

THE OGS COURIER

GUARANTEERING
ORGANIC

N° 8 - August 2011.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS



IFOAM MEMBERSHIP APPROVES THE IFOAM STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS



From June 16 to July 28, IFOAM's members voted on the question: "Do you agree with the approval of the IFOAM Standards Requirements?" I am excited to report to you that the membership voted, "Yes, I approve," with an impressive 93.8% of the votes. Two percent voted, "No, I reject," and 4.2% of the votes were invalid/blank. A total number of

145 IFOAM members (among 632) voted, bringing the vote participation rate to 23%. level, to act as the tool to draw the line between organic and non-organic standards, and to promote multilateral equivalence of organic standards.

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With this vote, IFOAM's membership ratified the decision of the IFOAM World Board and accepted the IFOAM Standards Requirements, also named COROS (Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards), as the new norm and reference for acceptance or rejection of organic standards into the IFOAM Family of Standards. This ratification comes on top of the official support of FAO and UNCTAD who already approved the COROS in the framework of the GOMA project. The COROS therefore now benefits from both the full legitimacy of the organic movement and endorsement at the highest inter-governmental

As you will see on page 2, IFOAM is wasting no time and has started using the tool to assess the 13 applicant standards and the 42 other standards already approved in the Family, based on initial criteria. The challenge is sizeable for the IFOAM staff and Standards Requirements Committee to complete the assessments of these 55 standards in the coming months, but the effort is worth it. The IFOAM Family of Standards, once

fully set-up, will be the one single directory of all recognized organic standards and technical regulations. It can serve governments in their analysis of the equivalence of other standards. In addition, it also provides a rigorous technical review of standards for standard owners and a chance to further improve their standards to meet all COROS requirements.

Katherine DiMatteo - IFOAM President

NEW APPLICANTS FOR THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS

New applications for the IFOAM Family of Standards have been received from the following standard owners:

- Wild Crafted Herbs, Armenia
- Red Mexicana de Tanguis Organicos, Mexico
- East African Community
- ADDA-VNFU Organic Project, Vietnam
- Green Grower Association, South Africa
- Sawang Boran Silk Standard, Thailand

Stakeholders may comment on the above applications by e-mail to ogs@ifoam.org until September 17, 2011.



IFOAM FAMILY OF STANDARDS

New applications for the Family of Standards



Equivalence Assessments

Equivalence assessments of organic standards against the COROS: methodology and progress



GOSA

IOAS reports first application for the new Global Organic System Accreditation (GOSA)



THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS GROWS

An updated list

EQUIVALENCE ASSESSMENTS OF ORGANIC STANDARDS AGAINST THE COROS: METHODOLOGY AND PROGRESS

The IFOAM Family of Standards already counts 13 applicant standards. According to IFOAM's Policy 42 on "IFOAM approval of Standards for inclusion in the IFOAM family of organic standards," these standards can only be approved after passing an equivalence assessment against the IFOAM Standards Requirements/COROS.

The IFOAM OGS department, sometimes in cooperation with the IOAS, is conducting these equivalence assessments, which consist of identifying how well assessed standards address the COROS requirements and meet the broad COROS objectives. The detailed assessments identify positive and negative variations of the assessed standards against the COROS requirements, and a summary reveals the strengths and weaknesses of the assessed standard. Standards owners have a chance to review the assessment and to provide justification for possible variations.

At this stage, applicants who received the assessments for review have expressed their appreciation of this process, as it helps them to see aspects that they have overlooked and ways to further improve their standard in a next revision.

After receiving the standard owners' feedback, assessments will be reviewed by the IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee at its next meeting in Korea, just before the Organic World Congress. Standards positively reviewed by the committee will be published as approved standards in a new IFOAM Family Frame at the IFOAM General Assembly, a few days later.

The GOMA project (Global Organic Market Access) is commissioning some of these equivalence assessments against the COROS, as they will also serve to support negotiations for governmental equivalence recognition.

Although the priority is to assess applicant standards before the Korea meetings, IFOAM is also tasked with conducting equivalence assessments of all standards already approved in the Family. These include technical regulations that have been implemented for over 5 years and regulations that have been accepted as equivalent to these. It also includes private standards already assessed as compliant with the IFOAM Basic Standard in the context of the IFOAM Accreditation Program. All these assessments will be completed in the coming month and years.



IOAS REPORTS FIRST APPLICATION FOR THE NEW GLOBAL ORGANIC SYSTEM ACCREDITATION

The International Organic Accreditation (IOAS) is happy to announce its first application for the new Global Organic System Accreditation (GOSA), the program that was launched as part of IFOAM's new Organic Guarantee System. The applicant is IMO Chile, who is also applying to IOAS for accreditation under the Canada Organic Regime.

The GOSA program assesses certification bodies against the IFOAM requirements for certification bodies, still the most comprehensive and demanding criteria for control bodies working in the organic sector. At the same time the standards scope of the accreditation can be chosen from amongst the published IFOAM Family of Standards. IMO Chile has opted to apply the production standards of the European Regulation (EC) 834/2007.

IOAS is also pleased to announce a new application for IFOAM accreditation from BIOCERT India, who has also applied for accreditation against ISO Guide 65.



The Global Organic Mark Product Credibility for Consumer Loyalty Worldwide

www.ifoam.org/ogs

As an operator or trader, are you looking for a label with international standing to help market your organic products?

As a certifier, are you looking for possibilities to offer more labeling options to your clients?

Then the Global Organic Mark '**Organic IFOAM**' is what you need.

The Global Organic Mark can be placed on products that are certified by an officially approved certification body, against a standard of the IFOAM Family of Standards.

The Global Organic Mark offers what organic consumers worldwide demand: the guarantee of credible organic standards and certification.

Read more on our **website** and contact us today at **ogs@ifoam.org** for more information.

* The Global Organic Mark is a registered and protected mark. Its use is only permitted in the context of a specific contractual agreement with IFOAM.

That's Organic - Worldwide.



GLOBAL

IFOAM IFOAM Standard

ABDP-Demeter Plant Breeding Standard

International Standard for Forest Garden Products (FGP)



AFRICA

Tunisia Organic Regulation

East African Organic Products Standard

EnCert Organic Standards, Kenya

Basic Norms of Organic Agriculture in Senegal, Senegal

Afrisco Standards for Organic Production, South Africa Green Growers Association Standard, South Africa

Tancert Organic Standards, Tanzania

Uganda Organic Certification Ltd. Private Standards, Uganda



ASIA



Saudi Arabia Organic Regulation

China Organic Regulation

India Organic Regulation

Israel Organic Regulation

Japan Organic Regulation

AncientHerbals Guideline for Wild Crafted Herbs, Armenia

OFDC Organic Standard, China

IBOAA Standards, Israel

Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association Standard, Japan

MASIPAG Organic Standards, The Philippines

CONU Organic Standard, South Korea

DCOK, LLC International Standards, South Korea

GOAA International Standards, South Korea

ACT Standards, Thailand

Sawang Boran Silk Standard, Thailand

Vietnam PGS Standards, Vietnam



OCEANIA

National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce, Australia

New Zealand Organic Export Regulation

Australian Certified Organic Standard, Australia

NASAA Organic Standard, Australia

AsureQuality Organic Standard, New Zealand

BioGro Organic Standards, New Zealand



EUROPE

EU Organic Regulation

Switzerland Organic Regulation

Turkey Organic Regulation



BioSuisse Standards, Switzerland

Organska Kontrola Standards, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nature & Progrès Standards, France

BioPark e.v Private Standards, Germany

Ecoland Standards, Germany

Gäa Private Standards, Germany

Naturland Standards, Germany

Biokontroll Basic Standards of Organic Production, Hungary

CCPB Global Standard, Italy

Italian Organic Standard, Italy



LATIN AMERICA

Argentina Organic Regulation

Costa Rica Organic Regulation

Argencert Organic Standard, Argentina

Letis IFOAM Standard, Argentina

OIA Organic Standards, Argentina

Bolicert Private Standards, Bolivia

IBD Organic Guidelines, Brazil



NORTH AMERICA

Canada Organic Regulation

USA Organic Regulation

DOAM Organic Standards, Dominica

Red Mexicana de Tianguis y Mercados Orgánicos, Mexico

CCOF Global Market Access Standard, USA

Farm Verified Organic Private Standards, USA

NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care, 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.org/ogs