



1st EU/North-African Conference on Organic Agriculture (EU-NACOA) 11-12th November 2019, Marrakech-Morocco

First call for abstract under the theme:

“Bridging the Gap, Empowering Organic Africa”

Background

Organic farming systems and food production are crucial for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Organic farming includes strategies for reducing hunger, climate change mitigation and adaptation, increased biodiversity and its functional role in environmental friendly production - with fair conditions for all stakeholders of the food chain - and responsible consumption. FAO recently declared that organic farming can enhance food security, rural development, sustainable livelihoods and environmental integrity by building capacities of stakeholders in organic production, processing, certification and marketing worldwide. The revised EU regulation to be implemented in 2021 will affect the import of organic products from third parties, and there is a need to understand how and develop efficient ways for its success.

However, it still a small sector, African Organic Agriculture (OA) is gaining success through the Ecological and OA Initiative (EOA-I) as confirmed during the last African Organic Conference held in Sally-Dakar (Senegal) in November 2018. African organic stakeholders and decision makers along with scientists were unanimous that African governments, continental and regional institutions, development partners, donors and private sector investors, should provide more support to develop OA in Africa.

Many research and development institutes and scientists in Africa are developing innovative techniques for more productive organic systems. These efforts need to be embedded in an international research context. A further challenge is how to reduce the gap between smallholder farms and industrialized organic export farms. This is one of the main concerns in Morocco, where the Green Morocco Plan-GMP (<http://www.agriculture.gov.ma/en/pages/strategy>) has been launched since 2008. The GMP has brought solutions, and has been a success to the level of being scaled up by the “Triple AAA Initiative” to embrace more African countries (<http://www.aaainitiative.org/>). However, also unintended effects of large plans need to be discussed in a scientific context.

The conference intends to boost the cooperation between organic stakeholders in Africa with many countries at multilateral level. Organic expertise will be strengthened for the benefit of all African countries.

Objectives of the conference

- Merge a critical mass of scientific capacity and skills from Europe and Africa, to deliver sustainable solutions by working at practical and theoretical level;
- Bring together high profiled scientists from both continents to discuss issues about organic inputs, innovation, organic research funding, ethics and address recommendations to relevant certification and regulation bodies;
- Address and confront African potentials to expand traditional organic agriculture in terms of genetic, agro-climatic and sociocultural diversity;
- Strengthen the "Organic Alternatives for Africa" initiative and to facilitate the integration of OA into strategic policies and the agricultural development program
- Discuss how OA in Africa can be further developed as a sustainable and reliable model to ensure food safety for all, in the framework of the AAA Initiative following the COP22 recommendations (Marrakech, Morocco 2016)
- Discuss the main question raised from the conference title: *How can research contribute to bridge the current gap between Africa and Europe, with respect to organic agriculture?*



Conference

The event will be a two-day scientific conference, along with a welcoming evening on the 10th of November, and an optional tour to innovative organic farms on the 13th November 2019. In addition to opening and completing plenary sessions, scientific sessions will be arranged, allowing discussions on how the presented contributions (keynote speakers, oral communications and posters) answer the questions below.

Selected contributions will be invited to publish complete papers in a special issue of ISOFAR journal "Organic Agriculture" (<https://link.springer.com/journal/13165>).

Abstract submissions are invited for but not limited to the following topics:

1. Organic agricultural systems design and management, diversification of organic farming and cropping systems, role of rotation, multi-cropping and intercropping. Agroforestry and agroecology;
2. Tailored techniques and practices for organic farming, soil fertility, preventive and curative measures for plant protection, organic weed management, post-harvest;
3. Agricultural waste management, nutrient cycling, environmental protection and role of bio-fertilizers bio-stimulant and bio-pesticides ;
4. Organic Food Systems, local products, state of art, socioeconomics aspects and marketing of organic products in Africa.

For more information please visit the conference website: www.eu-nacoa2019.bio

Tentative Program

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sunday 10/11/2019 | |
| 15h00-20:00 | Arrivals and Registration/ Touristic trips |
| Monday 11/11/2019 | |
| 09h00-10h30 | Opening plenary session 3 keynote speakers + debate |
| 11h00-17h00 | Scientific Panels (lunch 12h30 to 14h30) |
| Tuesday 12/11/2020 | |
| 09h00-10h00 | Plenary session |
| 10h30-17h00 | Scientific Panels (lunch 12h30 to 14h30) |
| Wednesday 13/11/2019 | |
| 09h00-17h00 | -Tour to phosphate mining facility (70km) -Tour to an innovative organic farm (40km) |

Schedule and abstract submission

- Deadline for abstract submission: 15th **September 2019** (the template for abstracts is available under: <http://www.eu-nacoa2019.bio/abstract-submission.html>)
- Abstract should not exceed one page with key-words (*Word Format, police Times New Roman 12 with 1.5 line space*). This abstract should be submitted as **word file** through the conference website registration tool (<http://www.eu-nacoa2019.bio/registration-fees.html>) indicating preferred communication (oral/poster); or send it directly to the following email: info@eu-nacoa2019.bio
- Notification of acceptance (oral/poster): **30th September 2019**
- Book of abstracts will be available at the conference and ISOFAR website www.eu-nacoa2019.bio & <http://isofar.org/isofar/> respectively.

Language

The official language of the conference is English. A simultaneous translation will be available in French during plenary sessions. Slides of the presentations and posters should be edited in English.

Venue



The name Marrakech is the third largest city in Morocco after Casablanca and Rabat, and lies near the foothills of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains and a few hours away from the foot of the Sahara Desert. Its location and contrasting landscape has made it an enviable destination in Morocco. Information of the conference venue will be communicated in the second call.

The conference will be held in Hotel PALM PLAZA 5* where plenaries and scientific sessions along with accommodation will be arranged. Please specify to the hotel Promo Code "EU.NACOA2019" when booking (<http://www.hotelpalmplaza.com/>).

| Room type/service | Price |
|---|--------------------------|
| Double Room Bed&Breakfast (BB) | 550.00 MAD (55.00 Euros) |
| Supplement Single Room Bed&Breakfast (BB) | 260.00 MAD (24.00 Euros) |
| Supplement (lunch or dinner) | 230.00 MAD (21.00 Euros) |

Other accommodation possibilities could be arranged by participants at their charge (See accommodation section below).

Registration fees

| | Regular registration fees Before 30 th September 2019 | On-site Registration fees |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Moroccan FIMABIO affiliate (per attendance) | | 1700 MAD |
| Moroccan participants | 2500 MAD | 3000 MAD |
| Rest of the world participants | 3300 MAD / 300 € | 3700 MAD / 350 € |
| African participants and PhD students* | 1700 MAD / 150 € | 2200 MAD / 200 € |
| Professionals | | 5500 MAD / 500 € |

*Upon presentation of a valid certificate of doctoral enrollment for the year 2018/2019.

The registration fee covers following:

- Entry to all Conference sessions;
- Entry to the Poster area;
- Entry to the Conference Symposium;
- Conference bag with the program, notebook/pen and abstract book;
- 4x coffee break during the conference
- 2x lunch during the conference

Registration fees waived at 100% will be allowed to selected PhD students (Moroccan students) and African participants to encourage their participation in the EU.NACOA2019. For this purpose, interested participants will have to send their CV along with a motivation letter explaining how their participation would benefit their research project. Applications should be sent to the following email: info@eu-nacoa2019.bio



Registration fees:

- Payment of registration fees is managed with the help of MICROBIONA Association

| Bank | City | Account Number | RIB | Currency | Swift Code |
|--------|------|-------------------|-----|----------|------------|
| MA 013 | 450 | 01198 20123700146 | 27 | MAD | BMCIMAMC |

- Bank RIB: **013450011982012370014627**
- Bank address: **BMCi Bank**, Marrakech My Abdellah, Avenue Prince My Abdellah -Im AHLAM II 40 000, Marrakech – Morocco (Tél. +212 524 33 98 10 / +212 524 33 98 13).
- Payment proof must be sent to the conference contact to complete registration process.

Conference contact: Dr Khalid AZIM (INRA-Morocco)

info@eu-nacoa2019.bio

Conference partners

ISOFAR (International Society of Organic Agriculture Research-Germany)

INRA Morocco (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique-Morocco)

UM6P (Mohammed VI Polytechnic University-Morocco)

FIMABIO (Federation of Organic Farming Movement-Morocco)

AfrONet (African Organic Network-Tanzania)

MAPMDREF (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water Resources and Forests-Morocco)

UCAM (University of Caddy Ayad-Marrakesh Morocco)

MICROBIANA Association (Research Foundation-Marrakesh Morocco)

Scientific committee

| Full Name | Organization-Country |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Gerold RAHMANN | Thüenen Institute/ISOFAR-Germany |
| Daniel NEUHOFF | University of Bonn-Germany |
| Anne-Kristin LØES | NORSØK-Norway |
| Ewa REMBIAŁKOWSKA | Warsaw University-Poland |
| Khalid AZIM | INRA-Morocco |
| Jaakko NUUTILA | LUKE-Finland |
| Reza ARDAKANI | Islamic Azad University-Iran |
| Stefano CANALI | CREA-Italy |
| Rukie AGIC | Faculty of Agricultural Science and Food-Macedonia |
| Khalid SASSI | INAT-Tunisia |
| Ibrahim El-Akram ZNAÏDI | IRESA-Tunisia |
| Abderahmane DEHLIZ | INRAA-Algeria |
| Salah Eddine BENZIOUCHE | Biskra University-Algeria- |
| Rachid MRABET | INRA-Morocco |
| Rachid MOUSSADEK | INRA-Morocco |
| Fouad ELAME | INRA-Morocco |
| Rachid ABOUTAYEB | INRA-Morocco |
| Ahlam HAMIM | INRA-Morocco |
| Mohamed EL GUILLI | INRA-Morocco |
| Mohamed HAFIDI | Cady Ayyad University/UM6P-Morocco |
| Yedir OUHDOUCH | Cady Ayyad University-Morocco |
| Khalid OUFDOU | Cady Ayyad University-Morocco |
| Lamfeddel KOUISNI | UM6P-Bengurir-Morocco |
| Zahra FERJI | IAV/CHA-Morocco |
| Si Bennaceur ALAOUI | IAV-Morocco |
| Abdelmalek BOUTALEB JOUTEI | ENAM-Morocco |
| El Hassan MAYAD | Ibn Zohr University-Morocco |
| Brahim BOUIZGARENE | Ibn Zohr University-Morocco |
| Ghita AITBADDI | Ibn Zohr University-Morocco |
| Miguel A. SANCHEZ- MONEDERO | CEBAS-CSIC, Campus Universitario de Espinardo, Murcia-Spain |
| Loubna EL FELS | ISPITS Marrakech-Safi |

Organizing committee

| Full Name | Organization-Country |
|------------------------|--|
| Khalid AZIM | INRA-Morocco |
| Rachid MRABET | INRA-Morocco |
| Rachid MOUSSADEK | INRA-Morocco |
| Fouad ELAME | INRA-Morocco |
| Abdelaziz MIMOUNI | INRA-Morocco |
| Rachid ABOUTAYEB | INRA-Morocco |
| Youssef RACHIDI LALOUI | INRA-Morocco |
| Mohamed HAFIDI | Cady Ayyad University-UM6P-Morocco |
| Lamfeddel KOUISNI | UM6P-Benguir-Morocco |
| Abdelilah MEDDICH | Cady Ayyad University/Microbiona-Morocco |
| Khalid OUFDOU | Cady Ayyad University-Morocco |
| Loubna EL FELS | ISPITS Marrakech-Safi |
| Ilyass TABRIKA | Ibn Zohr University-Morocco |

Short list of keynote speakers

| Full Name | Organization-Country |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gerold RAHMANN | Thüenen Institute/ISOFAR-Germany |
| Andre LEU | Regeneration International-Australia |
| Uygun AKSOY | Expert in Organic Farming-Turkey |
| Helmy ABOULEISH | SEKEM-Egypt |
| Anne-Kristin LØES | NORSØK-Norway |
| Jaakko NUUTILA | LUKE-Finland |
| Jessica SHADE | The Organic Center-USA |
| Jordan GAMA | President AfrONet-Tanzania |

Accommodations and touristic trip

Accommodation is negotiated with Hotel PALM PLAZA 5*, Touristic trips and other accommodation (low & medium rate) options are also negotiated through our Travel Agency:



Sun & Sea Travel

Contact Person: Mme Mounia

Email: reservation@sst.ma

Cell Phone : +212661141183

Phone: +212 528 828 910

Avenue Hassan II Immeuble Oumlil, 2ème étage,

Agadir 80000 Morocco

<http://www.sstmaroc.com/home>