

# THE OGS COURIER

GUARANTEERING  
ORGANIC

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS



**The roadmap for the launch of new OGS services has been approved. 2011 will be a year of action.**

“IFOAM is already launching the Family of Standards in the next issue of the OGS Courier. Perfect timing: early subscribers have the opportunity to already be promoted during the BioFach 2011 in Nuernberg, in

mid-February 2011. The IFOAM Accredited Certification Bodies (ACBs) that are presently collaborating with IFOAM to fine-tune details will occupy the pole position. Are you not an ACB, but interested in being among the first ones to be part of the Family? Do you want to know what it takes to be included? In January, the OGS Courier will reveal all the details!

BioFach is also the place where certification bodies interested in an IFOAM Accreditation or in a Global Organic System

Accreditation can discuss details with staff from IOAS (International Organic Accreditation Services), IFOAM's daughter company. At the same time, IFOAM is prepared to discuss with potential clients the uptake of the IFOAM Standard as certification standard.

Operators using a standard that is in the Family and whose certification body is accredited by IFOAM or their respective governments, can start using the Global Organic Mark immediately after BioFach. OGS Courier readers will be presented all the OGS service logos in the next edition on February 14, 2011: a Valentine's Day present right before the major gathering of the organic community in Nuremberg. Later in 2011, we will

develop a first draft of the new IFOAM Best Practices against which interested leading standards can be assessed.

I wish you a Happy New Year!”

Markus Arbenz - IFOAM E.D.

**The new OGS logos will be presented on 14-02-2011, in the OGS Courier.**

**THANK YOU, BIO SUISSE AND SPILLMANN/ FELSER/ LEO BURNETT AG!**



**Bio Suisse** supports in 2010 and 2011 IFOAM's OGS development with 50'000 Swiss Francs each year. Thank you, Swiss organic farmers!

**Spillmann/Felser/Leo Burnett AG** in Zurich, Switzerland, a world class advertising agency, developed the new OGS logos as a courtesy to the Organic Movement worldwide. Thank you on behalf of all organic farmers, processors, traders and consumers!



### IFOAM OGS Committees

The IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee & Standard Committee meet.



### OGS Glossary

A brief introduction to the most used OGS acronyms.



### IFOAM Equivalence Tools

IFOAM, FAO & UNCTAD harmonize tools.



### Happy 2011!

To all friends of IFOAM the very best wishes for a happy, prosperous Year 2011!

## IFOAM OGS COMMITTEES:

MEETINGS TAKE PLACE IN BONN FROM DECEMBER 20-22.

### Despite severe weather conditions across Europe, most IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee and IFOAM Standard Committee members managed to attend the meetings.

The IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee reviewed the overall strategy for the admission of standards into the IFOAM Family of Standards, as well as the framework for the promotion of equivalence through the Family. It will oversee the upcoming consultation process with IFOAM's membership and the production of the final document, to be presented to the IFOAM's G.A. in September 2011. The IFOAM Standard Committee drafted the new IFOAM Standard, an off-the-shelf certification standard that is intended to replace the current IFOAM Basic Standard. It aims to be a more practical and inspectable global standard, catering for regional variations and considering global developments since 2005

(the date of the last version of the IBS). The Committee will continue to work intensively on the development of the IFOAM Standard until it is put up for vote at IFOAM's next General Assembly. One of the issues that was addressed by the two Committees in the new drafts is the prohibition of nanotechnology in organic production. In parallel, IFOAM is developing a position on nanotechnology on which its membership will be consulted. Consultations on both documents produced by the Committees will take place early 2011. Both Committees urge IFOAM Members to take this opportunity to exercise their democratic right and provide comments on the two documents, which represent cornerstones of IFOAM's future Organic Guarantee System.



## OGS Glossary [1]

Some acronyms are frequently used in relation to IFOAM's Organic Guarantee System. We try to minimize their use to facilitate reading by a wide audience. Still, some acronyms may be used. This glossary aims to help readers find their way through the 'OGS jargon'.

- **ACBs:** IFOAM Accredited Certification Bodies;
- **CB:** Certification Body;
- **GOMA:** Global Organic Market Access Project (successor of the ITF);
- **GOSA:** Global Organic System Accreditation;
- **IAC:** IFOAM Accreditation Criteria (now *IAR*);
- **IAR:** IFOAM Accreditation Requirements;
- **IBS:** IFOAM Basic Standard (in the process of being replaced by the IFOAM Standard);
- **ITF:** International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence;
- **OGS:** IFOAM Organic Guarantee System.

## IFOAM EQUIVALENCE TOOLS

### IFOAM, FAO and UNCTAD agree to harmonize tools for equivalence assessments of organic standards and regulations.

During the last meeting of the steering committee of the Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) project, in Mumbai on the 7th of December, representatives from IFOAM, FAO and UNCTAD agreed to unify the development of two previously separate tools:

1. The IFOAM Standards Requirements, an IFOAM tool intended to be the international reference to assess equivalence of organic standards and regulations for the purpose of inclusion in the IFOAM Family of Standards;
2. A revised version of the Annex 2 to the ITF Equitool (currently named the *Objectives and Related Practice Requirements for Organic Standards*), intended as a template to guide governments in conducting equivalence assessments of other organic regulations or private standards.

As both documents serve mutually supportive objectives and as the current drafts have very similar content, it was agreed that a solution could be found with regards to the structural differences between the two documents. The decision was taken to merge them in the course of January and to continue working towards the goal of having one single document approved by the GOMA steering committee on one side, and by the IFOAM General Assembly on the other.

Ultimately, it is expected that having one single document that is recognized and endorsed by both the organic movement and by the UN organizations will encourage governments to make use of the equivalence assessments carried out by IFOAM. This would increase the value of the IFOAM Family of Standards, while avoiding the duplication of work and contributing to fast-tracking global market access for organic products.

To all **IFOAM** Friends, the very best wishes for a  
happy, prosperous Year 2011!



Allen IFOAM Freunden, die besten Wünsche für ein glückliches und erfolgreiches Jahr 2011!  
À tous les Amis d'IFOAM, les meilleurs voeux pour une année 2011 heureuse et prospère!  
A todos los Amigos de la IFOAM, los mejores votos de felicidad y prosperidad para el año 2011!  
有机农业运动联盟 (IFOAM) 在此衷心祝愿全体中国同仁在新的一年里祥和美满, 事业兴旺!

A todos os Amigos da IFOAM, os melhores votos para um ano 2011 feliz e próspero!

IFOAM 회원님, 새해 복 많이 받으세요!