

WINNERS OF THE OFIA 2021

ORGANIC FARMING INNOVATION AWARD

The winners of the 2021 Organic Farming Innovation Awards (OFIA) were announced by IFOAM – Organics International and the Rural Development Administration of South Korea.

The OFIA Award seeks to bring attention to organic innovations from scientists, extension agents, and practitioners around the world, contributing to solving problems and exploring the potential to increase effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity of organic farming.

OFIA was awarded in two categories: Grand Prize and Science Prize. The OFIA Committee selects winners meeting criteria as innovativeness, applicability to organic farming, processing and trade, relevance for solving real problems and impact potential of their practices or studies.

The *OFIA Grand Prize 2021* for innovations in applications of organic farming was awarded to the Tani Organik Merapi association from Indonesia, represented by the founder and director Untung Wijanarko. [The Organic without boundaries website presents the multidimensional approach to promoting organic adopted by this practice.](#)

The farming institution Tani Organik Merapi (TOM), founded in Indonesia in 2008, has taken on a range of innovative practices in production, marketing, and community development to become a network of organic farmers in the area around Selem, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The Network established by Tani Organik Merapi is a partnership system between the farming institution and local farmers, to produce organic vegetables, with bamboo packaging craftsmen and women to make eco-friendly vegetable packaging. This network has been able to increase the number of farmers that can switch from conventional to organic farming in the region, while at the same time meeting the market demand for organic products from supermarkets at the same time.

The *OFIA Science Prize 2021* was jointly awarded to the [Kultursaat Network of plant breeders](#) from Germany, represented by the Executive Director Michael Fleck, and the organic seed company [Bingenheimer Saatgut](#) represented by its CEO Gebhard Rossmannith. [The Organic without boundaries website presents this ecological alternative to conventional hybrid seeds.](#)

For decades, the partnership of plant breeders' network Kultursaat and the organic seed company Bingenheimer Saatgut have developed and established biodynamic open-pollinated vegetable



varieties as an ecological alternative to conventional hybrids. This unique interaction and cooperation of breeders, seed producers and commercial gardeners has provided the basis for the maintenance, development and utilization of open-pollinated and biodynamic varieties, as well as the independent and economic livelihood of all partners.

The Kultursaat association has successfully registered more than 100 new open-pollinated vegetable varieties on the German national list and on the European Union's common catalog of vegetable varieties until 2020. Eight new varieties are developed each year at the 30 open-pollinated vegetable farms. The Bingenheimer Saatgut seed company has achieved market relevance progressively, being the alternative and ecological seed company in Germany, providing the vegetable varieties and the urgently needed amounts of organically produced seeds for the gardeners.

The Organic Farming Innovation Award is the prize of the organic movement to highlight organic innovations by scientists, extension agents and practitioners. Once every three years, [IFOAM – Organics International](#), the South Korean [Rural Development Administration](#), and [IFOAM's Technology Innovation Platform \(TIPI\)](#) award great organic innovations and their discoverers to boost their uptake and to motivate other stakeholders. Through the OFIA Award, the global organic community emphasizes the key role innovations play in accelerating the adoption of organic agriculture worldwide.

To know more

[Winners 2021 OFIA Award in IFOAM website](#)

[Tani Organic Merapi in organicwithoutboundaries.bio website](#)

[Taniorganicmerapi.com website](#)

[Kultursaat and Bingenheimer Saatgut in organicwithoutboundaries.bio website](#)

[Kultursaat Network of plant breeders](#)

[Bingenheimer Saatgut](#)

[OFIA Previous Winners](#)

[IFOAM – Organics International](#)

[Rural Development Administration](#)

[IFOAM's Technology Innovation Platform \(TIPI\)](#)

