

The Origins

- Commodity Specialists
- Dealing with Bananas, Citrus and Fruits and Vegetables

Rising Concerns

- Social, Environmental and Labor issues continued to arise in our work on trade and economic problems
- This led to contacts with many of the members of the SASA project and the ISEAL Alliance
- Much of our work links back to food security concerns of a broader nature, and all of the above are relevant in this context

Working Group on Responsible Horticultural Production and Trade

- The above concerns led to formation of the Working Group
- The first meeting of the WG was here in Rome in March 2000
- About 20 people attended, including IFOAM, RA/SAN, FLO, SAI, other NGOs and the ILO
- An outline work program was established

Meeting Number Two

- In December 2001, following on from the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on Bananas and Tropical Fruits
- Held in San José, Costa Rica
- 40-50 attendees, including NGOs, government of CR representatives and banana company officers
- Lively and informative

Meeting Three

- Held in 2003 in Nuremberg, combined with the annual BioFach conference
- 50-75 attendees, including some traders
- Further developed the work program

Web Sites

- Establishment of a Web site on responsible horticultural production and trade
- Downloadable studies and documents
- Links to NGOs working in certification
- http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/en/20953/20987/highlight_29090en.html

Main Outputs

- “A Golden Fruit for All” – a brochure for supermarket buyers of bananas explaining the differences between “Fair Trade”, “Organic” and “Conventional” fruit
- Two cost-benefit analyses, one done for citrus in Spain and one in Costa Rica
- “Environmental and social standards, certification and labeling for cash crops”
- “Es la certificación algo para mi/?” – a simple brochure developed in San José for use by farmers or farm groups in Central America – hope to do similar brochures for other regions in Africa, LA and Asia
- Technical support to the SASA project

Organic Agriculture

- We have been far more active in OA
- Chair Interdepartmental Working Group on OA
- Published study “World markets for organic fruit and vegetables”
- Regional conferences in Trinidad and Tobago and in Thailand

Organic Work Continued

- Organic seed conference 5-7 July 2004
- Work in FAO on pastures, crops, post harvest issues and trade concerns in organics, and more
- http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/en/20953/21020/highlight_30476en.html
- <http://www.fao.org/organicag/>

Support

- Cora Dankers – APO from the Netherlands, instrumental in our publications
- Mikkel Anderson – APO from Denmark, working on these issues in Costa Rica and Central America – developed extension brochure
- Catherine Pazderka – Canadian consultant who among other things organized this conference

Thank You from the team

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- Paul Pilkauskas
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- Catherine Pazderka
- Pedro Arias
- Daniela Piergentili
- Daniela Margheriti
- Mikkel Andersen
- Cora Dankers (emeritus)