

## A LOCAL ORGANIC GUARANTEE

PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS (PGS) ARE QUALITY-ASSURANCE INITIATIVES USING THEIR OWN WRITTEN STANDARDS, OFTEN BASED ON IFOAM'S BASIC STANDARDS.

# PGS

## PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS

# CASE STUDIES

### ECOVIDA AGROECOLOGY NETWORK

#### BRAZIL

#### *Developing credibility*

- Horizontal network including farmers, NGOs, consumers' co-operatives and other organizations.
- Process of guarantee developed by participatory mechanisms involving producers, technicians and consumers.
- Periodic internal and external control by individuals or organizations not directly involved in the production. No third party inspection.
- Marketing of produce through open-air markets, institutional markets, organization stores and others.

### ORGANIC FARM NEW ZEALAND

#### NEW ZEALAND

#### *Farmer's peer assessment*

- OFNZ is registered as a non-profit organization and farmers are the OFNZ members.
- Organized by groups of 4-8 farmers with each member of the group present during each of the peers' 'inspections'. Peer assessment also allows exchange of ideas through informal meetings.
- Membership fees are set by each regional group, and depend on the amount of volunteer work that is on offer.
- Farmers supply to the local, regional and national markets.

### CERTIFIED NATURALLY GROWN

#### USA

#### *PGS on the www*

- Administered almost entirely via the internet.
- Open to small family farms that sell their products locally and directly to consumers in their own community.
- Inspections handled by grower-peers, extension agents, produce managers or customers.
- No registration fee, no paid staff.
- Uses the USDA Organic Program standards. This saves maintenance and update costs.

### KEYSTONE

#### INDIA

#### *Building a local guarantee for indigenous produce*

- Mainly wild produce harvested from the forests by the indigenous community as well as from small homestead farms (less than 1 hectare). Produce are sold in two shops owned by Keystone and a network of like-minded organizations and shops.
- Holistic perspective including issues like access to land, health of the forest, livelihood diversification and others.
- Indigenous knowledge is often related to OA approaches. Hence the traditional practices and beliefs are documented.
- Inspection system includes: informal peer vigil through traditional labor-sharing systems and discussions, inspection and forms review by Keystone staff.



Head Office  
Charles-de-Gaulle-Str. 5  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
Phone: +49 - 228 - 92650 - 10  
Fax: +49 - 228 - 92650 - 99  
www.ifoam.org

UNITING THE ORGANIC WORLD