3) If your offer/presentation idea/paper is accepted by your local association, please download the sample presentation of around 20 slides which you should simply follow with respect to your own presentation. You can download the sample presentation format from the OWC or OFAI website (www.ofai.org).
- 4) The text on the slides should be in English, French, Spanish, or Mandarin. This will enable us to translate the text into Hindi, which together with English, is the official language of the conference. From the English version, OFAI will prepare versions for participants from different language regions of India as well.
- 5) After your presentation is ready, send it to OFAI (myofai@gmail.com) Before the **30th of November, 2016** and it will be placed before a Presentation

Approval Committee (PAC) of organic farmers and pro-organic farming scientists worldwide. The panel will decide whether your presentation is exciting enough to be shared at the World Congress.

6) If your paper is selected by the panel for the conference, and if you need funding, we will begin the process of working out the method to ensure your participation during the event in Delhi in November 2017.

7) Please note that you will be able to make your presentation comfortably in your mother tongue at the Congress. You need not speak English at all. However, for this, your presentation has to be with OFAI well in advance of November 2017.

Act Quickly!

You have **less than** two years before the Congress is scheduled to take place (9-11 November, 2017). Late comers are not appreciated by organisers of any event. The same holds good with OWC 2017. If you do not make efforts to register your keenness to attend the OWC, and if you do not disclose your wish to make a presentation, chances are you will miss the bus completely. It is therefore in your best interest to act as early as possible.

When communicating with us, please provide full details of your name (as it appears in the passport), passport number, passport validity period, address given in the passport, country, email, website, and telephone numbers so that these are entered into our records and we have no difficulty in communicating with you.

In case you have no means of communicating with any organic farming association or NGO, or any other organisation including government bodies within your country, you can still communicate directly with OFAI (email id: myofai@gmail.com).

Please note that the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farming Organisations (INOFO) is an official partner for this conference and organic farmers who are in touch with INOFO can also use that route to participate in the conference.

I hope you do not need a clearer invitation than this? But if you still have queries, please do not hesitate to email me.

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