

Sustainability Training of Organic Advisers (STOAS)

Draft Training Curriculum

1) Introduction to objectives and target group

The general objective of the project is to develop and test a training course for organic advisers, which gives them the skills and competences to address the new demands for more focus on sustainability assessment and documentation on organic farms

For this purpose the two courses are dedicated to two different target groups:

- Course 1 is for experienced advisers and executive staff of the partners, who should have an important role in the implementation of the courses in their respective countries. Course 1 puts more emphasis on strategic aspects of the topic and on the implementation
- Course 2 is for advisers who work actually or in future in the field of sustainability assessment/advice in organic agriculture. Course 2 puts more emphasis on practical use of the advisory tools

2) Overview on the training courses

Course 1 Leaders and managers of advisory organisations; leaders of NGO and public institutions involved in organic and sustainable agriculture	Course 2 Advisers/consultants active in operational advisory work
Workshop 1.1 (2 days) DE, 29/30 Nov. 2012	Workshop 2.1 (2 days) CH, 11/12 Dec 2012
Workshop 1.2 (2 days) DK, 27/28 May 2013	Workshop 2.2 (1 day) UK, 3/4 June 2013
Participants	
14 participants in each course (2 participants from each country (DK, UK, NL, A, CH, D, CZ/BE))	
Leaders and managers of advisory organisations; leaders of NGO and public institutions involved in organic and sustainable agriculture	Advisers for organic farms, with a focus on sustaina- bility in their work
Teachers (preliminary proposal)	
4 teachers per workshop in the budget	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Fisel (moderator) • Robert Obrist • Jan Plagge, • Markus Arbenz tbc • Susanne Padel tbc • Prof. Kurt-Jürgen Hülsbergen • Mark Measures • Dr. Christian Schader • Prinz Felix zu Löwenstein • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Obrist (moderator) • Harald Rasch • Dr. Jan Grenz • Mark Measures • Roger Hitchings • Helmut Frank • Nic Lampkin •

Objectives of the courses

Course 1	Course 2
<p>The participants ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will reach an understanding of the concept of sustainability in the context of organic farming • Will develop an overview about different practical tools for sustainability assessment in agriculture • Will have exchanged robust views about sustainability concepts in the supply chain of the organic food sector • Will develop a strategy and plan concrete steps for the implementation of advisory concepts and tools for sustainability in their countries • Will have become members of a network for further exchange on the topic 	<p>The participants ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will reach an understanding of the concept of sustainability in the context of organic farming • Will understand the status quo of sustainability in organic agriculture practice and its strengths and weaknesses • Will develop an overview on scientific results regarding sustainability • Will have been trained in the application of practical tools for sustainability assessment and sustainability advice • Will be equipped for the implementation of advisory tools for sustainability in their work and will have developed concrete ideas on how to do it

3) Programme of the Courses

Course 1, Workshop 1

Date: 29 – 30 Nov 2012

Location: Germany, Sepp Braun, Freising

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
08:30	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of participants • Objectives • Programme with background of the project 	Presentation of the project → flyer Why we use an advisory approach and not a certification tool?		Thomas Fisel
09:00	Exchange: Sustainability in the different countries	Prepared presentations of each country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social relevance of sustainability in our country • Sustainability in agriculture • Sustainability in organic agriculture/our organisation • Driving forces and obstacles 	One presentation from each country Collect the slides (one week) before	7 x 6 min guiding questions (slides)	Thomas Fisel Each country
10:30	Coffee break				
10:50	Sustainability in the food chain	Sustainability in the food chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the significance for.... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Traders ○ Manufacturers ○ Producers ○ Organisations 	Continuation of the previous session with an increased focus on detail within different countries	General presentations followed by focused discussion to draw conclusions	Coop CH/Migros? Mark Measures Prinz Felix zu Löwenstein
12:30	Lunch				
13:30	Organic agriculture and advisory landscape in GE	Visiting an organic farm or manufacturer Exchange			Thomas Fisel

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
14:30	Sustainability in Agriculture/Organic Agriculture	Scientific results of a German research project, in which ecological sustainability of organic and conventional farms were analysed		Presentation and discussion	Helmut Frank
15:30	Coffee break				
16:00	Sustainability in Agriculture/Organic Agriculture	Overview: Tools and Issues www.farmrise.ch RISE, PGT, Bioland Concept	More information about the tools in the programme		Robert Obrist, Mark Measures
18:00	Dinner				
19:30	German cheese meets Swiss wine				
Day 2					
08:30	Creating a strong vision of sustainability in organic agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT-analysis • Development of Visions 	Results from the group work from the first day on the wall/board Aim of the SWOT: What are the driving forces?		/Thomas Fisel
10:00	Coffee break				
10:30	Strategies of organic agriculture regarding sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advisory approach and/or certification ○ In how far to integrate it in the organic rules? ○ Which criteria? ○ How to communicate it along the food chain? 	Input 30` Focus on group work Report from the IFOAM congress		Chr. Vögeli, Chr. Schader
12:30	Lunch				
13:30	Conclusions and next steps	Synergies? Exchange? Common actions? ...			Thomas Fisel Robert Obrist
14:30	Coffee break				
14:45	Planning of workshop 2 in Denmark				Thomas Fisel Robert Obrist
16:00	Closure				

Course 1; Workshop 2

Date: 27 – 28 May 2013

Location: Denmark

Remark: The programme of this workshop should not be fixed in detail at the moment. It is part of a dynamic process and strongly depending on the results of Workshop 1. It will be planned in detail after evaluation of Workshop 1. So the programme below is rather a list of possible topics than a concrete proposal for the workshop programme.

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
	Experiences and concrete results since the last workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which steps were made and what are the results/experiences? • Which new trends and developments are relevant? 			
	Political framework regarding sustainability	European agricultural policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which importance has sustainability in the politics and subsidies after 2014? • What could be joint strategies of the different countries/organisations? 			IFOAM Nic Lampkin (ORC)
	Strategies of the conventional sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which are the strategies of the conventional food sector? • How do they define sustainability? • Which conclusions can be drawn for the organic sector? 			Lecturers from Danish food sector
	Global aspects of sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How other countries handle sustainability • Bio-energy production and sustainability sector • Sustainability versus how to feed the world? 			tbc
	Planning of joint activities of the different partners in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which activities are planned by the different partners? 			

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
	the field of sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which potentials for synergy and cooperation do exist? • Which concrete joint projects or activities are promising? • What are the concrete next steps after STOAS? 			
	Creating a network for further cooperation of the partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can partners stay in contact? • How can knowledge transfer be organised? • Who takes responsibility? 			

Course 2: Workshop 1

Date: 11 – 12 December 2012

Location: Switzerland, bioschwand.ch

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
08:30	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing of participants • Objectives • Programme 			Harald Rasch Robert Obrist
09:15	Understanding of Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the relevance of sustainability in society, agriculture and especially in organic agriculture? • How is sustainability defined in agriculture? • Which players are engaged and interested in that field? • Why is sustainability an important challenge for organic agriculture? • How can sustainability be measured? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rat für nachhaltige Entwicklung • IPPC • FNL • 		Input (Robert Obrist, Mark Measures) group work: what is my understanding of sustainability? (Harald Rasch)
10:30	Coffee break	•			
10:50	Sustainability of organic agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which focus do we set? (social, ecological sustainability) • In how far sustainability is already covered by the values, rules and standards of organic agriculture? (including differences between public and private standards) • How can sustainability in agriculture be measured (measuring, modelling etc..)? • What is analysed and known regarding sustainability in organic farming (research results)? 	BLW Annual Report (CH); FIBL Publications; DOK long-term trial Pilotbetriebsnetz (Ökologie), Scientific results or data for social sustainability of	A common PPP, divided in 3 parts	Helmut Frank, Harald Rasch (ecological), Robert Obrist (social) Mark Measures (economic)

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecological sustainability (including animal welfare) ○ Economical sustainability ○ Welfare and social sustainability ● How sustainable is organic compared to conventional farming? ● How to measure ecological sustainability? Which different approaches are existing? ● What differences exist between the farm types (organic/conventional) and between farms of the same type? ● Which are the major drivers in organic farming systems for improvement? (technically) 	organic agriculture?		
12:30	Lunch				
13:30	Understanding of sustainability	Continued			
14:30	Organic Agriculture and advisory landscape in Switzerland/Central Europe	Visiting of an organic farm in Switzerland			Robert Obrist
16:00	Coffee break on the farm				
16:30	Methodological introduction to sustainability advising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can we get farmers into movement? (How do we motivate farmers?) ● What can be the motivation of the adviser? ● Why do we prefer an advisory tool instead of a certification tool? ● What are the necessary steps of the advising 			Robert Obrist

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
		process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analyse of the status quo ○ Assessment ○ Choosing the focus and setting objectives ○ Defining concrete steps (perhaps for deeper analyse) 			
17:15	Tools for Sustainability Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview: Which tools do exist? ● Introduction RISE 	RISE/ Public Good Tool		Robert Obrist Mark Measures
19:30	Dinner - German wine meets Swiss cheese				
Day 2					
08:30	Tools for Sustainability Assessment	RISE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the purpose of the tool? ● What is the scientific background? ● For which farm types and regions is it suitable or already adapted? ● Practical experiences with the tool ● Which are the results of assessment until now? ● How to use it as an adviser? → important 		Practical Exercises	Robert Obrist Jan Grenz
12:30	Lunch				
13:30	Tools for Sustainability Assessment	Practical exercises with RISE			Robert Obrist Jan Grenz
14:30	Transfer into practice after the workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Which possibilities exist to implement the gained knowledge and skills in my organisation? ● What are concrete objectives and the next steps (until the next workshop)? ● How can we stay in contact between the participants in order to share ideas and concepts? 			Robert Obrist

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
15:30	Outlook to the second course	How to use it as an adviser?			Mark Measures
16:00	Closure				
	Homework: Assess a farm in your country with the RISE tool				

Course 2: Workshop 2

Date: 3 – 4 June 2013

Location: United Kingdom

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
08:30	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives Programme 			Mark Measures
09:00	Sharing Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation the results of the homework Exchange 		Group work	Harald Rasch
10:30	Coffee break				
10:50	Tools for Sustainability Assessment	Public Good Tool (PGT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the purpose of the tool? What is the scientific background? For which farm types and regions is it suitable or already adapted? Practical experiences with the tool Which are the results of assessment until now? How to use it as an adviser? 			Mark Measures
12:30	Lunch				
13:30	Tools for Sustainability Assessment	Practical exercises with PGT			Mark Measures
17:00	Organic Agriculture and advisory landscape in UK	Visiting of an organic farm			Mark Measures
Day 2					
08:30	Additional Tools and advi-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which additional analyse tools can be needed 	Bioland tool		Harald

Time	Topic	Questions to be treated	Knowledge Sources	Suitable Method	Trainer/Lecturer
	sory procedure for improving sustainability	(Humus balance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to come to objectives and concrete measures? 	Carbon footprint other advising tools		Rasch/Helmut Frank Robert Obrist
12:30	Lunch				
13:30	Transfer into practice after the workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which possibilities exist to implement the gained knowledge and skills in my organisation? What are concrete objectives and the next steps? Planning of the test runs Commitment on the documentation and feedback of the test runs How can we stay in contact between the participants in order to share ideas and concepts? 			Robert Obrist Mark Measures
16:00	Closure				