

Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD) as models and living laboratories
for the process of transformation towards sustainable food systems



Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture

GAOD Book Series

Book 1

Introductory Phase: Pathways to Cooperation

Published in Conjunction with the
the 6th ALGOA Summit on “Building Alliances Beyond Asia”
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Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture



The **GAOD Book Series** is published in November 2020 as part of the 1st GAOD Summit, successfully hosted under the generous financial support of Goesan County, South Korea. The Founding Partners of GAOD such as the Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA), International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.), Regeneration International, the Organic Food Systems Programme (OFSP), etc have worked together to make the 6th ALGOA Summit “Build Alliances Beyond Asia” and the Inaugural GAOD Summit, a successful and rewarding event, with the support and assist from their global partners.

The **GAOD Book Series** contains all the exchanges on the latest research, experiences, and best practices during the event. Five books are created to allow these valuable inputs during the Summit go beyond the 6th ALGOA Summit and the Inaugural GAOD Summit to benefit more people.



The GAOD Book Series

- Book 1** **Introductory Phase - Pathways for Cooperation**
Best Practices of ALGOA Members
- Book 2** **Covid-19 and Organic Agriculture**
Organic food consumption - a step forward for sustainability
- Book 3** **Work Group Reports**
- Organic Districts’ Integrated Management
- Communication
- Youth in Organic Agriculture
- Book 4** **Work Group Reports**
- Tourism & Gastronomy
- Food Processing
Best Practices of Organic Food Systems
- Book 5** **Work Group Reports**
- Regenerative/Organic Farming
- Social Issues
Best Practices from the Five Continents

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Global Alliance for Organic Districts – Work Groups General Description

By Cesare Zanasi

Setting up different Work Groups (WGs) reflecting the topics involved in Organic Districts management is GAOD's core organizational measure to facilitate and support concrete actions.

Each WG involves participants from the GAOD Partner Meetings. It is also recommended that, when possible, similar WGs are established at the level of each Organic District for local involvement and actions. Hence the organization structure includes two levels: GAOD General Work Groups and GAOD Local Work Groups.

- **Seven Work Groups (WGs) have been defined.**

Within each Work Group the participants will develop initiatives focused on different stages of knowledge production, dissemination, and application.

Information will be available for each WG members and will be collected and organized by the WG communication.

The GAOD coordination group will discuss with the WG representatives' possible joint actions to reinforce each WG initiative and avoid overlapping actions.

- **WG 1: Organic Districts' Integrated Management, Planning, Governance and Policies**

Objectives of the Work Group: Support the Organic Districts in all the start-up, management and organization related activities involving the integration of the different dimensions of the Organic District (technical, environmental, social, and economic). Focus areas are Organic Districts vision, organization structure, planning strategies, performance monitoring, private and public policies.

- **WG 2: Tourism – Gastronomy**

Objectives of the Work Group: Support the Organic Districts in the development of activities related to the start-up, management, and organization of activities of promotion of the territory in terms of its natural, historical, and cultural heritage, including gastronomy. An efficient integration of tourism and gastronomy within the Organic Districts provides a much-needed support to valorize the multifunctional dimension of the farming activity and its integration with different actors of the community (touristic agencies, cultural associations, restaurant owners). This can provide an important contribution to the overall Organic Districts sustainable development, provide a better understanding and value of the work, quality, and lifestyle in rural areas, and inspire the re-population of these areas.

- **WG 3: Regenerative/Organic farming - Agroecology - Natural resources management and Energy production**

Objectives of the Work Group: Support the Organic Districts in the development of activities related to the start-up, management and organization of different sustainable production models where the Regenerative/Organic farming – Agroecology go hand in hand with the strictly related Natural resources management and Energy production. This will provide a strong support for the Organic Districts in the sustainable supply of food, fiber and ecosystem services which represent the core of the activities.

- **WG 4: Food: Processing – Distribution- Consumption. Food and nutrition security quality and health**

Objectives of the Work Group: Support the Organic Districts in the development of activities related to the start-up, management and organization of activities supporting the different stages following the farming activity. The differentiation of the Organic District economic system, by adding sustainable and locally based Food Processing – Distribution- Consumption activities will contribute to the territorial economic development; the support to a sustainable model of agriculture and food production, provided by this WG, will also involve social and environmental benefits in terms of food quality and

health for the communities and other external actors such as tourists, consumers, etc., outside the Organic District.

- **WG 5: Social issues. Social agriculture - communities' enforcement - urban-rural relations**

Objectives of the Work Group: Support the Organic Districts in the development of activities related to the start-up, management and organization of activities related to the improvement of the social conditions of the Eco-region Communities. This involves the strengthening of the community bonds, the creation of a virtuous cycle linking the urban and rural areas where the Eco-Region insist. By facilitating exchanges of ideas, experiences and simply increasing the level of mutual knowledge among people living in urban and rural areas, a mutual benefit for the communities will be provided. Integrating socially fragile and marginalized people within inclusive Eco-Region communities is also another area of intervention this WG will consider in its activities.

Generally, Organic Districts are in rural areas and their main activities are related to agriculture. They supply the local population but also to the population living in cities. Seen in the perspective of the need for an integrated food system approach for healthy and environmentally friendly dietary patterns, this opens up for developing new rural-urban linkages to provide more and better jobs for youth in agriculture and food systems and in general, a potential for the revitalization of rural areas.

- **WG 6: Communication**

Objectives of the Work Group: Collect, organize and distribute all the relevant information related to the Organic Districts activity with the aim of promoting their development in relation to the relevant stakeholders (public, private and civil society organizations) including the general public.

Another relevant aspect related to this WG is the communication among the members of Organic Districts not only supporting the management but increasing the awareness and pride of being part of an Organic Districts. This plays an important role in increasing trust, collaboration, and commitment within and Between the Organic Districts communities. The WG communication plays a strategic role for the GAOD success.

- **WG 7: Youth and organic agriculture (ref “Young Organics Global Network)**

Objectives of the Work Group: valorize the role of Young members as carriers of innovative ideas ensuring a sustainable and food-secure future. Provides GAOD updated info on new trends and available innovations.