

Title: Organic Farming as an option to solve future agriculture and food chain challenges.

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Organic farming is considered and proofed as sustainable, productive and profitable food and farming system in a low-external-input / medium-output approach. The globally harmonised principles and standards of Organic farming are the base for millions of organic farmers, processors and traders all over the world. In 2017, more than 50 million hectare in about 170 countries are managed under these approach and the global organic market is close to reach the value of 100 billion US-Dollar. Therefore: Organic is a success story. Beyond agricultural practices and their technical and economic bases, organic farming includes important aspects for social reforms. Nevertheless, from a global perspective, certified Organic is still a niche. But, more than 50% of the farms on the earth – mainly small scaled with low input / low output level – are managed "Organic by default", but mainly with low output results. Using the successful "tricks" of modern Organic farming to improve towards Good Farming Practice (e.g., crop rotation, nutrient management, biological pest management, healthy seeds, high animal welfare, premium markets), there is the option to scaled-up these "Organic tricks" to defeat the future global challenges in food and farming and can help to reduce hunger, land degradation and losses in biodiversity, mitigate and adapt climate change, increase income and jobs, supply healthy, enough and affortable food, and respond to public and consumer ethic expectations (e.g. animal welfare) with a low-external-input / medium output farming strategy. The "Organic 3.0 strategy" is the basis for the Organic Farming movement (IFOAM), to make the global farming more sustainable, and to work on enough, healthy and affortable food for everyone, as partner for all farmers and actors.

Biography

Gerold Rahmann has studied agriculture economics and rural development at the University of Goettingen, Germany, and made his PhD in 1993. His post-doc position at the University of Kassel, Faculty of Organic Agricultural Science, did focus on agri-ecology, where he completed his habilitation to become a Professor. In 2000, Rahmann became founding director of the Institute of Organic Farming of the Germany Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Rahmann is member of the world board of IFOAM, president of ISOFAR, editor-in-chief of scientific journals and member of many committees. He has worked several years abroad, mainly in Africa. Rahmann has published more than 35 peer-reviewed papers and 350 other publication.

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