



Special Announcement

IFOAM's Membership votes "Yes" on the new OGS Proposal

In the membership vote of 18 July 2010 on the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System (OGS), 134 Members (out of 667 members, voter participation of 20%) cast their votes on the question:

'Do you agree with the political direction of the presented OGS and do you give the World Board the mandate to start offering the five proposed services to potential clients and to report progress to the next General Assembly 2011 in Korea?'

125 Members (93%) answered 'Yes, I agree' and 9 Members (7%) answered 'No, I disagree'. 2 votes were invalid.

The suggested Organic Guarantee System is now decided and the IFOAM World Board has the mandate to start implementation of the new system, while observing IFOAM's procedures and policies. The IFOAM World Board will report to the General Assembly 2011 in Korea.

A Milestone in IFOAM's History

Dear IFOAM Members,

It is very exciting to have your decision in support of a new Organic Guarantee System. Thank you to all who cast a vote and for supporting the proposed system with 93% approval. We are ready to move on and begin to use the Organic Guarantee System to create a strong and unified organic world in its wonderful diversity.

Redesigning the Organic Guarantee System has taken many years, through two General Assemblies and suggestions from a wide range of the IFOAM membership. We owe thanks to all, particularly to the members of the OGS Task Force, who have spent their time and energy to find a solution, tirelessly searching for compromises, when only two years ago compromise seemed too difficult to achieve.

The design of this Organic Guarantee System provides choices for participation and recognition within and outside the organic sector. The organic movement will actively draw the line between organic and not organic, thus uniting the organic world. At the same time, any standard setter and any certification body can enjoy direct assistance by getting a good and practical off-the-shelf organic standard from IFOAM. For those among us who have a different strategy and want to offer even more sustainably produced organic farm products can stay abreast of the latest trends and achieve recognition. Last but not least, accreditation services are offered for certification bodies with or without the IFOAM Standard to highlight their credibility.

Your positive response empowers the staff and world board to begin implementation with energy and enthusiasm. We have already outlined plans for its realization and policy adaptations, and we have drafted a Global Organic Mark, for which we foresee great potential in emerging markets. You will soon hear about the next steps and hopefully many will subscribe right from the beginning. The yes-votes were a first step but it is the big participation of the organic stakeholder in the newly created “Families” and “Communities” that will give you the power to decide how organic is defined and develops in future.

Together we are launching a new era in which IFOAM is committed to at the same time unite, to lead and to assist organic standards and verification. Thank you.

Warm regards,

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