

20th ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS

FROM ITS ROOTS ORGANIC INSPIRES LIFE

By Kim Assaël

The [20th Organic World Congress \(OWC 2021\)](#) will take place virtually and on-site at the *Couvent des Jacobins* Congress Centre in Rennes, France, from 6 - 10 September 2021.

The world's organic Congress will address questions around resilience, societal transformation, health, and food sovereignty with some 2,500+ organic stakeholders, farmers, researchers and policymakers. Partners of the Organic World Congress 2021 are committed to tackle the greatest challenge in farming, the issue of how is it possible to bring food and nutrition security to all while building more resilient systems within planetary boundaries.

[The Organic Congress 2021 is organized by IFOAM Organics International](#) together with a consortium of leading French organic organizations. Founded in 1972, IFOAM - Organics International is the global organic umbrella organization uniting a diverse range of stakeholders contributing to the organic vision. The Organic World Congress 2021 is managed by a four-person steering committee. It is supported by national, regional and local French institutions and partners, key research and education centres, as well as main promoters of organic agriculture in France and Europe.

The OWC Conference Forums will deal with 6 Themes to Inspire Action through six conference-forums taking place from 8-10 September 2021, each with its own objectives and criteria and complemented by plenary sessions. The six conference forums will:

- Discuss and shape the future of the organic movement with IFOAM – Organics International board members, stakeholders from various professions and political backgrounds which will openly debate the sector's latest insights, controversies, and developments. Audience members will be invited to participate in the dialogue, allowing them to articulate new sector arguments and rationales. ([Leadership Forum](#)).
- Share knowledge, initiatives and discuss what it means to be an organic farmer, learn how other organic farmers work (e.g., innovation used on their farms), and explore what challenges organic farmers currently face or will face in the future. ([Farmers and Advisors Forum](#)).
- Present research for a development of the organic sector, by inviting researchers to share their work in Ecological approaches to systems' health; Product and process quality in organic agriculture: methods and challenges; Transitioning towards organic and sustainable food systems; Innovation in



organic farming, political and economical frameworks. All researchers will have a special focus on interdisciplinary approach. ([Science Forum](#)).

- Spread inspiring experiences by giving supply and value chain actors, from producers to consumers, the opportunity to share stimulating and transformational practices as well as innovative initiatives to further develop organic food and non-food supply chains. ([Supply and Value Chain Forum](#)).
- Discuss the philosophical foundation and knowledge management of the organic movement. Trainers and educators are invited to share their experience disseminating the message of sustainable organic farming as well as their work in empowering farmers and citizens to find organic solutions for the world's environmental and social challenges. ([Culture and Education Forum](#)).
- Promote a multi-actor approach for organic food systems. A full diversity of actors will be asked to debate or exchange and to contribute to increasing the understanding of the various perspectives present within organic food systems. ([Stakeholder Forum](#)).

Many side events are also foreseen. For two days and before the official opening of the Organic World Congress, professionals and researchers from around the world are invited to share their latest research, work and reflections among peers during pre-conferences. Workshops among the movement's rich variety of stakeholders are also an opportunity to discuss controversial issues and share divergent views, and will contribute to the mutual understanding by providing a space to exchange each-other's visions on organic food and non-food systems.

During the Organic World Congress the winners of the [Organic Farming Innovation Award \(OFIA\)](#) will be also celebrated. This Award is organized every three years by IFOAM - Organics International, the [Rural Development Administration \(RDA\)](#) of the Republic of Korea, and the [IFOAM Technology Innovation Platform \(TIPI\)](#) to highlight outstanding organic innovations created by researchers, extension agents, and practitioners of the organic world.

All useful information about the [programme and participants](#) of the Organic World Congress 2021 is available on the congress website.

To know more and participate

[Organic World Congress 2021 website](#)

[About the Organic World Congress](#)

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