

# Social Justice Workshop

Bangkok, Thailand, 3-5 November 2003

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This Social Justice Workshop - Bangkok is a real opportunity to further develop collaboration and will serve to recruit additional partners who are developing social, economic, cultural and indigenous rights into programs and activities in organic and sustainable agriculture.

Since this Forum is linked directly before IFOAM Organic Trade Conference – the challenges and opportunities for more fully incorporating social justice criteria and standards into organic agriculture will be prominently highlighted. However, a clear consensus existed amongst the attendees of the last session (in Victoria, Canada 2002) that the scope for Bangkok 2003 should be broader. Therefore the potential solutions for social and economic injustices in agriculture discussed in Bangkok will be applicable to a broader spectrum of agricultural contexts, while focusing on very specific actions for organic. Those social solutions proposed for organic agriculture should be viewed as a specific example of the application of broader principles, and not simply as organic-specific solutions.

This meeting is a working session to build greater global cooperation and consensus on social justice standards and related non-standards initiatives. Since this is a working meeting rather than conference, participation will be based on prior involvement, regional, sector and other diversity factors. Forum participation is by invitation; referrals and recommendations are welcomed. The recruitment focus is on those groups, which are already actively engaged in developing the social agenda for organic and sustainable agriculture.

It is our intent that this working group will continue to meet over the next several years to help ensure a successful implementation of the social justice agenda. We plan to hold similar events in a different region each year to maintain momentum and accountability.

**Special thanks to Vitoon Ruenglerpanyakul and all of the staff at Earthnet Foundation for providing local coordination and hosting of this event!**

The following Forum planning committee members have generously helped to coordinate and facilitate – Social Stewardship Forum – Bangkok. Maarten Rijninks (Netherlands), Olaf Paulson (Fair Trade Network), Sasha Courville (Australia), Cathy Farnworth (England), Cora Dankers (FAO), Rhiannon Pyburn, (Canada), Vitoon Panyakul (Thailand), Rob Sacco, (Zimbabwe) Detlef Kalus, (IFOAM) Amy Rusillo (Costa Rica), I Ngugi Mutara (Africa), Michael Sligh (RAFI-USA), Elizabeth Henderson (USA) and Richard Mandelbaum (USA).

## Overview

We have much to be proud of in organic, sustainable and fair trade agriculture:

- The first mainstream marketplace- identified products of sustainable agriculture,
- Continued growth for over two decades, and strong consumer confidence,
- Standardized national & international environmental, fair trade and humane food production and processing guidelines,
- Verifiable “third party” certification and accreditation systems,
- Marketplace rewards to farmers,
- Organic and fair trade labels set the new benchmark by which all other labels will be compared,
- Organic and fair-trade farmers and farming associations are in almost every country--this is clearly a global response.

As social justice in agriculture grows, we reduce toxic pesticide use, reduce farmer and farm worker health dangers, provide for greater equity for farmers and workers, and increase access for consumer choice.

The very success of these approaches to agriculture in the marketplace highlights the significant remaining inequalities among producers, workers and local certifiers and nations. **This moment of success in organic and fair trade, is the exact time to comprehensively address social justice in organic and sustainable agricultural systems.** In addition, there are growing threats of co-optation, corporation concentration and colonialism in sustainable agriculture. Now is the time to strengthen networks and build greater cooperation across the increasing numbers of organizations and networks, which are active on social justice in agriculture.

Now is the time to decide how fair trade, organic and sustainable agriculture can work together to make social justice in agriculture a reality.

Our approach must be inclusive of the allied sustainable agriculture, rural development and green trading groups. Diversity is essential to the development of a successful social justice agenda. Toward these purposes a number of initiatives are under way that all add value to this direction.

**The specific goals for this Bangkok working session are to invite organizational representatives reflecting regional, cultural and organizational diversity to:**

- Develop a more comprehensive "roadmap" to move the social justice agenda in organic and sustainable agriculture forward,
- Establishing a process for setting the “bar” for the use of social justice claims, in organic.
- Build strategies for "operationalizing" social justice standards for certification and,
- Increase international cooperation and partnerships between verification initiatives and other social justice initiatives.
- Further identify potential allies and others not yet participating.

### **Specific Bangkok Workshop Proposed Outcomes:**

#### **Gain greater understanding of:**

- Current activities in Social justice for sustainable and organic agriculture,
- Opportunities for greater fair trade, organic and sustainable agriculture cooperation,
- Which additional social justice standards are still needed and,
- Develop and distribute Workshop proceedings with clear action and policy recommendations for next steps for the development of social justice for organic and sustainable agriculture.

## Working Agenda

### Day 1 - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

#### Study Tour

7:00 am	Optional farm field tours of organic and fair- trade farms near Bangkok. We can accommodate a maximum of 20 participants for the tour.
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#### Introductions and meeting aspirations

4:30 – 6:00 pm	Welcoming session, ground-rules and roundtable introductions and participant answers to the question of what will make this meeting successful? – Vitoon Ruenglerpanyakul / Michael Sligh
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Reception and social time

### Day 2 – Monday 3 November

#### **SESSION 1: STANDARDS 1: Social Accountability In Sustainable Agriculture (SASA) project of FLO, SAI, SAN and IFOAM**

9:00- 10:30 am	Presentation on SASA and preliminary results – Sasha Courville  Open Discussion
10:30-11:00am	Morning tea/coffee
11:00-12:00pm	Small group discussion on SASA – key feedback questions (3 rooms minimum)  <i>On one stop shop – a) technical producer support tools i.e. integrated audit possibilities, other ways to reduce costs? b) market requirements and opportunities for coordination</i>
12:00-1:00pm	Reports and synthesis
1:00-2:00pm	Lunch

## **SESSION 2: STANDARDS - ORGANIC & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

2:00-3:30pm	Presentations on standards approaches - Social Stewardship Standards (Michael Sligh, Elizabeth Henderson, Richard Mandelbaum) - FLO (Olaf Paulson) - FAO/GAP (Cora Dankers / Micheal Sligh) - SAN (Tom or Aimee Rusillo) - EurepGAP (Sasha/SAN) - Soil Association (Francis Blake) - IFOAM – Chapter 8 (Detlef Kalus) Open Discussion
3:30-4:00pm	Afternoon tea/coffee
4:00-5:00pm	Discussion in small groups on key strategies/agreements/activities (3 rooms minimum) (Note that specific breakout questions will be identified.)
5:00-6:00pm	Reports and synthesis

### **Day 3 - Tuesday 4 November 2003**

## **SESSION 3: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS**

9:00-10:30am	Presentations of Producer/Consumer/Supply chain initiatives • Social Justice survey results (Sasha Courville) • Consumer perspectives - Japanese Consumer Movement – representative and/or CSA representative (POLAND/ATJ) • Fairtrade in Developing Countries – Comercio Justo Mexico Representative (Jeronimo Prujn) • Producer Initiatives – Elizabeth Henderson + Francisco Berria • Trader Initiatives – EOSTA website/database –linking producers and consumers through information (ECOSTA/EFTA/IFAT) • Indigenous rights (Leonardo de Leon, Roger, Thai tribal group representative) Open Discussion
10:30-11:00am	Morning tea/coffee
11:00-12:00pm	Discussion in small groups on key strategies/ agreements/ activities (Note that specific breakout questions will be identified.)
12:00-1:00pm	Reports and Synthesis
1:00-2:00pm	Lunch

## **SESSION 4: ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

2:00-3:30pm	Presentations on Economic Justice Theme • Code of Conduct Update (Sasha Courville) • PRICING –FLO model? (Olaf Paulson)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade Union representative in agriculture – (UAW/UFW)</li> <li>• Supply Chain – (Vitoon / Rapunzel)</li> <li>• Social stewardship standards (Richard Mandelbaum/ Michael Sligh)</li> </ul> <p>Open Discussion</p>
3:30-4:00pm	Afternoon tea/coffee
4:00-5:00pm	<p>Discussion in small groups on key strategies/ agreements/ activities and next steps to move forward.</p> <p>* Note that specific break-out questions will be identified from the discussions.</p>
5:00-6:00pm	Reports and Synthesis

### **DAY 4 - Wednesday 5 November 2003**

#### **SESSION 5: PLANNING NEXT STEPS**

9:00-11:00	<p>Presentations and Open Discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summation of Forum Conclusions</li> <li>• Strengthening outreach and cooperation (Including who is still missing?)</li> <li>• Current gaps and additional research needs</li> <li>• How best to follow-up on progress made here?</li> <li>• Upcoming venues and opportunities</li> <li>• Latin American Forum – 2004</li> <li>• IFOAM World Congress – 2005</li> <li>• FAO venues</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul>
11:00-11:30 am	Morning tea/coffee
11:30-12:30 pm	Evaluation and concluding remarks