



D3 Resource Use Draft Standards

Background of the development of Resource Use Draft Standards

“Resource Use” was originally developed alongside biodiversity in the IBS standards development process. The Draft Resource Use Standards were circulated for membership consultation in the context of the Revision of the IBS 2002 and have received favourable comment. However, many members who support better management of resources believe that the organic community is not yet prepared to adopt standards for resource use. As a result of motions and subsequent contact group discussions the Resource Use Standards were removed from the Final Revision Draft of the IBS, Version 20th May 2005, assigned the status of draft standards and re-published for stakeholder consultation.

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General Principle

Organic production and handling is based primarily on the sustainable use of renewable resources.

Recommendations

Renewable resources should be used whenever practical.

If non-renewable resources are used, they should be obtained from recycled sources.

Inputs should be recovered, manufactured, used, and disposed of in a way that takes into account animal welfare, environmental and social impacts throughout their life cycle.

Each enterprise or farm should develop an “ecological plan” that includes a program for the use of renewable and non-renewable resources.

Processing and handling operations should compost or otherwise recycle their agricultural and processing by-products.

Operators should minimize the energy expended in the production, preparation and distribution of organic products.

Operators should minimize the use of fossil fuels whenever possible.

Standards shall require that:

D3.1

Operators shall have a resource management system in place, appropriate to their type and scale of operation.

D3.2

Crop production, livestock production, processing and handling systems shall reduce reuse or recycle residual materials generated through crop production, livestock production, processing and handling respectively.

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