

## Fair Trade in Organic Products - The Need for Equivalence

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### Abstract

*The current trends requiring certification bodies to be accredited to multiple national standards and the increasing level of government regulations are adding substantial costs to the certification of organic products. They favor the wealthier and larger enterprises over the poorer and smaller enterprises. The ever-increasing regulatory requirements and their associate compliance costs will give an advantage to large corporate entities with their economies of scale.*

*There is a major role for the IFOAM Basic Standard to achieve worldwide equivalency. This is because it is the most representative world standard as it is developed through an open and democratic process, by organic sector organizations. Consequently, it is important that this standard is used around the world as the base standard with a role to ensure formalized equivalency of national and regional standards to it.*

*This standard has to be called up into the existing world regulatory systems, such as the World Trade Organizations (WTO) Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards to ensure that it is used to generate worldwide equivalency.*

*WTO Members agree to ensure that their central government standardizing bodies accept and comply with this Code of Good Practice and agree also to take reasonable measures to ensure that local government, non-governmental and regional standardizing bodies do the same. This will mean that all organic standards of WTO members are equivalent to the IFOAM Basic Standard.*

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