Main objectives that should be addressed in each organic standard:	Reference in checklist
1. Organic Managemet is long-term, ecological and systems-based.	
1.1 All Farming Management Systems:	
Organic management does not rely upon switching back and forth between organic and conventional management.	B1
1.2 Crop Production Management Systems:	
Organic crop production systems conserve or improve the **soil**'s structure, organic matter, fertility and biodiversity.	B2
Organic crop production management includes a **diverse planting scheme** as an integral part of the system of the holding. For perennial crops, this includes plant-based ground cover. For annual crops, this includes diverse crop rotation practices, cover crops (green manures), intercropping or other diverse plant production with comparable achievements.	B2
Organic crop production management employs interrelated positive processes and mechanisms for the **management of pests, diseases, and weeds**. These include but are not limited to site and crop adapted fertility management and soil cultivation, choice of appropriate varieties, enhancement of functional biodiversity, and in case additional measures are required, restricted use of crop protectants and growth regulators.	B4,B5
Organic crop production systems produce terrestrial crops in soil-based systems.	
1.5 Transition/Conversion Requirements for Systems of Organic Production:	
Organic guarantee systems clearly identify when organic practices begin and how long they are applied before the operation and products can be considered organic. This may include specific conditions for simultaneous transition/conversion of land and animals.	B1
Organic guarantee systems require a period of time that is suitable for allowing the establishment of healthy soils and sustainable ecosystems before deeming a crop organic. • Common minimum time periods: a) organic management for least 12 months for annuals and 18 months for perennials. b) the absence of any inputs that do not accord with organic principles and applicable standards for at least 36 months.	B1
2. Soil fertility is long-term and biologically-based.	
2.1 Soil Fertility Management:	
Organic crop production systems enhance soil primarily by incorporating manures and other biodegradable inputs, and/ or by nitrogen fixation from plants.	B2
Organic soil fertility management uses only naturally occurring mineral fertilizers and only as a supplement to biologically-based fertility methods.	B2
Organic crop production does not use sodium (chilean) nitrate.	B2
Organic guarantee systems restrict land preparation by burning vegetation.	B2
3. Synthetic inputs at all stages of the organic product chain and exposure of people and the environment to persistent, potentially harmful chemicals are avoided/minimized.	
3.1 Crop Production:	
Organic soil fertility management uses only crop fertility substances that are on (a) list(s) referenced by the standard. Such lists are based on lists and/or criteria in international organic standards.	B2

Organic soil fertility management does not use synthetic fertilizers or fertilizers made soluble by chemical methods, e.g. superphosphates.	B2
Organic crop production uses only active substances for pest/disease/growth management that are on (a) list(s) referenced by the standard. Such lists are based on lists and/or criteria in international organic standards.	B5
Organic crop production ensures that co-formulants (e.g. inerts and synergists) in formulated farm input products are not carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens or neurotoxins.	
Organic soil fertility management does not use human excrement on crops for human consumption without measures to protect humans from pathogens.	
3.4. Contamination: all systems:	
Organic management takes precautionary measures to avoid contamination (commonly this includes barriers/buffers in production, cleaning of farm equipment, separation and cleaning in processing).	B6
Organic processing management identifies and minimizes risks of product contamination.	B6
4. Pollution and degradation of the production/processing unit and surrounding environment from production/processing activities are minimized.	
4.1 Farm Production and Beekeeping:	
Organic management maintains or enhances biodiversity in crop and non-crop habitats on the farm holding.	B7
Organic crop production systems employ measures to prevent land degradation, such as erosion and salinization.	B2
Organic soil fertility management prevents pollution of the environment, including land and water, by inputs and practices.	B2, B3
Organic management ensures that water resources are used sustainably.	B3
Organic management does not undertake any actions that negatively impact high conservation value areas.	B7
Organic guarantee systems restrict use of synthetic coverings and mulches in organic production systems.	
5. Certain unproven, unnatural and harmful technologies are excluded from the system.	
5.1 Genetically Modified Organisms	
Organic management systems do not use genetically modified organisms (GMO) or their derivatives, except vaccines, in all stages of organic production and processing.	B8
5.4 Nanotechnology (this aspect is increasingly being covered by organic standards but is still new and mostly non covered by regulations)	
Organic production and processing systems do not intentionally manufacture or use nanomaterials.	
8. Organic integrity is maintained throughout the supply chain.	
8.1 Crop Production	
Seeds and Planting Material	
Organic crop production uses organic seed and planting materials unless such seed and materials are unavailable.	B8
Organic crop production systems use non-chemically treated seeds and planting materials whenever available.	B8

Parallel and Split Production	
Organic management completely and clearly separates the non-organic and organic parts and products of holdings with split or parallel production, e.g. physical barriers, management practices, storage of inputs and products.	
8.3 Processing and Handling	
Organic management employs only those systems for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, machinery and processing facilities that prevent contamination of organic product.	B9
Organic processing ensures that packaging and storage/transportation containers do not contaminate the organic product they contain.	
9. Organic identity is provided in the supply chain.	
Labeling identifies the person or company legally responsible for the product and the body that assures conformity to the applicable organic standard.	
10. Fairness, respect and justice, equal opportunities and non-discrimination is afforded to employees and workers	
**** this objective is commonly addressed in private standards although not usually in the scope of government organic standards.*	
Organic operations in countries where social legislation is not in place or not enforced have social policies in place. Such policies should be in accordance with the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.	A2
Organic operations ensure that employees and contracted workers have the freedom to associate, the right to organize and the right to bargain collectively.	
Organic operations provide all employees and contractors with equal opportunities and do not subject them to discrimination.	
Organic operations do not violate human rights and they provide fair working conditions for employees and contracted workers.	A2
Organic operations do not use any type of forced or involuntary labor.	A2
Organic operations guarantee the integral well-being of any children who work in the operation.	

Peer Review Checklist Template: Crop production

Date of the review: ……..

Section A: provides basic information about the producer and the property to be certified.

Section B: covers the history of the property, the overall vision and your

Name(s) of the peer review team:

…… …… ……

…… …… ……

…… …… ……

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SECTION A:

A1 APPLICANT AND PROPERTY DETAILS

A1.1	**Name(s)**	
A1.2	**Name of Property/Business**	
A1.3	**Property Address / GPS coordinates**	
A1.4	**Contact Details** Phone (mob): Mobile: Email: Website:	

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INSTRUCTIONS

Objective: The goal of the peer review is two-fold. In part, it aims to verify that the standards are being upheld. Equally important, the peer review is an opportunity for producers to review their practices with their peers and reflect on how to improve practices on their farm.

Preparation

Farm review team	*Producer*
- Read the standards again. - Look at the information previously gathered on the producer (i.e.: first application form, farm review report of the previous year, summary report) - Make an appointment with the producer to investigate and ask the producer to prepare the documents (invoices, receipts, maps, seed and input packaging used, cultivation register employment contract etc..).	- Read the standards again. - Read the peer review checklist. - Prepare to highlights differences, improvements and problems encountered during the year. - Collect the required documents. For example: Land use map, property map, Invoices or receipts with name, place and tel of suppliers, organic certificate (if any), Seed packaging and other inputs used, employment contract(s), if any, of permanent workers.

Implementation of a peer review:

- The 1st part of the farm review should be done "**in the field**", visiting the plots under production, the storage areas and the processing/packaging areas.
- The 2nd part of the farm review should be done "**around a table**": you need to seat with the producer and check that all different sections have been answered, additionally you can further check receipts, invoices and the cultivation registers.

During the peer review:

Farm review team	*Producer*
Ask questions to determine compliance with the standards. Offer feedback and recommendations for improvement. Use this form to record what is observed, reported and discussed, pictures are also useful. Complete the farm review summary report and return it to the person in charge.	• Walk through the farm/production unit/parcel with the farm review team answering questions and sharing openly

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PLEASE REMEMBER: It is easy to get side-tracked into specific conversations and discussions. Do that after the farm review is complete. Stay on track and perform a thorough farm review.

A2 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PROPERTY

A2.1	Current PGS Certification Status: Expiry date of current certificate:	i.e. New applicant or member since ….
A2.2	Total area of property (hectares):	
A2.3	**Mixed production**: Is the entire property or part only to be organically certified by the PGS? Total area to be certified:	
A2.4	Brief description of nature of business/enterprise:	
	List the crops currently produced, as well as any other that are planned for the upcoming season.	

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	Are there any employees working on the propriety? If yes, which type of contract do they have?	

B Management

B1 History and engagement

B1.1	How long have you **owned/managed** this property?	
	When did you **begin conversion** towards 'organic' management of this property?	

	Are you already organic certified by a third-party certification body? If yes whom?	
	When was the last time that synthetic fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide were used on the property? What was applied?	
	What **sources** do you use for information, advice, and education on organics/natural farming practices?	
	What are your **long-term goals** for the organic management of the property?	
	Do you need **clarification** of the Organic Standards in any way in regard to your property or management?	
	Are there any **other income generating** or hobby activities carried out on the property by yourself or other persons that might influence the management of the farm?	

***Note for the reviewers**:*

1) *try to get a sense of whether the farmer knows the content of the standard, but without asking it directly.*

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B2 Soil fertility and cop management

	QUESTIONS	ANSWER/OBSERVATIONS	IN LINE WITH THE STANDADRS AND OR CAHRTER
B2.2	Describe the methods you use to develop and maintain **soil structure, fertility.** List here input that are applied (e.g. manure, plant stimulants, compost. Include source if those inputs are purchased. ***Note for the reviewers**: ask for the bottles of those products and have a detailed look at them (take pictures in case of doubts about acceptability of components and then follow up by asking experts, etc.).*		Yes/No/Not sure
	Describe crop **rotations practices** including fallow periods. Do you plant cover crops? Do you use a cultivation register?		Yes/No/Not sure

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	Does the farmer burn vegetation or crop residues (observe signs like burned spots on the farm)?		Yes/No/Not sure
	Describe any **erosion or other soil problems** you may have on the property and how you are managing them. Enquire about tillage practice.		Yes/No/Not sure
	Have you had any **soil tests** conducted and if so, provide particulars?		Yes/No/Not sure
	Together with the farmer dig into the soil in different fields. 1) Does it look and smell healthy? 2)Is it very compacted? 3)Are the re any worms or other signs of invertebrates?		Yes/No/Not sure

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B3 Water Use

B3.1	Name all **sources of water used** on the property for irrigation, livestock, washing crops and machinery, food processing and ingredient in processed food.		Yes/No/Not sure
	Have you had any **water tests** conducted on any of the water sources listed in above, and if so, provide particulars?		Yes/No/Not sure
	What are the methods to preserve water and limit wasting?		Yes/No/Not sure

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B4 Weeds management

B4.4	What are your biggest weed challenges?		Yes/No/Not sure
	How do you manage weed pressure?		Yes/No/Not sure
	Do you use any inputs for weed control? If yes, which ones?		Yes/No/Not sure

B5 Pests and diseases

B5.1	What are your biggest challenges in terms of pests and diseases?		Yes/No/Not sure
	How do you manage pests and diseases?		Yes/No/Not sure

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	Do you use any inputs for pests and diseases control? If yes, which ones? ***Note for the reviewers**: ask for the bottles of those products and have a detailed look at them (take pictures in case of doubts about acceptability of components and then follow up by asking experts, etc.).*		Yes/No/Not sure

B6 Buffers

B6.1	Are there any **sources of possible contamination** of your property in the neighbouring areas?		Yes/No/Not sure
	Describe what you have done to **reduce possible contamination** of your property? (i.e. buffer zones, physical barriers like tree, shrubs etc…)		Yes/No/Not sure

B7 Biodiversity Conservation

B7.1	Describe how you are **ensuring adequate biodiversity** within production areas and on the property generally.		Yes/No/Not sure
	Describe any **wild or natural areas** on your property, how these are protected and/or enhanced, and how they contribute to the overall biodiversity of your operation.		Yes/No/Not sure

B8 Seeds and seedlings

B8.1	Provide details of the **seeds and seedlings used.** How do you source them? Are you producing them yourself? Are all organic?		Yes/No/Not sure

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	Ask to see packages and/or receipts. Check if there is any risk of GMO contamination.		

B9 Value chain

B9.1	**Storage and Transportation** How is the produce stored? Is the storage area clean? Is it stored at the farm or in other location (in this case ask name and address of the storage locations)? How is it transported from the fields to the point of sale? *If the storage is at the farm, visit the facilities during the review.*		Yes/No/Not sure
	Selling strategy		Yes/No/Not sure

	How do you sell your produce: direct selling, street markets, CSA, box schemes, retailers etc… *Write down name and location of the selling points.*		
	Purchase / resale of products. Specify the nature of the products and the contact details of the supplier (s). What % of turnover does the resale represent? Do you communicate the name of the producer of the products sold not coming from the farm? Are these products from certified organic farming?		Yes/No/Not sure
	The quantities sold are coherent with the production or the purchase of raw materials? To check, proceed by selecting one final product (over a year or over a period of a year); then link all the related supplies, processing, volumes of finished products, packaging.		Yes/No/Not sure

C The current year

C1.1	List (if any) any **changes** you have made this year to the information provided in Section A and B of the previous peer review report**.**		Yes/No/Not sure
	List (if any) any **corrective actions** you have taken this year to address the improvements requested during the previous round of certification.		Yes/No/Not sure

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Summary Peer Review Report

A. Describe notable aspects of the farm operations:

Appreciation	
Need improvement	
Non compliance	
Others	

B. Based on the observations and the interview with the producer the review team recommends that the status of the producer should be:

☐ **Approved.** ☐ **Not approved**

☐ **Approved with conditions**

Explanation:_____

☐ **In conversion**

Start and end of conversion period:_____

C. List recommendations from the last farm review and indicate if they have been acted upon.

Duration of the peer review: _____

Done at:

Signatures of all member of the review team: