



ICROFS as
a "centre
without-
walls"



Thomas Hartung
chairman

**International Centre for Research in
Organic Food Systems**



Introduction to ICROFS



International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems



From DARCOF to ICROFS

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

8 5 F 7 C : ' 9 g h U V `] g \ Y X ' %- - * ' U g ' Î 7 Y b h f Y ' k] h \

To initiate and coordinate research in organic food and farming systems

- for development of the sector and its integrity and efficiency of entire food chain
- to provide knowledge of contribution of OA to sustainable development

User committee included representatives from farmer organisations and NGOs

Darcof research programmes:

1. 1996-2000, 100 researchers from 15 research institutes/ universities
2. 2001-2005, 140 researchers from 19 research institutes/ universities
3. 2006-2010, 120 researchers, total budget: app. 25 Mio. Euros

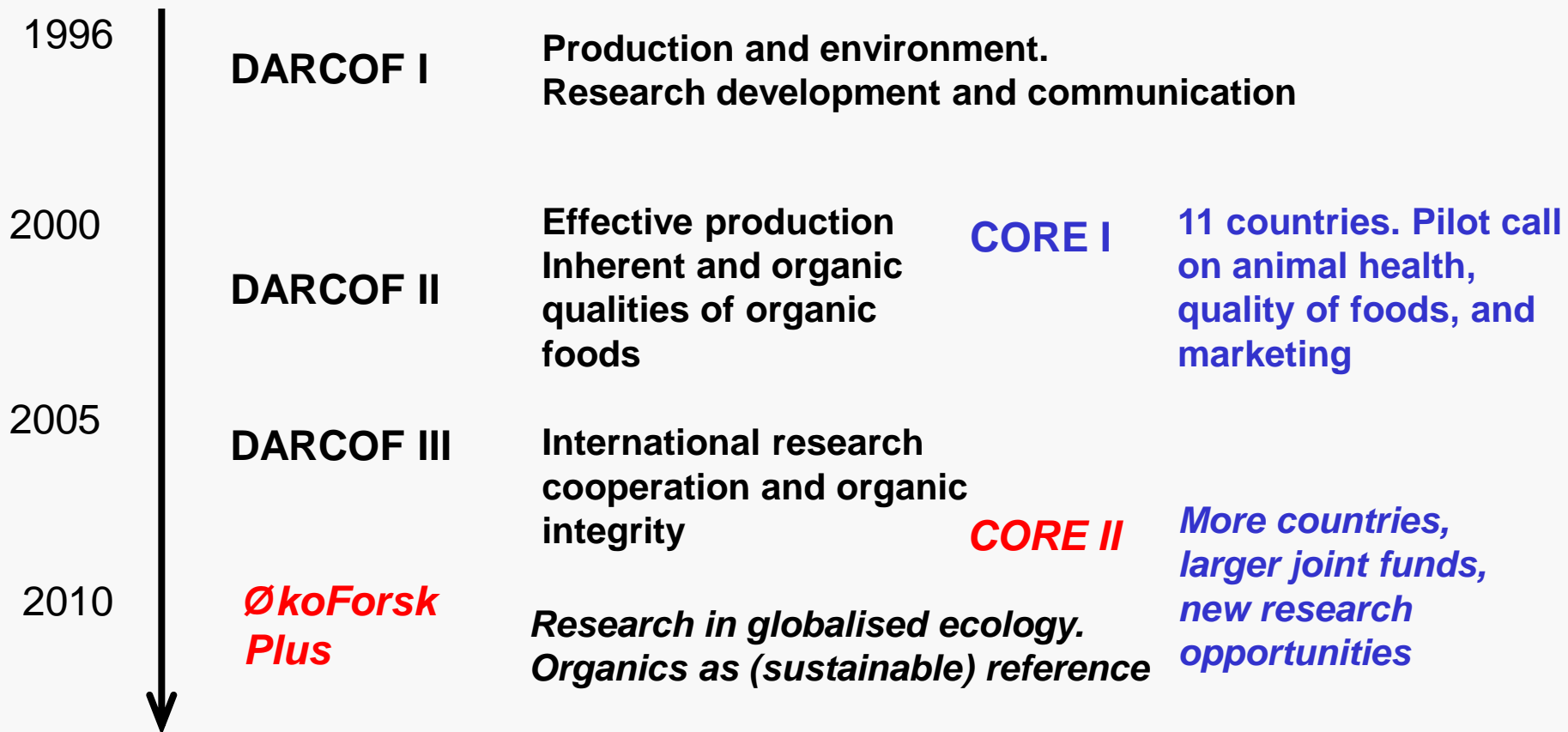
Coordination of *knowledge synthesis* for Ministry on possibilities and challenges for the organic sector over the next 10 years (scenarios of 4 doubling of production)

Participation in and co-ordination of European research in organic agriculture

DARCOF



Research programmes coordinated by ICROFS



= 7 F C : G D '] b mandate U



An international mandate and board

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries gave the Danish research centre:

- An international mandate
- An international board: members from Africa, Asia, USA and Europe
- June 2008, DARCOF changed its statutes and name to CROFS

The International Board

- Develops and pursues an overall strategy for enhancing international research in organic food systems.

The national Programme Committee

- Ensuring relevance of R&D in Denmark
- Representatives from universities, farmers associations and NGOs affiliated with organic farming.

ICROFS Focus areas



International Dimension

- ; New regional activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America
- ; European Activities
- ; Horizontal Activities

National Dimension

- ; DARCOF III
- ; New national programme being developed

Information and Communication

- ; www.icrofs.org, Organic Eprints, Newsletters, Books, Publications, BioFach, Økologikongres, etc.

Focus area: International Dimension



Objective

- i The ICROFS global network of research partners
g h f Y b [h \ Y b Y X ' U b X ' = 7 F C : G D ' f c ` Y ' U g
research coordinator in organic farming and food
systems established.

Priorities:

- i Creating new and strengthening existing networks
in organic research
- i Initiating projects and programmes to strengthen
the positions of organic farming and food systems
in selected regions (such as Europe, Africa, China,
South America) in concurrency with funding
opportunities
- i Fundraising for international networks, projects and
programmes

What have we learnt ?:



- i Research Quality:
By establishing broad collaboration with and among agricultural research groups - we have maintained very high standards of research.
- i Critical mass through collaboration:
The centre has been stronger than it would have been as a single faculty at one university.
- i Spin-off effects:
Many organic research results have been used in conventional agricultural practice.
- i Innovative Hypotheses
By involving stakeholders in the User Committee/Program Committee we have been able to address strategic issues faced by the sector.

Global perspectives.....

Strategic Framework



Thank you
for your attention !



= 7 F C : G D ' 6] [' < U] f m ' 5 i X

The principles of organic agriculture have become a global reference for sustainability in agriculture and food systems due to evidence based on research and adaptive management.

