

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) The Process of Certification

Presented by
Deborah Brister
IFOAM Aquaculture Coordinator

I FOAM Organic Guarantee System



- Assures organic integrity internationally.
- Unites the organic world through a common system of standards, verification, and market identity.
- Fosters equivalence among participating certifiers, paving the way for more orderly and reliable trade.

IFOAM Organic Guarantee System

OGS requires compliance with two normative documents

- The IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS) for Organic Production and Processing

- The IFOAM Criteria for Programs Certifying Organic Agriculture and Processing

The IFOAM Basic Standards IBS

- First published in 1980
- Continuous review
- Adopted as basis for organic standards throughout the world.

IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS)

- A standard for standards
- Not used for certification on their own
- Provide framework for certification bodies to develop their own standards which should take into account local conditions

IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS)

Authority for IBS is the IFOAM General Assembly (GA)

GA consists of all member organizations of IFOAM

Between General Assemblies, the IFOAM Standards Committee prepares revisions

IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS)

IBS lists principle aims of organic production and processing

Principles form the basis of IBS

Principles have also been guiding principles for national regulations and international norms (ex. Codex)

IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS)

Sections of IBS:

- General Principles
- Recommendations
- Standards
- Appendices

IFOAM Basic Standards

IFOAM Basic Standards

Since 2005, the IBS has included a chapter specifically for aquaculture

IFOAM Basic Standards

IBS Aquaculture Production Standards

Include sections on:

- Conversion to Organic Aquaculture
- Aquatic Ecosystems
- Aquatic Plants
- Breeds and Breeding
- Aquatic Animal Nutrition
- Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare
- Aquatic Animal Transport and Slaughter

Must also comply with relevant general organic requirements on animal husbandry

Must meet Input Criteria

IFOAM Basic Standards

- **Input Criteria**
- **Necessary and essential to maintain quality of product**
- **Source and manufacturing process-based on natural, biological and renewable sources**
- **Environment-must be sustainable**
- **Human Health-promote human health and food safety**
- **Quality-must improve or maintain product quality**
- **-Must meet consumer perceptions and expectations without resistance**

Criteria for Inputs for Organic Aquaculture

IFOAM Criteria for Certification Programs

In 1990 IFOAM began developing criteria for organic certification bodies as part of the development of an accreditation system.

IFOAM Criteria for Certification Programmes

IFOAM Accreditation Criteria developed directly from ISO/IEC Guide 65 'General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems'.

IFOAM identified need for further elaboration because organic is certification a of a production process, not an end product.

- Structure of the certification body
- Independence and objectivity, including regulation of conflict of interest
- Confidentiality provision
- Competency of certification body personnel and of subcontracted persons
- Quality management
- Documentation control and record keeping
- The certification procedure
- Control of marks and certificates
- transparency

IFOAM Accreditation Criteria

**ISO Guide and
the IFOAM
Accreditation
Criteria deal
with several
common issues**

- Detailed criteria for the inspection process
- Provisions for unannounced inspections
- Factors for determining frequency of inspection
- Inspection during conversion period
- Inspection for genetically engineered products
- Inspection and certification of the chain of custody
- Inspection of subcontracted production
- Inspection and certification of grower groups
- Inspection and certification of wild product harvest
- Certification transference

IFOAM Accreditation Criteria

**IFOAM
Accreditation
Criteria include
additional
requirements
beyond ISO Guide
65**

OGS Revision

The IFOAM Organic Guarantee System

-currently undergoing revision mandated in 2005 General Assembly

Some objectives of revisions:

-draw a distinct line between organic and not-organic systems

-facilitate global acceptance of products certified under different systems

-work together with other existing systems including government systems

-have simple and transparent procedures

OGS Revision

The IFOAM Basic Standards

- also undergoing comprehensive revision
- needed so that the IBS can function as true “standards for standards” that clearly distinguish organic from non-organic systems
- provide flexibility for regional differences
- grow more strongly rooted in the Principles of Organic Agriculture

Draft planned for stakeholder consultation in early 2007