

## Minutes

### Regional Standard Technical Working Group 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Arusha 6 March 2006

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Participants:	Francis Akivaga, Anne Boor, Diane Bowen, Carol Tom , David Eboku, Jordan Gama, Anna Griggs, Mwatima Juma, Eustace Kiarrii, Peter Lustig, Chido Makunike, Eva Mattsson, Tito Migabo, Obadiah N Msaki, Leonard Mtama, Moses K Muwanga, Asad Naqvi, Moses Ogwal, Gunnar Rundgren, Charles Rutagyengwa, Sophia Twarog , Charles Walaga, Patricia Wangongu.	
Welcome	Sophia Twarog welcomed everyone to the meeting	
Update since last meeting	Standards for wild fisheries have been developed by UgoCert.	Charles Walaga
	TBS is making consultations of a draft TBS standard. A sitting on comments on the draft has been postponed twice. Safety issues are included in the standards. TBS will not go into certification, it is left to the private sector to do. The issue of food control still with TBS and "Tanzania Drug Authority".	Obadiah Msaki
	The Rwanda Bureau of Standards has prepared a draft organic standard. There is certification of organic products in Rwanda, Ecocert is contracted by the ministry. A copy of the draft standards will be sent to the group.	Tito Migabo/ Charles Rutagyengwa
	The EU regulation will be revised and there is a new proposal published but it is unclear when it will be decided and unclear how it will look.	Gunnar Rundgren
	Africert will include inspection to the EU-regulation in their ISO 65 scope. By June they expect to have accreditation from DAP.	Francis Akivaga
Presentation of OSEA	Organic Standards in East Africa – OSEA.	Gunnar Rundgren
	The OSEA project was approved in December 2005 by Sida. OSEA will be working together with the part of the CBTF project which is about the East African Standards. It has more components directly related to the regional standards such as national consultations, and field testing of the standards. In addition it also has components about joint inspection methodology and consumer	

education and promotion. Gunnar Rundgren is coordinating the OSEA project.

It is a two year project. The activities in the OSEA project and the CBTF project to develop regional standards are now merged and the RSTWG will be for both OSEA and CBTF. Eva Mattsson will continue to coordinate the RSTWG. Other people, e.g. Diane Bowen, will supply expert support.

Discussion

All participants were positive to this new cooperation between UNEP, UNCTAD and IFOAM.

In the discussion after the presentation it was underlined the importance that the OSEA project and IFOAM was presented to the governments in the respective countries, as some of them don't know IFOAM too well. UNCTAD and UNEP representatives can help out on that as they are better known.

A joint information on OSEA/CBTF will be send out to the RSTWG

Presentation of the East African Standards Outline

EM introduced the document "East African Organic Standard - Outline 2nd DRAFT".

Eva Mattsson

International standards, is it possible to fulfil all?

DB gave an overview over international standards and guidelines.

Diane Bowen

The IFOAM Basic Standards and Codex Alimentarius Guidelines are seen as guidelines, not as actually standards. They are standards for standards and not to directly certify to.

The Codex Alimentarius Organic Guidelines has a different status than most Codex Standards. The word used is "should" instead of normally "shall", there are numerous derogations and the language is allowing for flexibility.

The Major importing markets regulations are NOP (USA) JAS (Japan) and EEC 2092/91 (EU).

These regulations are designed for national or regional situations and are requirements for certification and for importing. They are not developed for the situation in the exporting countries.

There are also weakness and mistakes in the regulations. The regulations are also moving targets. The EU-reg and JAS is under revision and there is a lawsuit against the USDA.

There will also start a revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards 2006 and Codex revision will probably start 2007.

Answer to the question if it is possible to fulfil all of major

regulations and guidelines is that it is probably possible even if there are a few contradictions among them. But meeting ALL makes YOUR standard to the highest denominator and it will be very few producers that can fulfil the requirements in the standards.

The role of a regional standard, nationally, regionally and internationally

Organic standards are tools for trade. It also makes a definition of OA. A joint standard in East Africa is also a definition for OA in East Africa. That role of the standard should be very much thought of.

Gunnar Rundgren

For farmers that are not certified, the standard can also build unity on the national and regional level so they can also use the standard.

One regional OA standard is also a platform for international negotiations, rather than individual county standards.

Regional standards make products easily traded between countries. It also makes it easier for farmers to embark on organic production without having to start with international standards.

The access to the EU market is not easy. The only developing countries that have been accepted by EU Reg 2092/91 are Costa Rica and Argentina. All other countries are not accepted directly. While harmonisation or equivalence are desirable, one have to be realistic and see that this takes a lot of time. Not only Africans are harmed by the lack of equivalence, e.g. also European farmers need to be certified to NOP (USA).

A joint standard can be used in equivalence agreements with the EU, for example about the requirements for organic seeds.

Do not try and just copy already existing standards, use the parts you need.

Remember that trade issues is more political than most things. You write your standard and then at negotiations you might have to change some things.

Discussion on the standards outline

On the outline and the presentations there was a long discussions

It was decided to call the document a framework instead of an outline.

The framework was accepted with some changes

1<sup>st</sup> OK

2<sup>nd</sup> OK

3<sup>rd</sup> Include Rwanda.

- 4<sup>th</sup> OK
- 5<sup>th</sup> Make clear that it is in the countries and between the countries
- 6<sup>th</sup> Delete "also". Include own "organic" regulation.
- 7<sup>th</sup> OK
- 8<sup>th</sup> OK
- 9<sup>th</sup> OK
- 10<sup>th</sup> (for example Swahili)
- 11<sup>th</sup> OK
- 12<sup>th</sup> Delete the whole point
- 13<sup>th</sup> Spell out Codex and IBS

New bullet points.

One to make clear that normal national legislation applies.

Another to say that the standard cover production conditions and not inspection or certification.

It was discussed and agreed that social standards should be included.

EM needs valuable input on the social issues that is relevant for this regional and is inspect able.

Presentation for areas of a first draft	EM presented the area for a coming standard. There were some more areas proposed which all were included.	Eva Mattsson
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Presentation and discussion on standards areas	<p>Conversion period. Decision: 1 year.</p> <p>Reduced conversion period: Decision: Redundant. It is not needed with a short conversion period of one year.</p>
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Parallel production:  
Decision: Accept the proposal to allow parallel production if conventional and organic production is clearly separated and the separation is inspectable.

List of inputs:  
Decision: The starting point is that all natural inputs are allowed and all synthetic are not allowed if nothing else is stated. This is consistent with the approach in the US NOP.  
Come up with a draft indicative list. Define what inputs that are prohibited, the rest is OK.

Input criteria:  
Decision: Use/refer to IBS and Codex criteria.

Additives and processing aids:

Criteria for additives and processing aids:  
Decision: Same as for inputs

Amount of conventional feed:  
Decision: Minimum 60 % organic feed. Although it was discussed that this could be revisited once the livestock standards are further elaborated.

Name of the group      The name of the group is long and difficult, several proposals were made but there was no agreement to change the name. The conveners, IFOAM, UNCTAD and UNEP will further discuss the name.

Further work and plans      Proposals:  
East Africa organic Standard Team/Taskforce - EAST  
Regional Organic Standards Team - ROST  
East Africa Organic Standard Working Group - EAOSWG  
Regional Standard Working Group - RSWG  
East Africa organic Standard Team - EAST Working Group  
Next meeting for the RSTWG will take place in May 25-26 in Nairobi.

Obadiah Msaki is asked to make a description how the EAC procedures for a regional standard can work. A proposal should be ready in April 2006

#### **Standards process (responsibility of RSTWG)**

- DRAFT 1: 7th April (EM)
- National "consultations" also bringing the framework agreement back to stakeholders (National movements, if possible linked to CBTF National assessments)
- RSTWG 3, 25-26 May (Nairobi)
- DRAFT 2 by mid July (EM)
- National Consultations 2, Sep 2006, (National movements, if possible linked to CBTF National assessments)
- Comparison with IFOAM and Codex (DB)
- RSTWG 4, & "International" Seminar (last week of November, second week of December) (Nairobi)
- DRAFT 3 by mid January 2007
- Field Testing Workshop and testing: January 22-26 2007 (Grolink + certifiers) (Kampala)
- *National meetings*
- Report from Workshop mid February (Grolink)
- FINAL DRAFT mid March
- RSTWG 5, April 2007 "agreement"

**Public Launch - October 2007 (if possible linked to CBTF activity)**

**Ownership discussion (OSEA + CBTF)**

- Clarifying EAC Procedures and formal status, May 2006 (OM)
- Identifying other options, May 2006 (GR)
- Paper presenting options July 2006 (GR)
- National consultations 2, Sept 2006 (National movements, if possible linked to CBTF National assessments)
- Individual consultations with stakeholders, governments etc July-Dec 2006 (IFOAM-UNCTAD-UNEP)
- CBTF Event linked to the International seminar in Nov Dec?
- Proposal Jan 2007 (GR)

**Certification capacity (OSEA)**

- Development of joint inspection protocol (workshop) May 2007 (Grolink + certifiers)

**Consumer Education (OSEA)**

- Plan under development, ready April (AB, CM)