

# THE OGS COURIER

GUARANTEEING  
ORGANIC

N° 6 - March 2011.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS



## Interest in the IFOAM Family of Standards at BioFach 2011 was high.

The launch of the IFOAM Family of Standards was a success. The banner with the visualization of the Family (see p.4) at the BioFach Nuremberg 2011 impressed visitors and our OGS brochures ran out fast. IFOAM staff answered countless questions regarding the launch of the IFOAM Family of Standards with patience and passion. The slogan, *That is Organic – Worldwide*, made BioFach visitors think, as they realized its relevance. Many stakeholders conceded having missed an opportunity to promote their standards. So far, 46 private standards and regulations got a free ac-

**Early bird applications get free admission and long term discounts.**

cess to the IFOAM Family of Standards. Two standards, the IFOAM and the Bio Suisse standards, took the opportunity to be promoted at the launch: both standards were included in the Family with their logo. Admission and 2011 fees have up to now been waived; the standards that join the Family early, will enjoy long-term benefits. Early bird privileges are still valid for applications until May 1, 2011. After that, a 50% admission fee (1,250 €) is applied for the remainder of 2011.

Interested? IFOAM prepared a comprehensive information package including a [color brochure](#), the [current IFOAM Family of Standards](#) (regularly updated), the IFOAM Family of Standards [logo](#), a [contract template](#) and a simple [application form](#). The brochure is also available in [Spanish](#) and [French](#). Contact [ogs@ifoam.org](mailto:ogs@ifoam.org).

Markus Arbenz - IFOAM E.D.



The IFOAM booth at BioFach 2011 attracted countless visitors.



**IFOAM Standard V.0.1.**  
Controversial issues call for your input.



**New Applicants to the Family**  
Find out who applied for inclusion in the IFOAM Family of Standards!



**The Family of Standards**  
The newly launched service received positive feedback at BioFach.



**The IFOAM OGS Services**  
At a glance, all the services of the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System.



**CONTROVERSIAL  
ISSUES IN THE IFOAM  
STANDARD V.0.1.:**

**YOUR COMMENT NEEDED  
BY MARCH 31, 2011**

IFOAM Affiliates and other interested stakeholders are invited to respond to the call for comments on the IFOAM Standard Version 0.1, issued by the IFOAM Standard Committee on January 31. The Committee raised a number of questions, e.g.:

- Should the current IBS language on inert ingredients in commercial inputs be made stricter, given that it allows a whole unregulated range of synthetic chemicals to be applied to the field, on the grounds that they are not the 'active' substances in a given farm input?
- Should the standard impose limits or restrictions so that by-

products of conventional farming and processing cannot constitute the main part of the nutrient sources (currently possible under the IBS)?

- What would be globally relevant and easily inspectable requirements to guarantee sustainable water use?

It must be noted that the IFOAM Standard will ultimately replace the IBS, including in the IFOAM Accreditation program.

To provide your opinion on the draft Standard and related questions from the Committee, please download the [standard here](#) and the [comment form here](#) and return your comments to [ogs@ifoam.org](mailto:ogs@ifoam.org) before March 31, 2011.



**New Applications  
for the Family of  
Standards**

IFOAM launched the IFOAM Family of Standards on January 24, 2011, with 43 approved standards and regulations. To date, 3 additional private standards have applied and are being assessed:

- the **Encert Organic Standards** (Kenya);
- the **CCOF Global Market Access Standard** (USA);
- the **Bio Suisse Standards** (Switzerland).

According to IFOAM policies and procedures, stakeholders may comment on the above applications by e-mail to [ogs@ifoam.org](mailto:ogs@ifoam.org) until April 2, 2011.

Other standards that apply before May 1 will pay no fee in 2011 and 2012. Do not miss your chance! Download the [application form here](#).

# THE ORGANIC STANDARD

[www.organicstandard.com](http://www.organicstandard.com)



The Organic Standard is an international monthly journal that enables individuals and organisations to keep up-to-date on developments concerning worldwide standards and certification issues in the organic sector.

Permanent sections of the journal are

- Country focus
- Certification & accreditation
- Standards & regulation
- Updates and opinion
- News shorts
- New on the job

The Journal's monthly editorial is published online every month on The Organic Standard website.

The Organic Standard is distributed via the Internet as a PDF file. A basic subscription costs 265 euros/12 issues. Sample articles are available for review online.

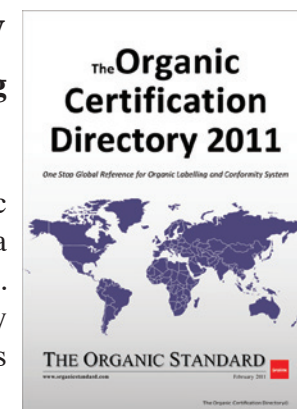


## The Organic Certification Directory One Stop Global reference for organic labelling and conformity systems

The Organic Standard publishes The Organic Certification Directory annually since 2003 as a special issue as part of its annual subscription. Many changes has been made to the Directory and it is now available free to all interested parties worldwide.

The Directory now includes listing of organic certification bodies, PGS organisers, labelling organisations and inspection service providers.

Read more and download your copy on [www.organicstandard.com/directory](http://www.organicstandard.com/directory)





## THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS: A WARM RECEPTION AT BIOFACH

**IFOAM received encouraging feedback to the Family of Standards at BioFach. Still, many standard setters want to wait and see: They will miss the early bird opportunities!**

The IFOAM booth at BioFach was more visited than ever before. Questions about the Organic Guarantee System were among the most burning ones: Why is it that my standard does not appear in the Family? Does that mean that my organic production is not recognized as organic? What needs to be done for our logo to be promoted?

Over 44,000 organic professionals visited BioFach Nuremberg 2011. Many of them have begun to understand the relevance of the global Family of organic standards.

IFOAM developed the universal principles of Organic Agriculture (Ecology, Health, Fairness and Care), the definition of organic farming, and now it has an instrument to draw the line between organic and not organic at the standards level.

The numerous conversations with media, standard setters, government representatives and operators have shown that the idea of a 'Family of Standards' is still new. The information provided by IFOAM in the context of the promotion of this service is for many an eye-opener and organic leaders have recognized that the organic movement absolutely needs the Family.

Critical voices point out that this tool only becomes powerful over time and that it is evidence of how united the Organic Movement is. They rightly point out that the long-term success of the Family is dependent on the willingness of the organic sector to be self-determined.

The early bird privileges should encourage those who want to 'wait and see' before applying to reconsider: applications before May 1, 2011 benefit from reductions in the first five years. And there is no risk; admission, 2011 and 2012 fees are waived.

## IFOAM OGS SERVICES: A RECAP

### THE IFOAM FAMILY OF STANDARDS



'That is Organic' is the slogan of the Family of Standards, expressing its function of drawing the line between organic and not organic. The Family contains all standards and regulations that have passed an equivalence assessment against a normative reference approved by IFOAM's membership. Ad-

mission into the Family grants standard owners the use of the Family logo and the possibility to promote their standard through IFOAM to the international organic community. IFOAM encourages governments and standard users to recognize other standards in the Family as equivalent.

FOR STANDARD OWNERS

### THE COMMUNITY OF BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

The IFOAM Best Practice Standard describes organic farming, processing and trading that cover all aspects of sustainability, including environmental, social, economical and cultural dimensions. In reality, organic standards are not yet ideal and are developing following the principle of constant improvement. Leader standards have the opportunity to pass an assessment against these best practices and reach a certain benchmark. They can use their IFOAM recognition in their communication.



FOR OPERATORS

### THE GLOBAL ORGANIC MARK



Operators wishing to use a universal organic logo on their products can make an agreement with IFOAM on the use of the Global Organic Mark. Precondition is a certification to a standard in the IFOAM Family of Standards. The certifier has to be accredited

by a Government, by IFOAM or another acceptable accrediter. IFOAM supports quality assurance and communicates with the consumers.

FOR CERTIFIERS

### THE IFOAM STANDARD

The IFOAM Standard is a convenient good practice off-the-shelf organic certification standard maintained by IFOAM and is part of the IFOAM Family of Standards. The clients of this service, certification bodies, outsource the constant development of their standard and obtain a widely accepted product, that is endorsed by the Organic Movement. They can participate in the standard development decisions. The use of the IFOAM Standard grants access to the Global Organic Mark for operators.

### THE IFOAM ACCREDITATION & THE GLOBAL ORGANIC SYSTEM ACCREDITATION (GOSA)



Certifiers can have their processes audited against the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements. IOAS, an IFOAM daughter company, offers the IFOAM Accreditation (analyses of standards and verification processes) or the Global Organic System Accreditation (analyses of verification processes only) and grants special recognition of credibility.

# That's Organic - Worldwide.

## GLOBAL

**IFOAM** IFOAM Standard

## AFRICA

*Tunesia Organic Regulation*  
 Afrisco Standards for Organic Production, South Africa  
 EnCert Organic Standards, Kenya  
 Tancert Organic Standards, Tanzania  
 Uganda Organic Certification Ltd. Private Standards, Uganda

## ASIA

*China Organic Regulation*  
*India Organic Regulation*  
*Israel Organic Regulation*  
*Japan Organic Regulation*

OFDC Organic Standard, China  
 IBOAA Standards, Israel  
 Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association Standard, Japan  
 CONU Organic Standard, South Korea  
 DCOK, LLC International Standards, South Korea  
 GOAA International Standards, South Korea  
 ACT Standards, Thailand

## OCEANIA

*Australia Organic Regulation*  
 Australian Certified Organic, Australia  
 NASAA Organic Standard, Australia  
 AssureQuality Organic Standard, New Zealand  
 BioGro Organic Standards, New Zealand

## EUROPE

*EU Organic Regulation*  
*Switzerland Organic Regulation*

*Turkey Organic Regulation*

 **BioSuisse Standards, Switzerland**

BioPark e.v Private Standards, Germany  
 Ecoland Standards, Germany  
 Gaa Private Standards, Germany  
 Naturland Standards, Germany  
 Biokontroll Basic Standards of Organic Production, Hungary  
 CCPB Global Standard, Italy  
 Italian Organic Standard, Italy  
 Organska Kontrola Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

## 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  
 TECPAR's Standard for Organic Products, Brazil

## NORTH AMERICA

*Canada Organic Regulation*  
*USA Organic Regulation*  
 CCOF Global Market Access Standard, USA  
 Farm Verified Organic Private Standards, 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.

\* Compliance with the IFOAM Standard.

\*\* Part of the IFOAM Community of Best Practice.

**Note:** Applicant standards are marked in grey.

Family Standards Frame: February 2, 2011.