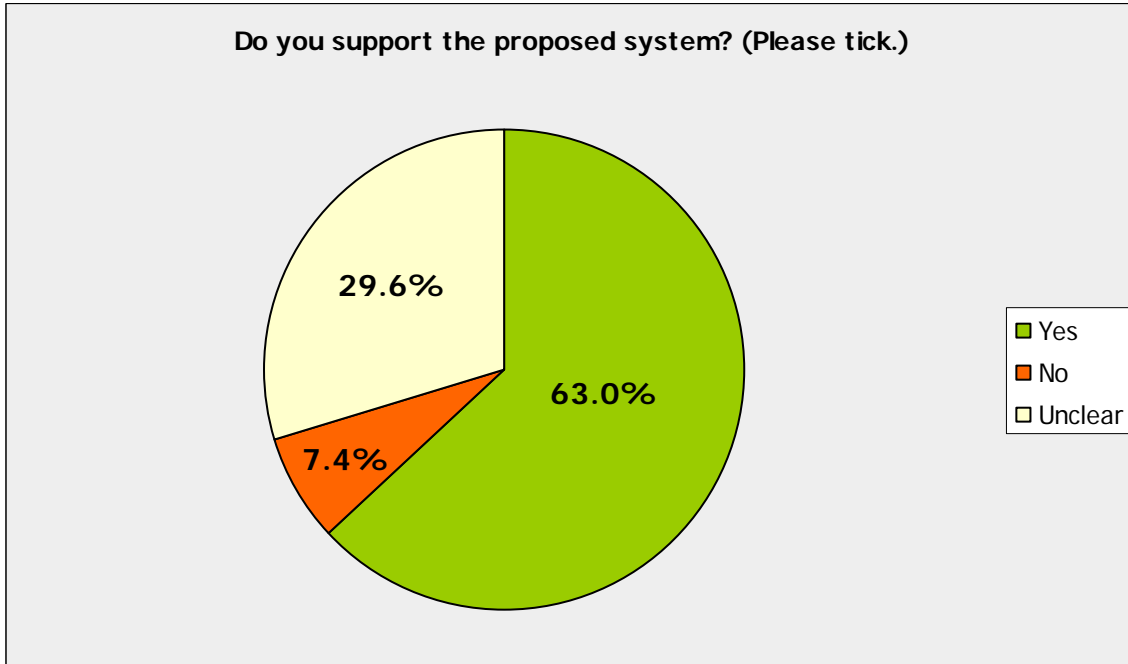


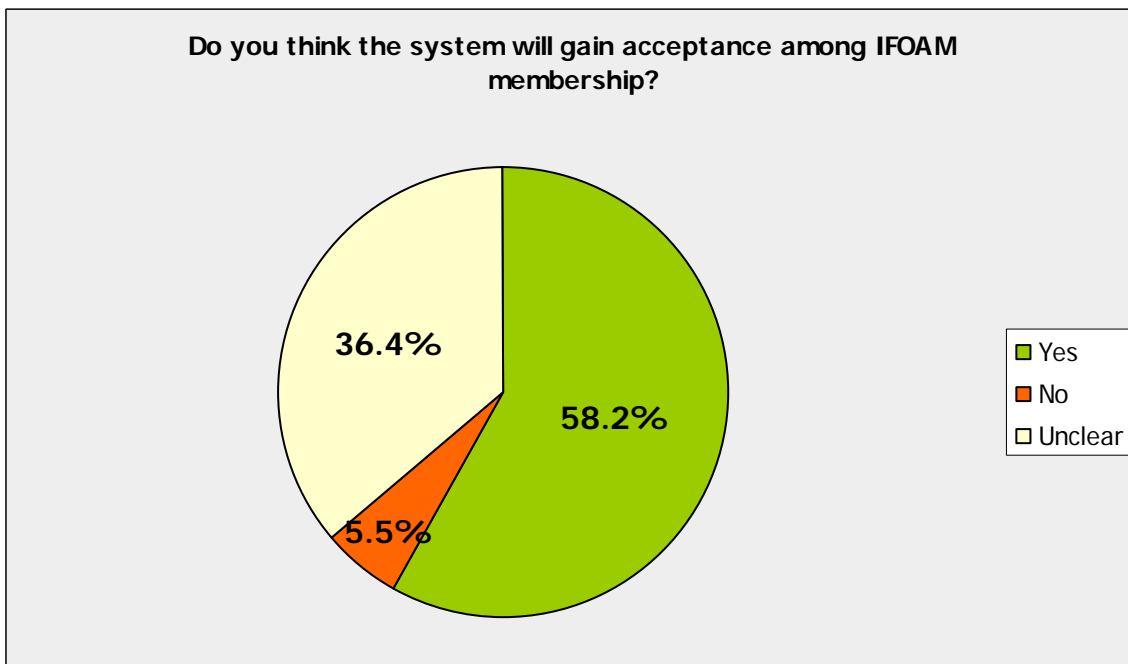
Report – OGS Consultation

Total number of respondents: 61

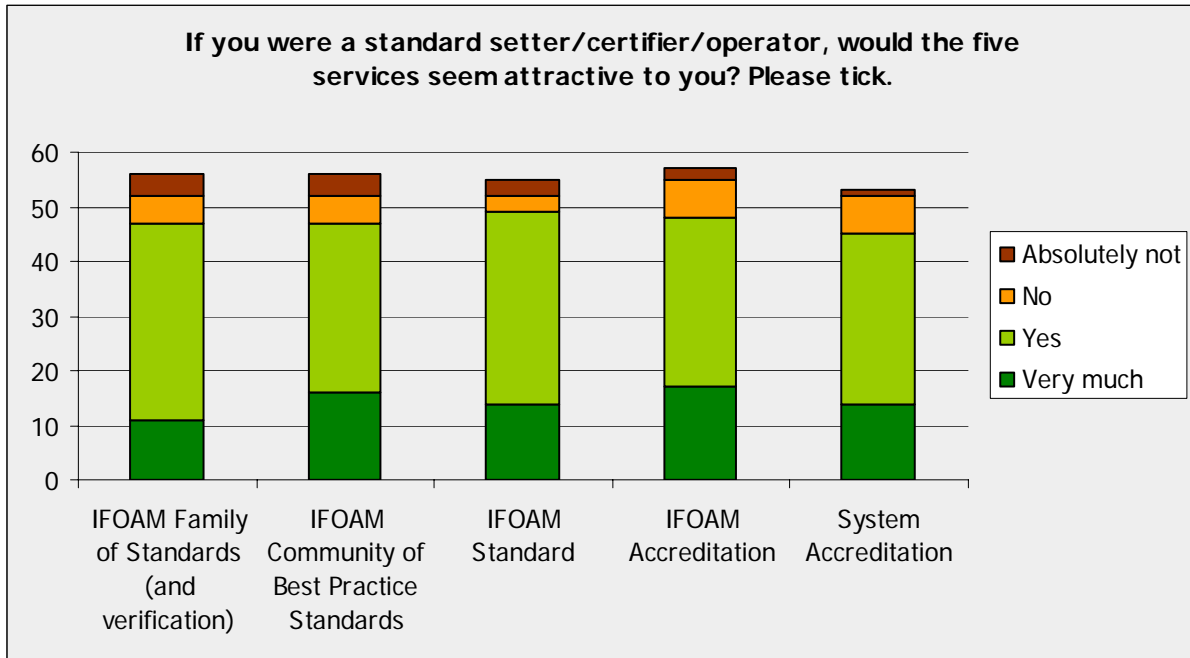
I. Do you support the proposed system?



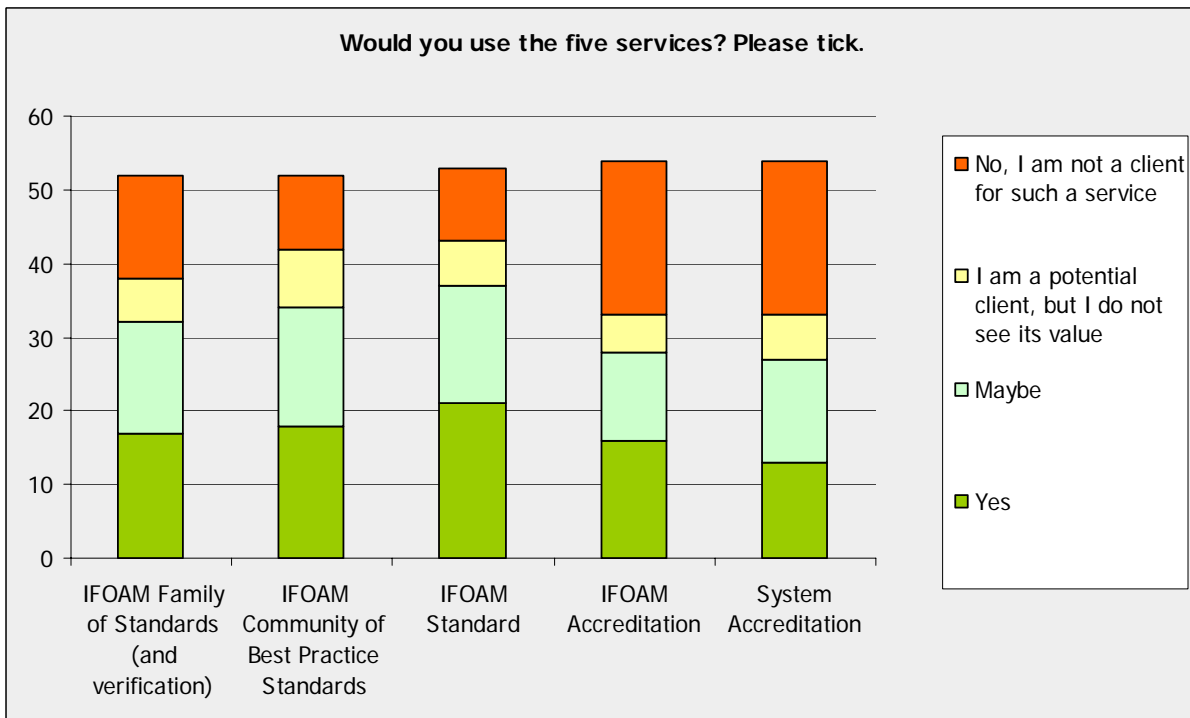
II. Do you think the system will gain acceptance among IFOAM membership?



III. If you were a standard setter/certifier/operator, would the five services seem attractive to you?



IV. Would you use the five services?



V. What are your comments and recommendations to the proposed system and services?

<p>I have changed roles and in doing so (1) I am no longer working for a program that is a potential client for accreditation and (2) I am much more interested in community of best practice standards. I have long promoted best practices as a compliment to, not a substitute for the basic standards. It is not clear to me what will happen with the basic standards. Even if IFOAM does not conduct an accreditation program, there is a clear need for IFOAM world-wide to maintain a leadership position with the various standard setting bodies and to actively work towards harmonization of standards at a level that insures integrity.</p>
<p>I hope that the IFOAM will formulate a more practical standards.</p>
<p>I prefer less paper affairs, with more clear HOW TO DO's for certifiers and cooperatives, the present load of paperwork regarding the certifications are preventing most farming communities to become organic. The biggest prevention for converting farmers is the load of work and costs for certifications.</p>
<p>It is not clear enough which will be the actions and the services concerning the five proposed categories</p>
<p>We appreciate the proposed system. We are not a standardsetter but we consulting project partners in development of standards and for this process the IFOAM standards were very important. A couple of our project partners will consider using the IFOAM standard once it has been transferred into a certification standard. We are further supporting/consulting local certification bodies and a couple of them would have been very interested in System Accreditation.</p>
<p>the proposed system is very good and we expect it will put aglobal rule for accreditation of organic production . However, it maybe not easy to apply in the third world countries unless you present your support . We also want to inform you that the SudANESE STANDARD of organic production system has been setted and now it is under proccess to be approved . Finnally , please accept our great appreciations and wishes to acheive the aims of development and safety foods and environment .</p>
<p>These proposals are much improved on those presented at Modena, being better defined and better targetted. In particular I like: 1. the idea of IFOAM offering a certification standard; and 2. the proposal of an IFOAM community of best practice standards. Of course the merits of both these will depend on the level at which they are pitched and how the certification standard will deal with the widely different conditions worldwide. However, I see a number of possible conflicts which will need to be thought through carefully. 1. What is the relationship between the qualification criteria for the family of standards and the certification standard? They should not be the same (or at least the same as was proposed in Modena) or else the latter will be discredited and become meaningless in the market place. Also, setting two levels will potentially entail double work on the part of the IFOAM standards setting body. 2. It seems there are a lot of marks/logos proposed for the various categories. This could get very confusing if not carefully managed, which could diminish their value and therefore any demand that there may be for them. 3. Finally, I'm not convinced there would be much demand. Manufacturers already complain that they have to put too many logos, etc on their packs, and this will soon be made worse by the new EU logo. Another logo (or set of logos) from an organisation that consumers don't know may not prove very popular. To turn that around would require a huge amount of promotion. Put that together with the costs of defending against their misuse, and one is looking at potentially very large expenditure. So, whilst it's very attractive to consider the revenue potential of these logos, the reality of getting the whole system going may be very different.</p>

<p>Allways consider dinamic and adoptable systems, build systems that are fed by the real conditions, develop by the changes in conditions, not create new borders, strong set of rules, new governments or religions. "Standard setting" has a very fine line to consider, can easily cross the border and put us in the position to the "world saver standard setter" which should never look like is the case.</p>
<p>I think it is a waste of time to try to pull government regulations into a family of standards. They won't take any notice, once they have (unfortunately) implemented national organic standards. IFOAM must do much more to promote IOAS accreditation in the market place, as IOAS accreditation currently has little value (and is a LOT of work). And the IOAS needs to remove its egregious requirements on the recognition of prior certification. If that can happen through acceptance of the IFOAM family of standards, I will back the whole system to the hilt.</p>
<p>I believe that this is essentially the same as the last OGS proposal, except that the latter seems to me simpler and more straightforward. Unfortunately I wasn't in BioFach this year, and will neither be able to attend any of the webinars which would probably help me clarifying the system's objectives and mechanics. One thing I believe is that unless we get the EU/NOP full and convinced official participation, the whole thing being proposed here will be an exercise in futility. The proposal to work within the ITF to devise the excellent IROCBs met with the indifference of the main actors (EU/NOP). Application authorities will never submit to a private system no matter how good it may be. They even despise their own international government organizations (UN, FAO, Codex, etc...) Their arrogance is unsurpassable. I also want to point out that IFOAM standards are neither clearly a standard for standards nor a certification standard. It is too prescriptive to be the former, and is not prescriptive enough to be the latter. The constituency defeated the proposed IROS for not being constraining enough regarding organic integrity, while at the same time boasted of being willing to encompass and unite the whole organic world. At the same time, instead of accepting diversity through equivalence, a whole strata of 'organic quality' are being created within the system so that I will be able to say that 'I am more organic than you; therefore, I will never accept you'. I regret that we always abhorred 'continuous improvement' evaluation systems as some other certification systems use. Which seems to me it would be the simpler way out of this mess. Besides, 'organic' is being washed out by the tsunami of new 'certifications' that boasting the same old principles as organics they are turning organics and IFOAM into an archaeological fossil. Who needs IFOAM accreditation with so many new and more fashionable certifications adn seals?</p>
<p>Well thought through - will wait to see how relevant it is to PGS, which is what I am helping small scale farmers to implement.</p>
<p>no comments or recommendations. only to congratulate you on the initiative and say well done</p>
<p>The reason why we would lose our interest in IFOAM accreditation basically, beacuse we cannot see the added value if the products certified under a standard included in the Family of Standards will bear a logo. We think it would create greater confusion among consumers than it is now. It would be even more confusing if the Best Practice Standards will be given a logo or mark - does not matter if it is not used on products, but the whole system, what IFOAM is will be very hard to understand by consumers - and we think they are the most important as they stand at the end of the whole chain anyway. It is not really imporantnt if the certifiers themselves will understand the different meanings of the various logos and classifications.</p>
<p>It might be too cumbersome, but its a good idea</p>
<p>The proposal introduces three levels for IFOAM standards. The family drawing a line between organic and conventional, the IFOAM standard that is "good" and the Best. IFOAM has hardly resources to keep one of the things going. The proposal may appear to be inclusive by giving something to everybody instead of offering only one unified system, but in the end it is less unifying. IFOAM should promote Best Practice, but best practice is not on the level of standards, the Best Practice is always on the level of individuals that go further, once many can follow it is not Best anymore. Therefore a best practice STANDARD is almost an oxymoron. A Best Practise standard is not a strict standard, but a standard that is written in a good way, and developed in close cooperation with the stakeholders (and therefore reflect majority practices). There is possibly some demand for an IFOAM standard for certain sectors (such as textiles and cosmetics) and IF there are resources, there is little harm with such a standard, but it should not take away</p>

equivalence as the basis for IFOAMs recognition. IFOAM Accreditation should be more inclusive and also be based on equivalence on the level of standards, and compliance to IROCB or equivalence to the IAC. The separate System Accreditation is more or less already done by the IOAS, and could go on as a separate service - not linked to any direct IFOAM recognition or not. It is just a technical service by the IOAS as demanded by the market. We have serious doubts about the demand for an IFOAM organic mark - it is simply too late for that to get any major uptake. It could perhaps get uptake in developing countries and would not do any harm if introduced there, but only if based on realistic levels re standards and certification, include PGS and other things there as well. BUT don't see it as a revenue source for years to come. For the rest see the submission by Ong Kung Wai, Vitoon Panyakull and Gunnar Rundgren

I think it is the right way to come to an international standard. In the moment there are too much differences and for a farmer in Africa it is difficult to get the overlook.

We strongly feel these kind of initiatives will help to harmonise the different organic standards.

I do not have that much comment. If the system is brought in place it will serve larger organic community. Nevertheless, there are certain concern in regards to the services of IOAS and its broad use. The reason could be the procedures of accreditation, audit and fraud detection by IOAS. In other words, the relevance and equivalency and acceptance of IOAS accreditation by major organic products importing countries. Therefore, there may need of harmonization between the accreditation services not only at the level of IFOAM Family Standard but also, bilateral regulatory body.

We can't answer your questions because we don't work in affairs of inspection and certification IFOAM should remain a standards setter but should get out of the accreditation business altogether.

Should be conducted public awareness campaigns and workshops regarding this new system in Russia we need help to get a law for organic products approved first to fix the current situation.

The proposed system is simple and easily understood

Demeter International would not use IFOAM standards directly, but they are noted in any DI standard review process that is undertaken

Fees for service providing should not be linked to the annual turnover of the user (certification body) and in any case no fees should be demanded by the user of the seal or logo (operator). Any fees applied should only be addressed to the direct client (certifier/standard setter).

Our company wants to see a system that encourages harmonization and equivalency. We don't see how the current proposal does that - we would need more information on this aspect in order to support. We see that there is value to "additional" standards such as fair labor, biodiversity, etc. but do not like it to be labeled "community of best practice" standards. It's more an "organic plus" concept. We like the idea very much of a Global Mark - as long as it was something that could be used by those who are certified to government organic standards and other private sector standards and not just to the IFOAM standard and only by the IFOAM accredited certifiers. We support your description of unite and assist - but "to lead", in our opinion, does not mean having more or higher standards (that's a competitive or market advantage strategy.) Instead IFOAM could lead through uniting and assisting and also being very visible and vocal protecting and promoting the principles of organic and holistic production system that comes from those principles, as well as developing and publishing positions on organic practices, materials and methods, and global issues and trends. Under question 3 - there should have been a choice to tick "maybe"

In this system I don't see the real value of the Ifoam standard. I think that many clients and certifiers leave the conformity and the accreditation vs. the Ifoam standard because is more interested to obtain the conformity against the "law organic standards". Probably the "family of standard" could be interested for the products or sectors not yet "ruled", like textiles, cosmetics, climate change, GHG, ecc.

Good thoughts to regain importance for IFOAM with all those legislations in organic these days. However, before building all kinds of non-organic elements into the organic system, I would first see to collaborate with already existing systems in this areas respectively before re-inventing wheels with all the problems related to this (ISEAL i.e. is an existing platform of best practice systems and this would for me be the place to talk about such matters in the first place).

Pls. make it user friendly and pls. give a feedback to the users
None
We should try not to lose focus by increasing complexities. The system should be simple and clear. It seems we are creating too many concepts, products under one program and names. Any venture that requires a seminar to be understood is likely not adhere in the marketplace.
hrmonization as much as poss between EU and USA
In South Africa, we are only in the organic nappies and those ticked items are of high importance. You might be contacted by PPECB (Perishable Produce Export Control Board). I am negotiating a deal between BDOCA (Bio-dynamic and Organic Certification Authority) and PPECB with the involvement of DEBIO / NORAD (Norway). The key person within IFOAM regarding OGS consultation is welcome to contact me personal. Thank you.
The System of IFOAM should be global and uniformity maintained by different World GBs and every one should speak with the same voice as far as organic certification and promotion is concerned
It is time for IFOAM to let go of its former role as a standard setting organization. That role now belongs to government.
No coment now
The proposed systems and services can contribute to improve organic agricultural activities as locally as well as internationally. This is actually true for developing countries.
No comment.
IFOAM being an umbrella organization in leading the organic movement in the world, should limit its activities in developing standards for Organic Guarantee System related to production, verification, accreditation, promotion (IROCB & Equitool) and advocacy to enable all the countries in the world to refer (use them for developing their own standards). The services of IFOAM would be ideal in training & capacity building programmes to lead the organic movement further.

VI. Are you ...

