

To all IFOAM Members

Bonn, 16th April 2007

Invitation to comment on Draft Policy for Revision of the IFOAM Norms

IFOAM invites all IFOAM members to comment on the Draft Policy for Revision of the IFOAM Norms. **Deadline for comments is the 14th of June 2007.**

Instructions for Commenting

Download the draft Policy here: [Draft Policy for Revision of the IFOAM Norms](#)

Proposals for text changes should be made in **Track Changes Mode** (in MS Word this function is found in the Tools Menu) in the draft Policy.

Send your comments/revisions **preferably via e-mail** to Matthias Fecht at m.fecht@ifoam.org or via regular mail to IFOAM Head Office, Charles-de-Gaulle Str. 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany.

To get a better understanding of how the Policy will work in practice you may also download the [Draft Procedure for Revisions of the IFOAM Norms](#) which is provided for your information.

A final decision on the Policy will be taken via membership vote sometime later this year.

With the approval by the membership, if achieved, the responsibility for future revisions of the Policy will be shifted back to the IFOAM World Board.

Background

The IFOAM General Assembly in September 2005 approved a motion that “IFOAM shall amend policies 20, 21 and 47 to establish a single procedure to revise the IBS to be consistent, simple, clear, democratic and participatory. The IFOAM World Board shall establish this procedure by October 2006 through the consultation and approval of the membership and subject that procedure to the next General Assembly”

It was not possible to meet the deadline of October 2006. Nevertheless, IFOAM is now happy to be able to present the 1st Draft of the new Policy for Revision of the IFOAM Norms.

Major Changes to Current Policies

As mandated by the GA the new Policy deals with those issues currently addressed in

- [Policy 20 for Revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards](#)

- [Policy 20 - Annex 1](#)
- [Policy 21 for Urgent Standards Revisions](#)
- [Policy 47 for New Work Items in the IFOAM Basic Standards.](#)

However, the proposed policy draft goes further by including in its scope revisions of the IFOAM Accreditation Criteria and implementation of changes of both Norms. These issues are currently dealt with in

- [Policy 43 for Revision of the IFOAM Accreditation Criteria](#)
- [Policy 48 for Implementation of Changes to the IFOAM Norms](#)

The approach to bundle all Policies related to revisions of the IFOAM Norms was part of an effort in the Organic Guarantee System Revision to make the System more accessible, to overcome inefficiencies and to close gaps and inconsistencies in the current Policies. It is therefore a follow up on the GA motion for the Revision of the Organic Guarantee System, which calls for “simple and transparent procedures of operation” for the System.

Procedures for Norms Revisions


As outlined above the Policy will be accompanied by a new Procedure, which further defines the activities carried out in the context of Revisions of the IFOAM Norms. The Procedure is developed and decided by the Norms Management Committee. **Download** the draft Procedure here: [Draft Procedure for Revisions of the IFOAM Norms](#)

The draft Procedure follows the same approach as the draft Policy in that it covers all issues relevant for Norms Revisions as currently dealt with in:

- [The Detailed Procedure for Policy 20](#)
- [The Detailed Procedure for New Work Items under Policy 47](#)
- [NMC Guideline Regarding Policy 47 – Definition of “New Part”](#)

All the documents referenced and underlined above can be accessed by clicking on their titles or by visiting the Organic Guarantee System section on the IFOAM website, www.ifoam.org.

Best regards,



Matthias Fecht
Organic Guarantee System Coordinator