

THE OGS COURIER

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS



The Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS) was developed as a joint venture of the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System (OGS) and the GOMA (Global Organic Market Access) project undertaken by FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD.

Following several months of work and two rounds of consultation, the IFOAM World Board and the GOMA Steering Committee have just approved the final version of the COROS. The IFOAM World Board decision is now open for a ratification vote by the IFOAM membership, as detailed on page 2.

The approval of the COROS is a historical development: it means that the organic world has, for the first time, a single reference for multilateral equivalence of organic standards and technical

regulations. This tool is officially promoted by IFOAM and the two UN organizations, giving it high credibility for both the private sector and governments.

IFOAM, FAO and UNCTAD approve the first international reference for organic standards equivalence.

Governments are encouraged to use the COROS as a basis when evaluating other standards for equivalence. GOMA is working with some of them who already expressed interest. Additionally, IFOAM has set-up a global system to facilitate multilateral equivalence of organic standards and technical regulations in both the government and private sectors: that is the IFOAM Family of Standards. As you will read on page 2, government recognition of the IFOAM Family of Standards is already

coming in. Private standard owners have realized the value and the potential of the Family of Standards and are fast applying (see page 2). The COROS and the IFOAM Family of Standards will likely be, in the coming years, instrumental in clearing the path for organic trade.

Diane Bowen - GOMA Project Manager

10 NEW APPLICANTS FOR THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS

Since the publication of the last OGS Courier, 10 new standards have applied for inclusion in the IFOAM Family of Standards: these are the *Saudi Arabia Organic Regulation* and 9 private standards. New applications are as diverse as the current standards in the Family. Applicant standard owners are from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, and working at various levels, ranging from PGS schemes to National Organic Movements. See the complete list in the new Family Frame on page 3.



The IFOAM Standard

Stay up-to-date with its development and implementation.



COROS

IFOAM Members are asked to ratify this landmark document by the end of July.



IFOAM Family of Standards

Governments begin to acknowledge its utility for equivalence.



Family of Standards Grows

An updated list.



IFOAM STANDARD:

DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL
AND IMPLEMENTATION
TIMELINE

Following the trend initiated prior to the OGS revision, IFOAM Norms will be subject to approval by the IFOAM General Assembly through electronic vote. The IFOAM Standard, after a first round of consultation on its draft version 0.1, is currently being revised by the IFOAM Standard Committee. Milestones in its development, approval and implementation process will then be as follows: UN DPI

- **Until October 2011:** the committee will continue revising the standard and will publish answers to the comments submitted earlier.
- **October 2011:** IFOAM World Board will review and approve the final version 0.2 produced by the committee.
- **November 2011:** Version 0.2 will be open for motions by IFOAM members, until early January 2012.
- **February 2012:** after a motion reconciliation process by the Standard Committee with the motion makers, final motions subject to vote will be published. Members will have 6 weeks to vote on motions.
- **April 2012:** after incorporation of passed motions into the standard, members will be asked to vote on the final standard Version 1.0.
- **January 2013:** the IFOAM Standard will start to officially replace the IFOAM Basic Standard in the IFOAM Accreditation Program. IFOAM Accredited Certification Bodies will have 2 years to come into compliance.

Throughout this process, the IFOAM Standard Committee is looking carefully at the conditions and opportunities for approval of the IFOAM Standard as equivalent to the EU regulation and other regulations if the possibility arises.



IFOAM WORLD BOARD APPROVES THE COROS

Electronic vote for GA ratification ongoing

On April 15, the IFOAM World Board approved the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS). This was followed a few days later by approval by the GOMA steering committee composed of IFOAM, FAO and UNCTAD representatives. The COROS had been developed jointly under the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System and the GOMA (Global Organic Market Access) project. It had undergone 2 rounds of public consultations during its development process in 2010 and 2011.

IFOAM's membership is now asked to ratify the IFOAM World Board decision through an electronic vote. IFOAM members have received a separate communication on this vote, and will be able to cast their votes through survey monkey, fax or e-mail. If you missed the communication to IFOAM members, or for more information, contact ogs@ifoam.org.



IFOAM FAMILY OF STANDARDS: EMERGING GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION

All standards approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards already recognized as equivalent for imports into Australia and Saudi Arabia

IFOAM is just starting to develop and promote recommendations for governments on how they can use the IFOAM Family of Standards as a basis to facilitate recognition of equivalent standards in their approach to regulate imports of organic products. Already, Australia and Saudi Arabia have shown ways in which this can be done.

In the case of Australia, Standards Australia has published a document entitled *Procedures for certification of organic and biodynamic products (reference MP 100-2009, Incorporating Amendment No. 1)*. Appendix C of this document details the requirements to determine the acceptability of other conformity assessment systems for imported organic and biodynamic products. The approach taken with regards to imports is the one of 'equal reliability'. Appendix C contains a link to the Table of already approved *Acceptable Conformity Assessment Systems, Competent Authorities and Accreditation Bodies* that is located at: www.jas-anz.org/MP100. In that table, "International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) approved standards" are acceptable, and this should be interpreted as "all standards approved in the IFOAM Family

of Standards".

In the case of Saudi Arabia, the organic regulation also bases its import rules on the concept of equivalence. Its article 32 (Import of Products with Equivalent Guarantees), paragraph 1a states:

"A product imported from outside Saudi Arabia may be placed on the national market as organic product provided that:

a. the product has been produced in accordance with production rules equivalent to those of this regulation;..."

The Ministry of Agriculture clarified in a letter to IFOAM that the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture recognizes the IFOAM Family of Standards as a basis for the approval of equivalent standards and regulations. This, his technical advisers clarified, means that products certified according to any standard or regulation approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards automatically satisfy Article 32, point 1 a, of the Saudi Organic Regulation, meaning that these standards are recognized as equivalent to the Saudi organic regulation production rules without the need of further assessment or listing from the side of the Saudi competent authority.

That's Organic - Worldwide.



GLOBAL

IFOAM IFOAM Standard

ABDP-Demeter Plant Breeding Standard

International Standard for Forest Garden Products (FGP)



AFRICA

Tunesia Organic Regulation

Afrisco Standards for Organic Production, South Africa

Basic Norms of Organic Agriculture in Senegal, Senegal

EnCert Organic Standards, Kenya

Green Growers Association Standard, South Africa

Tancert Organic Standards, Tanzania

Uganda Organic Certification Ltd. Private Standards, Uganda



ASIA

China Organic Regulation

India Organic Regulation

Israel Organic Regulation

Japan Organic Regulation



Saudi Arabia Organic Regulation

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

Vietnam PGS Standards, Vietnam



OCEANIA

Australian Standard - Organic and Biodynamic Products

Australian Certified Organic Standard, 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

Organska Kontrola Standards for Organic Production and Processing, 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

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.

* Compliance with the IFOAM Standard.

** Part of the IFOAM Community of Best Practice.

Note: Applicant standards are marked in grey.

Family Standards Frame: May 11, 2011.