

8th ALGOA & 3rd GAOD Summits Declaration

We, the participants from 21 countries and areas, have now successfully completed our discussions for the past two days, undertaken under the theme of “Public Participation in Local Governance”.

The ALGOA Organic Foundation Course (OFC) was held together with the Summits and brought graduates of the Organic Foundation Courses from 2016 to 2021. 18 graduates of former trainings participated in an in-depth discussion on diverse topics, culminating in action plans for the development of organic agriculture in their respective countries and regions.

At the Summit, discussions focused on the best practices of organic districts in Europe and Africa and how these examples can inspire similar initiatives in Asia and other parts of the world. The speakers emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in the management of the organic districts also referred to as bio-territories, bio-regions, and eco-regions in their respective countries.

The discussions started with an introduction of a toolkit that can be utilized for the creation and management of organic districts; the presentations that followed showed examples of applications of the toolkit.

It was also clear that the success of the organic districts called for the involvement of actors from all levels of society – policymakers, farmers, consumers, tour operators, hotel managers, restaurant owners, researchers, agri-food companies, etc.

A clear and transparent governance structure is also needed for the success of the organic districts and all the speakers highlighted the democratic and horizontal process of decision-making in the implementation and management of the organic districts.

The session on school meals once again focused on the importance of public-private involvement in providing safe and nutritious food to our children. All three presentations showed different examples of how farmers, parents, schools, nutritionists, and the local governments came together with the one single purpose of providing good organic food to our next generation and to “leave no child behind”.

In the session on “Going Forward”, the presentation of the People’s Academy is introduced as a transdisciplinary network and collaborative community of stakeholders who offer courses to people worldwide that inspire deep systemic change towards sustainable life-enhancing societies. It will be established as an integrated part of the common framework and guidelines for the development and implementation of Organic districts.

The People’s Food Summit will be held on October 16th, World Food Day, is a 24-hour global, participatory, virtual summit, starting near the international date line in the Pacific and moving westwards through the time zones of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. It is bottom-up, participatory, and inclusive, addressing the urgent needs of the regions and is great opportunity to influence the global agenda on agriculture.

The sessions culminated in the discussions of the “Organic Mayors Declaration” where the importance of working with local governments is once again emphasized. Further discussions will continue in the following months to finalize the announcement of the Declaration at the Closing Ceremony of the 2022 IFOM-Goesan International Organic Expo.

Based on the sessions discussions at the Summits, we would like to declare the following:

- That the role of Governments, at all levels, is necessary to promote policies supporting the organic sector development
- That policies include the opportunities provided by the territorial and multi-stakeholders' approaches for the development of innovative solutions like the organic districts
- That linking the different national and international actors operating for the organic sector development provides a critical mass necessary to create the future we want
- That education and knowledge alignment between the different organic sector stakeholders play a decisive role in supporting the creation of the skills and collaboration necessary to reach the above-mentioned goals.

July 19th, 2022

Goesan County, South Korea