



"Transdisciplinary development of organic agriculture through participatory research: Case of Armenia"

Astghik Sahakyan
ICARE Foundation
BOAA Project Assistant



Outline

- **Current status of the Organic sector**

- **Challenges for Organic Agriculture**
- **Opportunities for Organic Agriculture**
- **APPEAR BOAA Project**
- **Outlook**

The Armenian Organic sector

- Priority sector in “2010-2020 Sustainable Strategy Program for Agricultural and Rural Development”
- Local certification body that provides organic certificates, which are recognised in the USA, Canada, EU and Swiss markets and in the Caucasus
- Law on Organic Agriculture,

The Armenian Organic sector (cont'd)

- **60+ certified organic producers**

- **20,000 ha area under management of organic production including wild collection and in conversion areas**
- **The Organic Agriculture Support Initiative (OASI)**
- **project**
- **Local NGOs actively involved in promotion of the sector**



Organic Agriculture Support Initiative (OASI)

- 3-year project financed by EU and Austrian Development Agency
- Expected results:
 1. Improved policy and legal framework for organic agriculture in RA
 2. Financial support to organic (in conversion to organic) producers and processors
 3. Implementation of awareness raising campaigns

Capacity Development Strategy and Plan for the Organic Agriculture Sector in Armenia

Study implemented by ICARE and IFOAM Organics International

Methodology: Interviews with organic stakeholders

FG discussions with organic producers

Validation workshop

Needs Observed:

- **A participatory developed Armenian National Organic Action Plan**
- **Well-legitimised umbrella organisation**
- **Awareness raising campaigns**
- **Educational programmes in organic agriculture**

APPEAR BOAA Project

“Building Organic Agriculture in Armenia (BOAA)”

Project’s objective is: to contribute to the transdisciplinary development of organic agriculture in Armenia in improving the knowledge and skills of organic stakeholders through participatory curriculum development and outreach.



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien
University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences, Vienna

APPEAR BOAA Project

First Year in Review

- Assessment of educational needs: 5 focus groups and 6 in-depth interviews organized
- Establishment of Organic Steering Committee from interested key stakeholders
- Participation to organic workshops and seminars
- Development of stakeholder-driven OMP curriculum tailored to fill the gap in organic education in Armenia

BOAA Project Progress

- Organization of focus group discussions with students
- Organization of stakeholder committee meetings to strengthen industry-academia linkage
- Organization of public events to raise awareness on organic agriculture and more specifically on a project topics
- Training of University professors in organic agriculture topics



THANK YOU!

A solid green horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.