

Excerpt from IFOAM in Action No. 89

The General Assembly approved the motion:

That the purpose of the Organic Guarantee System should be to facilitate market access for organic products and to protect the integrity of, ensure consumer confidence in and facilitate access to organic products.

That the objectives of the OGS should be:

- to draw a distinct line between organic and not organic
- to safeguard the integrity of organic production and certification (in its various forms)
- to provide sufficient oversight mechanism to maintain trust between the parties involved
- to facilitate global acceptance of organic products certified under different systems
- to be a platform for cooperation between the affected parties

In order to accomplish this, the OGS should

- work together with other existing systems, including governmental systems
- be accessible for all serious producers and certification systems
- work to improve guarantee systems and to build certification capacity
- allow for different solutions in different contexts, i.e. realize that organic production and certification needs to be adapted to the local conditions and the stage of development
- have simple and transparent procedures of operation
- include service and problem solving approaches, and seek to add value

The WB is mandated to make the necessary adaptations of the current system to increase the ability of the OGS to fulfill these objectives.

The WB is mandated to establish positions and programs, to support Organic Best Practices in order to stimulate the continuous improvement in all areas including farming, processing, certification, standard setting and trade.