The Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations is the infrastructure belonging specifically to the Organic farmers organisations everywhere, facilitating the relationship between them, allowing them to consult and cooperate with each other at national & regional levels, to speak with legitimate common voice, raising their concerns in forums at all levels, from local to global. After many years of preparation, INOFO began formally in 2008 and underwent a 3-year capacity-building project, for improving links between grass-roots organisations. The aim is to manifest the views and strategies of organised Organic farmers in particular, helping to empower all farmers as a class, the smallholders, the family farmers of every continent who want to make their own choice of method of production, of what to produce, of what markets to supply and on what conditions., all with a view to restoring food sovereignty in each territory.

How INOFO operates: ● Each organisation delegates a farmer and/or staff member as responsible for its external relations, thus relating to the Network via Convenors mandated at national and regional levels by the OFOs concerned.
● These Convenors facilitate relations via periodic consultation between organic farmers organisations in each country, then in each macro-region, and finally at inter-continental level, including at 3-yearly INOFO General Assemblies.
● Convenors identify existing organisations, note their nature & activities, keep track of what they want on the agenda, facilitate internal & external consultation, including for transversal Thematic Working Groups, circulate reports of meetings or work in progress. Each Convenorship organises its own translation services where needed.

Costs are considered as within an organisation's normal external relations, not excluding external funding for certain activities at the inter-continental level.

photo: Casamance 2014
A Convenor, assisted by a deputy (from another organisation), thus facilitates national or regional consultations and helps organise the inter-continental assembly every 3 years, to which all can send delegates. The INOFO GA 2014 brought to Istanbul the delegates of 48 farmers organisations in 29 countries, representing about 2.5 million farming families. Each GA set its organisational & thematic agenda and elects its Council to run the network till next GA, always the day before each Organic World Congress (India 2017, France 2020.).

The Organic farmers networks, organised like this, send delegates to farmers forums, consult with governments, cooperate on pursuing common objectives in public policy, food sovereignty, land rights & access, adaptation to climate change, production standards, guarantee systems, marketing & pricing, participatory research, technical exchanges including seed, education & other farmers concerns that are vital for all societies.

Any organised group of organic farmers can join the Network by mandating a delegate to get in touch, and can also name experts to participate in Thematic Working Groups:

- Policy & Advocacy,
- Soils & Sciences,
- Seed,
- Guarantee Systems & Markets.

Convenorships are established in:
- Latin America & Caribbean,
- Africa (West, Eastern & Southern),
- Asia (South, South-East),
- Europe.

An OFO in a region with no established Convenorship can have direct contact with the INOFO Council of Convenors until a national or regional Convenor is elected: contact@inofo.org

Documents available in English, español or français at <www.inofo.org> amongst others:
INOFO Convenors Bulletin N°11, report from INOFO General Assembly, Istanbul, Oct 2014,
INOFO Convenors Bulletin N°10, April 2014, announcing the capacity-building project 2014-2016, with IFAD funding and staff support from IFOAM - Organics International (secretariat in Bonn, Germany, this is the multi-professional federation of Organic agriculture movements of 1972), in which INOFO in 2008 formally constituted the autonomous professional network of organic farmers organisations, open to those not affiliated to IFOAM. (text updated 7 Jan 2018)

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