

# 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on the **organic sector** development  
in **Central/Eastern European**  
and **Central Asian countries**



## Conference declaration

180 participants from 21 countries of the '4th International conference on the organic sector development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries' that took place on April 13-14, 2012 in Izmir, Turkey, passed this declaration.

Countries of the region have either implemented or are currently working on introducing organic regulations. Still some countries have not taken any actions on developing their organic sector. Thus the needs of organic stakeholders are differing.

Regulations as well as private standards have provisions for the inspection, certification and accreditation of all entities involved in the supply chain. The guarantee provided by these systems is based on nearly identical criteria. The conference participants agree that the organic verification system provides the highest integrity compared to non-organic food systems. However, there is still room for improvement in closing gaps, strengthening weak aspects and non-conformities, and preventing loss of consumer trust.

### **The participants of the conference state that:**

National or regional standards or regulations in line with international organic guarantee systems shall be adopted. Existing organic laws shall be enforced and the term "organic" protected against any misuse.

Cooperation (local, regional, international) among all actors (CBs, consultants, research, governmental and NGOs, training institution, the trade at all levels and others) shall be enhanced, thus employing all appropriate tools for achieving integrity, including social control.

Consultancy on all levels of the supply chain should get more attention as a tool for improving knowledge and expertise of the organic system as well as solving critical issues.

Enhanced investment in capacity building is needed at all levels for improving knowledge and expertise of the organic system: in good agriculture practices for farmers, up to date technologies for processors, analytical procedures and result interpretation for CBs, and quality management for all stakeholders along the supply chain.

Transparency between all actors in the organic value chain must be enhanced and verified by CBs where possible.

Real-time public databases should be established showing current certification status of operators. Where possible, these databases should have interfaces with one another to allow for data exchange and cooperation.

Manufacturers and especially (brand) companies are encouraged to take on the responsibility for sourcing of each of their products, thus closing gaps and reducing the risk of fraudulent products entering the supply chain.

Perpetrators, and would be perpetrators, of fraud must be shown that the organic market is no place for them and they will not be tolerated. Training specific to possible fraud indicators should be deployed throughout the organic value chain. CBs and inspectors must be better trained in fraud investigation techniques. Eventually, forensic fraud investigation shall be undertaken by other entities.