

PGS NAME and CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of the PGS: The Kootenay Local Agricultural Society

Contact Person: Jeremy Lack Year program launched: 2008

Country(ies) Being Served: Canada

Region(s) Being Served: Central Kootenay Region

Number of producers involved in the SGP: 16

Number of producers currently certified by the SGP: 16

Address: 1911 Irving Road, Castlegar, V1N 4N6

Phone: (250) 399 4809

Website: www.klasociety.org, www.kootenaymountaingrown.org

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SHARED VISION AND AGREED UPON NORMS

1) Is our program based on generally recognized organic principles?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

2) Is it based on a national, regional or international Organic standard (International examples include the IFOAM IBS and Codex. National standards include USDA Organic, JAS, Indian NPOP, regional standards include the EU regulation, the East Africa Organic Product Standard), or on national private standard?

Yes No

Please elaborate especially where it goes beyond organic:

Our standards are available for download off the societies websites.

3) Did all our stakeholders have an influence in the choice and adoption of our Organic Norms?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Please list key stakeholders:

Farmers, retail outlets, farmers markets

4) Are our norms easily available and accessible to all stakeholders or other interested parties?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Please elaborate on how people can access them:

All documents are available off the societies websites.

5) Do we have mechanisms in place to ensure farmers fully understand what they are agreeing to (Examples may include short summary of the standards, regular trainings, regular meetings or place they can contact for more information about practices or allowable materials)?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

6) Are Social Justice Principles including gender equality and fair wage embraced by our PGS?

Yes No

Please elaborate:

See our websites.

PROCEDURES TO VERIFY PRODUCERS' COMPLIANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

7) Is information created and maintained for each farm?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Please elaborate the type (paper application, video, etc.):

Il documents and results are available off the societies websites.

8) Does this information include specific questions about farm operations to ensure procedures on the farm are in accordance with our accepted organic standards?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

9) Do our producers take a pledge, declaration, oath, or promise that they will follow the standards (written, verbally stated or documented in some culturally appropriate way)?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Please Elaborate:

Il documents are available off the societies websites.

10) Are annual on-site reviews/inspections carried out for every farm in our PGS?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

11) Do producers take part in the annual on-site review/inspection process?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

12) As a policy, can consumers or other stakeholders visit the producers (Open Gate Policy)?

Yes No

DOCUMENTED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

13) Is the following information maintained by our PGS:

a) General Information about each farm / operation

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

b) Producer's Pledge (or record if Verbal Pledge)

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

c) Record of onsite review/inspection

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

d) Record of attendance at local meetings

Yes No

e) Record of certification for each farm / operation

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

f) Is this information accessible to members of the public?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Please elaborate:

Il documents are available off the societies websites.

14) Have efforts been made to minimize paperwork necessary to certification

Yes No

15) Are the steps to certification process publicly available to all stakeholders?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

16) Can stakeholders easily find out who is certified?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

HORIZONTALITY

17) Is decision and policy making about PGS procedures made by either producers or regularly elected producer representatives?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

18) Are there mechanisms in place to regularly review and improve PGS procedures and policies?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

19) Are our PGS Procedures appropriate to the cultural context in which they are used (for example verbal pledges and video documentation in areas of low literacy)?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

20) Are producers the primary decision makers about which producers are to be certified? (as opposed to a third party or separate organizational group)?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Please Elaborate:

ll information is available off the societies websites.

21) If it's a national program, is there room for local and regional variations to the rules and operational procedures of the PGS as long as main functional points are maintained? (For example, maybe the on-site inspection can be changed or added to as long as they stick to agreed basic standards)

Yes No Not applicable

Please elaborate, give examples:

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT IN THE PGS

22) Do consumers have the option of being active members of the PGS Group?

Yes No

23) Are consumers able to be included in the Regional and National decision making bodies

Yes No

24) Are consumers able to be included in the Certification Process?

Yes No

25) Is our PGS program endorsed by any consumer group? This could include environmental organizations, health advocacy organizations, etc

Yes No

SYSTEMS FOR MANAGING NON-COMPLIANCE

26) Are there prescribed consequences for non-compliance?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

27) Is there a system for managing non-compliance?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

28) Are producers in the PGS involved in the system for managing non-compliance?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

MECHANISMS FOR SUPPORTING PRODUCERS

29) Is there a system for producers to participate in trainings or sharing meetings with other local member-producers of the PGS?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

30) Does our organization offer agricultural technical advisory (or economic or social) services to producers?

Yes No

31) Does the PGS program have mechanisms in place to avoid conflict of interest?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Please explain:

ll documents are available off the societies websites.

SEALS AND LABELS

32) Is there a seal or logo available for our farmers to use?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

33) Does the PGS own or control the seal?

Yes No

34) Does each producer receive an individual certificate or some proof of their certification status?

Yes No (*Important Characteristic*)

Optional: Additional Questions on Sustainability of the Program

35) How is our PGS program funded now? Can the program be entirely self-funded in the future?

Self funded

36) If producers pay a fee to be certified, do they feel it is a fair fee? What fee is charged?

Basic fee is \$35

37) Do producers and other stakeholders participate in the operation of the PGS to keep costs and overhead down? In what ways do they participate?

All participants are required to do at least 1 days work for the society each year.