

# MEDIA RELEASE

10<sup>th</sup> March 2005



## World Organic Movement Focuses on Adelaide

The eyes of the organic world will be focused on Adelaide in September. The 15<sup>th</sup> International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) World Congress is being held in conjunction with the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAAR) Conference and the 8<sup>th</sup> International IFOAM Organic Viticulture and Wine Conference.

The 15<sup>th</sup> IFOAM World Congress will bring together the most important organic practitioners, policy makers, innovators, thinkers and scientists ever assembled in Australia to debate the big issues of sustainability.

Preparations for the Congress continue to gather momentum. The program is dynamic, with more than 300 provocative workshops, papers and Congress posters from industry leaders and practitioners from around the world.

The 15<sup>th</sup> IFOAM World Congress is being hosted by the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA), Australia's first organic certifier. NASAA is focused on providing quality, cost efficient organic certification services.

The Congress will provide a platform for the critical examination of the role, limits, principles and integrity of organic agriculture from agronomic practices to biodiversity and their social and economic impacts.

The Congress theme of *Shaping Sustainable Systems* and ISOFAAR's focus on *Researching Sustainable Systems*, promise to stimulate and inform all who attend.

The challenge from the Congress organizing committee to every sector of the organic movement in Australia is to take advantage of this unique opportunity to be actively involved in a World Congress that will set the direction and agenda of the organic movement worldwide for the next decade.

"We need every individual and organic group in the country to take up this challenge, get active and get involved in the 15<sup>th</sup> IFOAM Congress. Everyone has something to contribute and all who attend will have the opportunity to debate, discuss and learn from the experience," Congress coordinator Jan Denham said.

Accompanying events include a significant and diverse range of pre and post Congress tours to tropical North Queensland, outback Australia, Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide environs.

The Congress Organic Exhibition at the Adelaide Convention Centre will be the largest to ever be assembled in Australia. The ***Go Organic Festival - food, music and sustainable living*** in the Adelaide Parklands on Saturday and Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> is a free public event. It will showcase organic food and beverages, music, entertainment, demonstrations and information.

With the theme of 'Shaping Sustainable Systems', the Congress will shape, through debate and discussion, the important role that organic systems play in ensuring long term sustainability.

Through the plenary sessions, lectures, and workshops, the issue of 'sustainability', which is at the heart of organic agriculture, will be revisited, rethought and recaptured.

Consideration will be given to broader social and policy issues of community, gender and social justice, and how they interact with food security, sustainable land use and organic certification. In placing the spotlight on the host nation, there will also be a particular focus on the unique Australian organic systems of permaculture, animal husbandry and rangeland systems' management.

"The 15th IFOAM Organic World Congress will showcase the depth and breadth of organic agriculture worldwide. It will provide a greater focus for the Australian Organic Industry, and will highlight the potential and growth opportunities the industry has to become a major supplier to the international community," Jan Denham said.

"In hosting this major international event, the Australian organic industry has the unique opportunity to demonstrate to our politicians, regulators and conventional agriculture, the practices, benefits, and opportunities organic systems can provide in substantiating Australia's "clean green" image.

"It is our opportunity to demonstrate the leading role organic systems can play in addressing and supporting sustainable solutions in agriculture," Jan Denham said

The highly regarded 2005 Congress keynote speaker list includes **Prof. Dr. Hardy Vogtmann, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke, David Holmgren, Dr Tim Flannery, Professor Stuart B. Hill, Adimaimalaga Tafuna'I, Alberto Pipo Lernoud, Sue Kedgley and David Brook.**

**Prof. Dr. Hardy Vogtmann** studied Agricultural and Food Sciences at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and earned his doctorate in the field of animal nutrition. After three years as Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, he became founder and first Director of the Research Institute of Biological Farming in Oberwil, Switzerland. **Prof. Dr. Hardy Vogtmann** is Honorary President of IFOAM and since 2000, President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. He was the first person anywhere in the world to be appointed as a professor of a university level organic agriculture course.

**Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke** in 1987 was appointed Professor in Organic Agriculture at the University of Bonn, Germany and Director of the Institute of Organic Agriculture (IOA). **Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke** is actively involved in all aspects of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable agricultural research and development. He is head of several

interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary researcher groups on national and international level including the EU.

**Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke** has produced more than 300 publications and is a member of several scientific associations and boards. **Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke** is President of the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR).

**David Holmgren** is best known as the co-originator with Bill Mollison of the permaculture concept following the publication of “Permaculture One” in 1978. Since then he has written several more books, developed three properties using permaculture principles and conducted workshops and courses in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Japan.

**Dr Tim Flannery** from Adelaide has made contributions of international significance to the fields of paleontology, mammalogy and conservation and to the understanding of science in the broader community. His work, which includes a number of major discoveries, has received international acclaim from both peers and professionals.

**Professor Stuart B. Hill** is Foundation Chair of Social Ecology at the University of Western Sydney. Prior to 1996 he was at McGill University, in Montreal, where he was responsible for the zoology degree and where in 1974 he established Ecological Agriculture Projects, Canada’s leading resource centre for sustainable agriculture.

**Adimaimalaga Tafuna’I** is from the Pacific Island of Samoa. Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) began an organic farming project in 1998, as a means of adding value to products and accessing niche markets for the rural village farmers of Samoa. Organic Certification of WIBDI is undertaken by NASAA. Adimaimalaga was also instrumental in establishing the Samoan Organic Farmers Association (SOFA).

**Alberto Pipo Lernoud** has been working with organic agriculture since 1983. As an ecological, musical and cultural journalist, he involved himself in organic because he wanted to promote “the positive, problem solving side of ecology”. He became an organic farmer in 1985, edited the first “how to do” best selling book on organics “Experiencias de cultivo ecologico en Argentina” (1989) and helped fund the Argentinean organic umbrella organization, MAPO (1995).

**Sue Kedgley** has been a Green Party MP for 5 years. She is Green party spokesperson for Health, Safe Food, Consumer Affairs, Broadcasting and other issues. She is Deputy Chair of the Health Select Committee of the New Zealand Parliament.

Sue is the author or co-author of seven books. The most recent title is *Eating Safely in a Toxic World*. **Sue Kedgley** has been a safe food campaigner for many years and was a founder and Co-Convener of the Safe Food Campaign in New Zealand and the National Food Safety Network.

**David Brook** lives in Birdsville in central Australia. David and wife Nell own and operate pastoral properties in the Channel Country of the Lake Eyre Basin. David has been active in local government for the last 30 years, including thirteen years as Mayor of the Diamantina Shire.

In 2002 David received the Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to the community, local government and the establishment of Organic Beef production in the region. David is a board member of the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and is Chairman of OBE Beef Pty Ltd. He has traveled extensively both domestically and internationally to promote and market OBE organic beef.

The 15<sup>th</sup> IFOAM Congress is proudly supported by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Organic Wholesalers and Jurlique International. Media supporters include Rural Press, the Stock Journal, Acres Australia and Eco Voice.

For further information about the Congress proceedings, keynote speakers, tour and social programs, plus early bird registration and Media accreditation, visit the IFOAM Congress website at [www.ifoam2005.info](http://www.ifoam2005.info)

The Congress Organising Committee is Jan Denham, Robin Austin, Andre Leu, Liz Clay, Tim Marshall, George Devrell and Rod May.

The IFOAM Congress Secretariat is provided by Sapro Conference Management

Ph: +618 8352 7099

Fax: +618 8352 7088

Email: [ifoam2005@sapro.com.au](mailto:ifoam2005@sapro.com.au)

**More information:**

**Jan Denham**

**Congress Convenor**

2005 Organic World Congress

General: +61 8 8339 7800

Direct: +61 3 5027 9249

Email: [ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au](mailto:ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au)

**Ian Doyle**

**Media Coordinator**

0417 819 189

[dms@portal.net.au](mailto:dms@portal.net.au)

***Pics and bios of the Keynote Speakers are available from the Media Coordinator***

**[www.ifoam2005.info](http://www.ifoam2005.info)**