Reviewing Process of Conference Contributions

In order to maintain a high and consistent scientific quality, the contributions for the *Proceedings of the 21th International Conference on Organic Fruit-Growing* were subjected to a reviewing process.

The Ecofruit Conference aims at bringing together results and experiences on organic fruit growing. Thus, not only scientific papers with results of trials completed over many years and/or of many different sites that allow a proper evidence-based conclusion are of interest for the conference but also smaller contributions with the description of one year experiments or other more limited trial set ups. Some authors have to publish their results in scientific journals with high impact factor but aim also to discuss them on Ecofruit Conference.

For these reasons the Conference Proceedings are divided in three parts:

1. Reviewed papers

This part contains papers of scientific quality which were subject of a full anonymous peer review process. Each contribution was sent to at least two reviewers with expertise in the relevant field of study.

The editorial decision of acceptance of a paper in the Conference and in the part "reviewed papers" of the Proceedings was done by the Conference Organisers based on the referees' reports.

2. Short contributions

This part of the Proceedings is reserved for smaller contributions. They were subject to an abbreviated reviewing process (only one reviewer, conclusions must not be based on trials over more years or locations).

3. Short communications

Authors have the possibility to present a short communication (just a short summary of two pages, not reviewed) in the proceedings and to refer to an existing or ongoing publication elsewhere. If acceptance of this publication was not yet clear or the contribution was not yet submitted to a journal, the authors have the possibility to inform us about the citation after publication. In this case, the citation will be found on Ecofruit website as soon as available.

We would like to thank the following colleagues for reviewing one or more of the papers submitted to the *Proceedings of the 21th International Conference on Organic Fruit-Growing*:

Clemence Boutry, FIBL (CH); Sascha Buchleither, KOB Bavendorf (DE); Michael Friedli, FIBL (CH), Tobias Gabler, LVWO Weinsberg (DE); Markus Kelderer, Research Station Laimburg (I); Jutta Kienzle, FOEKO (DE);, Lisa Schlittenhardt, KOB Bavendorf (DE); Matthias Schluchter, KOB Bavendorf (DE).