



Organic Guarantee Systems and Policy frameworks

June 19 – Nairobi – Louise Lutikholt

What is a guarantee system for organic agriculture?

The different types of guarantee

Why is a guarantee system needed?

- Consumers pay a premium price, or make an extra efforts to seek organic products, because they believe that such products correspond to particular efforts at the production level.
- Producers should produce according to expectations. They commit to follow a set of organic practices.
- Organic practices are often laid down in an organic standard. An organic standard often gives producers access to an organic label.
- Label = consumer recognition and trust.
- Who guarantees that the producers really follow the standard? → organic guarantee system.

Who provides the guarantee: 1st, 2nd and 3rd parties

First party is the producer herself. Self Claim (+ access to the farm, e.g. CSA...)

Second party is the buyer. e.g. PGS.

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

A **third party** is a person/body that is independent from both the producer and the buyer (has nothing to do with the value chain). Independent certification

What is third party certification?

- Currently dominant system for organic guarantee.
- Access to export markets
- Professional service. Inspectors are professionals, Certification Body (CB) is a specialized organization (for profit or not).
- Independence / impartiality (ISO 17065). No producer organization, no advisory service
- Can be governmental
- Individual or group certification (internal control system)
- Usually CBs must be overseen by an AB & a competent **authority**

Benefits of certification

- Market development, premium prices
- Improve the image of the organic sector
- Consistency and trust in organic production
- Encourages production and market planning
- Identification and transparency. Facilitates contacts between market operators
- Basis for subsidy system

PGS versus 3rd party in numbers



The world of “OGS”

- About 150 – 200 private standards/OGS
- 84 Countries with organic regulations (24 in the process of drafting).
- Around 550 Third Party Certification Bodies (private & government)
- Accreditation of third party certification bodies by
 - National Accreditation Bodies
 - Competent Authorities
 - International NGO (e.g. IOAS, an IFOAM daughter)

Organic standards and regulations: a global overview

Types of organic standards

- Private standards



- National / governmental standards



- Regional standards



- International standards
 - IFOAM Standard
 - Codex Alimentarius

Regional variations between organic standards

- Culture, climate, agricultural practices, economy, natural resources...
- Local values and consumer preoccupations (animal welfare, biodiversity, buffer zones)
- Legal framework
- Status of development of organic agriculture (e.g. animal feed).

How the movement deals with diversity

- Regionally/nationally adapted standards.
- Family of Standards approach: unity based on Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS) equivalence. Developed by IFOAM and UN organisations FAO and UNCTAD.
- Recommendation on import regulations: equivalence rather than compliance.

The IFOAM Family of Standards



That's Organic - Worldwide.



GLOBAL

IFOAM IFOAM Standard

International Standard for Forest Garden Products (FGP)
Biocyclic-Vegan Standard



AFRICA

Tunisia Organic Regulation
East African Organic Products Standard
The SAOSO Standard, South Africa
Zimbabwe Standard for Organic Farming, Zimbabwe



ASIA

Asian Regional Organic Standard
Saudi Arabia Organic Regulation
China Organic Regulation
India Organic Regulation
Israel Organic Regulation
Japan Organic Regulation



OCEANIA

National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce, Australia
New Zealand Organic Export Regulation
Pacific Organic Standard, Pacific Community
Australian Certified Organic Standard, Australia
NASAA Organic Standard, Australia



EUROPE

AsureQuality Organic Standard, New Zealand

EU Organic Regulation
Switzerland Organic Regulation
Turkey Organic Regulation
Bio Suisse Standards, Switzerland
Nature & Progrès Standards, France
The EcoWellness Standard, Germany
CCPB Global Standard, Italy
Krav Standards, Sweden



THE AMERICAS

Argentina Organic Regulation
Canada Organic Regulation
Costa Rica Organic Regulation
Ecuador Organic Regulation

Approved in 2017 on the basis of an equivalence assessment against the COROS. Assessment summary available on click.

USA Organic Regulation
Argencert Organic Standard, Argentina
OIA Organic Standards, Argentina
Bolicert Private Standards, Bolivia
IBD Organic Guidelines, Brazil
CCOF International Standard, USA

THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS

contains all standards officially endorsed as organic by the Organic Movement, based on their equivalence with the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards. Both private standards and government regulations are admissible.

www.ifoam.bio/ogs

Policy and Regulation Toolkit

Tools for organic regulation

COUNTRIES WITH AN EMERGING ORGANIC SECTOR

(still low development of the domestic market for organic products)

IS THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY ASKING FOR A COMPULSORY REGULATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE?

NO

DO NOT REGULATE THE DOMESTIC MARKET.

You may develop a national (or regional) organic standard adapted to local conditions and link it to an organic mark and to a set of accepted verification systems.

You may also first focus on developing an organic promotion policy.

YES

DEVELOP A NATIONAL ORGANIC REGULATION, in partnership with your national organic stakeholders and with international advice (IFOAM - Organics International).

NATIONAL STANDARD TEMPLATE based on the IFOAM Standard (you may adapt it to your national conditions, with a stakeholder participation process).
Make sure the final version of your standard is approved into the IFOAM Family of Standards.

TEMPLATE MANUAL for the management of a national logo

TEMPLATE ORGANIC PROMOTION POLICY (pending)

Use the ORGANIC REGULATION TEMPLATE for countries with an emerging organic sector as a starting point.

Global Policy Toolkit on Public Support to Organic Agriculture

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for 'WHAT WE DO', 'ABOUT US', 'GET INVOLVED', and 'OUR LIBRARY'. Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: 'Welcome » IFOAM » Global Policy Toolkit on Public Support to Organic Agriculture'. The main content area features the title 'GLOBAL POLICY TOOLKIT ON PUBLIC SUPPORT TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE' next to a decorative graphic of blue hexagons. A paragraph explains the toolkit's purpose: 'This toolkit is aimed at anyone involved in advocating for pro-organic policies, designing them, or deciding on them. It is therefore aimed both at government representatives and private sector users. The toolkit is composed of a series of tools, including:'. A list of tools follows, including a main report, a decision-aid, model power point presentations, policy summaries, a paper with tips for organic advocates, case studies, a policy template, and other accessible elements. On the right side of the page, there is a search bar, a 'STOP GLYPH' banner, a sign-up form, a 'Get a bio web' link, a '#LuvOrg' banner with a 'DONATE' button, a Facebook post for 'IFOAM - Org' with 14,451 likes, and a 'Most read' section listing various articles.

WHAT WE DO ABOUT US GET INVOLVED OUR LIBRARY

Welcome » IFOAM » Global Policy Toolkit on Public Support to Organic Agriculture

GLOBAL POLICY TOOLKIT ON PUBLIC SUPPORT TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

This toolkit is aimed at anyone involved in advocating for pro-organic policies, designing them, or deciding on them. It is therefore aimed both at government representatives and private sector users. The toolkit is composed of a series of tools, including:

- A **main report**, the "Guidelines for public support to organic agriculture": these guidelines make the cornerstone of the toolkit and present the fullest possible compilation of facts, arguments and tips of the full panel of policy measures that can be conceived to support organic agriculture. Most of the sections of this main report are also broken down into separate documents, for easier download and use. The report is targeted to policy makers and policy advocates. IFOAM-Organics International also developed a special Sub-Saharan African version of the main report, which focuses on the information most relevant in the context of Sub-Saharan African countries. You can access this **Sub-Saharan African version here**.
- A **decision-aid** to guide the user towards most relevant policy measures depending on his/her country situation. This tool is targeted to policy makers and policy advocates.
- Model **power point presentations** for advocacy on pro-organic policy measures. The power points are presented on the IFOAM-OI format, but users are encouraged to copy the content they find useful onto their own formats, and adjust it according to their needs. These power points are primarily targeted to policy advocates.
- **Policy Summaries** on various topics covered in the main report, practical to share with policy makers and carry to meetings on specific topics.
- A paper with **Tips for organic advocates** on "How to raise political awareness of the need for support to organic agriculture". This paper is targeted to policy advocates.
- Links to **case studies** that have been compiled by others, in the form of videos, books and other formats, because "story telling" is an important aspect for policy advocacy.
- The **policy template** for countries with an emerging organic sector.
- Other elements accessible through links in the main report or its broken down sections.

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FROM ITS ROOTS

organic agriculture
inspires life

SAVE THE DATES

2020

21-22 SEPTEMBER

PRE-CONFERENCES

22 SEPTEMBER

OPENING CEREMONY (IN THE EVENING)

23-25 SEPTEMBER

CONFERENCES

26-27 SEPTEMBER

TOURS AND VISITS / GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF IFOAM - ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

THANK YOU!

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