

# THE OGS COURIER

GUARANTEERING  
ORGANIC

N° 1 - November 2010.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS



**Voted for by IFOAM's membership, the new Organic Guarantee System (OGS) is ready for launch.**

“Welcome to the first issue of the OGS Courier. This publication will provide you with regular updates on

the IFOAM OGS. The new OGS, approved by vote in July 2010, contains several services, namely:

- The IFOAM Family of Standards, for standard owners;
- The IFOAM Standard, for standard users;
- The Global Organic Mark, for operators;
- The Community of Best Practice, for standard owners;
- The IFOAM Accreditation and the Global Organic Sys-

**A new chapter is about to begin in the history of the OGS.**

tem Accreditation, for certification bodies.

IFOAM is now introducing these services, creating new opportunities for organic stakeholders to get official recognition for their work on organic standards and certification. The coming weeks promise to be an intense period of development for the new IFOAM OGS: the new OGS Committees will hold their first meetings, the new

IFOAM norms are under development and will go for broad consultation, the IFOAM Family of Standards will be presented prominently at the upcoming BioFach Nuremberg. There will be many opportunities for you to contribute and many interesting updates for the upcoming issues of the OGS newsletter. So, watch this space.”

Markus Arbenz - IFOAM E.D.

## THE IFOAM FAMILY OF STANDARDS: ADMISSION

As per **IFOAM's Policy 42** (Approval of Standards for Inclusion in the IFOAM Family of Organic Standards), the following standards have been admitted de-facto in IFOAM's Family of Standards:

1. Organic regulations that have a history of implementation of **at least 5 years**.
2. All private standards that have been assessed as **compliant with the IFOAM Basic Standard**, under the current IFOAM Accreditation Program.



### The New OGS Committees

New members are appointed to Standards Committee and Standards Requirements Committee.



### Public Consultation

- GOMA equivalence assessment template;
- IFOAM Norms.



### IFOAM & Global Organic System Accreditation

IFOAM and IOAS launch a new service.



### The Family of Standards

See a pre-launch specimen of the visualization of the IFOAM Family of Standards.

## THE NEW OGS COMMITTEES:

PREPARING FOR WORK.

### Early this month, the IFOAM Board nominated the new members of the IFOAM Standard Committee and IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee.

The Standard Committee will be in charge of the development of the IFOAM Standard. The following persons, mostly representing potential clients of this standard, have been appointed:

- Tali Berner (Gats Foods);
- Sarah Hathway (Soil Association);
- Stephen Barrow (Afrisco);
- Daniel Neuhoff (ISOFAR);
- Andrew Monk (Biological Farmers of Australia);
- Mónica De Nicola (Letis);
- Chayaporn Wattanasiri (IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee).

The IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee will have an advisory role in the development of the

IFOAM Standards Requirements, the tool to build the IFOAM Family of Standards. The following persons have been appointed:

- Jorge Casale (Argentina);
- Mahesh Chander (Indian Veterinary Research Institute);
- Roberto Setti (Consorzio Il Biologico - CCPB);
- Maite San Miguel (Innovakosmet);
- Chayaporn Wattanasiri (Sukhothai Thammarat Open University);
- Paul van den Berge (FiBL).

One seat remains open for a North American representative, to be filled as soon as possible.



## Public Consultations

The Global Organic Market Access project has developed a template that will enable governments and private organizations assessing equivalence of standards to focus on the level of common objectives and related basic requirements. The template is an annex to the Equi-Tool, a guide for equivalence assessment, produced by the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence (ITF) in 2008. This annex is being developed in an effort of harmonization with the IFOAM Standards Requirements. A first consultation round will end on November 30th and other rounds of consultation are coming up. To find out more, visit [www.goma-organic.org](http://www.goma-organic.org).

Public consultations on the IFOAM Standard and the IFOAM Standards Requirements are planned for early 2011 (January – February).

## IFOAM & GLOBAL ORGANIC SYSTEM ACCREDITATION

On October 1, 2010, IFOAM and the IOAS (International Organic Accreditation Services) launched the Global Organic System Accreditation (GOSA)

This new accreditation service is based upon the renowned and respected IFOAM criteria for certification bodies (now renamed IFOAM Accreditation Requirements). Certification bodies choosing this service can benefit from all the quality improvement measures inherent in the IFOAM criteria but can apply it to the organic standard or regulation of their choice, provided that it is a standard or regulation approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards. As the Family of Standards is still in development and until such time as the Family of Standards is in place, applicants may select any valid organic standard or regulation. The IOAS will however reserve the right to reject applications should the organic standard being used be determined as not meeting the general principles expressed in the IFOAM Basic Standard of 2005.

The scope of GOSA accreditation only extends to certification of categories of production and processing which are covered by the nominated organic standard. For more information about this new accreditation service, please visit <http://www.ioas.org/gosa.htm>

## A GLIMPSE OF THE IFOAM FAMILY OF STANDARDS

**IFOAM**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

**That's Organic - Worldwide.**

**GLOBAL**  
IFOAM IFOAM Standard

**AFRICA**  
Batho eatum natunde nimaemin, Mali  
Dokore cultis endelit, Tanzania \*  
Ecofert Africa (Pty) Ltd., South Africa  
Tanzania Organic Certification Association, Tanzania  
Uganda Organic Certification Ltd., Uganda

**ASIA**  
Organic Food Development Center of SFDA, China  
Agrico Ltd., Israel/Tapan Organic & Natural Foods Association, Japan

**EUROPE**  
Organika Kontrola Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
BIOFARM e. V., Germany

**LATIN AMERICA**  
Argencent S.A., Argentina  
Organización Internacional Agropecuaria, Argentina

**NORTH AMERICA**  
International Certification Services Inc. dba Farm Verified Organic, U.S.A.

**Other members listed:**  
Chonnam National University Environment-Friendly Agricultural Products Certification Center, South Korea  
Doahara Certified Organic Korea, LLC, South Korea  
Global Organic Agriculturist Association, South Korea  
Organic Agriculture Certification, Thailand  
BioSuisse, Switzerland \*\*  
Evoland e.V. - Verband für Ökologische Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft, Germany  
Gisa e.V. - Vereinigung ökologischer Landbau Ruderowland, Germany  
Naturland Association for Organic Agriculture, Germany  
Biogricert S.r.l., Italy  
Bios di controllo e certificazione produzioni biologiche e agroalimentari, Italy  
Consorzio Il Biologico (CCPB), Italy  
Istituto Mediterraneo di Certificazione S.p.A., Italy  
Letta S.A., Argentina  
Biolcert, Bolivia  
Instituto BioEcológico, Brazil  
Instituto de Tecnologia do Paraná, Brazil

\* Compliance with the IFOAM Standard.  
\*\* Part of the IFOAM Community of Best Practice.

[www.ifoam.org/ogs](http://www.ifoam.org/ogs)