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## NOP news

### Latest NOP non-conformity figures

As of November 2010, the US National Organic Program (NOP) Appeals office received 2,016 adverse action/non-compliance notifications issued by accredited certifying agents. The notifications could be broken down into the following categories:

- 808 Notices of noncompliance
- 243 Notices of proposed suspension
- 91 Notices of suspension
- 10 Notices of proposed revocation
- 0 Notices of revocation
- 9 Denials of certification
- 764 Notices of resolution
- 91 Surrenders of certification

The figures provided are based on the letters received by the AMS Administrator from accredited certifying agents during October and November 2010. The figures may include letters issued prior to these months, may not include all letters issued during these months and may not include letters submitted to a state organic programme. ■

Source: NOP

For more information please see [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo)

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### NOP corrective action review to be cheaper

On 1 October 2010, the NOP Accreditation & International Activities Division took over the responsibility for conducting the Corrective Action Review as part of the (re)accreditation review and assessment cycle from the Audit, Review & Compliance Branch (ARC). A 50% reduction in the cost of the Corrective Action Reviews process is expected by the US Government, i.e. from \$5,000 per certifying agent over a five-year period.

Additionally, a new procedure has been developed that requires the NOP Regional Accreditation Managers to

be more interactive with their clients in order to address questions about assessment and to provide technical assistance.

All signs pointed towards a smooth transition as NOP has been handling corrective action reports received since 1 October 2010. ARC will continue reviewing corrective actions received prior to 1 October 2010. ■

Source: NOP

For more information see [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo)

All signs pointed towards a smooth transition.

## Put your ears to the ground

The annual compilation of statistics of organic certification world wide shows no striking revelations compared to those of earlier years. There are, though, a few things to note. For the first time, the number of IFOAM accredited certification organisations has dropped. From a high of 37 in 2008 and 2009, by the end of 2010 only 32 organisations were IFOAM accredited. The implications are even greater if we consider who has dropped out of the scheme over the last five years; many are high-profiled, large organisations working in important markets, e.g. CCOF, Soil Association and KRAV. The new organisations coming into the scheme in no way compensate in terms of importance or volume of business. There might be many reasons for this drop. For instance, it could be that IFOAM Accreditation has less and less space in the market when governments regulate; that the requirements are too high or costs too much; that the protracted on-going revision of the IFOAM system, with a change in direction or no direction at all, has made clients unsure; or perhaps simply that the added value of IFOAM accreditation is not enough to motivate the effort. It is now almost twenty years since IFOAM initiated its accreditation system with a view to making it the global system for organic guarantee. From the start it was torn between being 'good enough' and the 'gold standard', and IFOAM never really sorted that out. And from the start it was hard to make governments buy into the system, and it was made a lot harder because many prominent

organic certification bodies never joined the scheme. One can conclude that the system failed in reaching its objective.

The International Organic Accreditation Services (IOAS), the body implementing the programme, has managed to secure improved market access for their clients through becoming a recognised expert body for Canada, and gaining Australian approval and EU equivalence, as well as by offering ISO 65 accreditation. It has to be kept in mind that these are separate services, and are not part and parcel of IFOAM accreditation, but still this represents an important accomplishment of IFOAM and the IOAS itself. IFOAM is currently revising its organic guarantee system, which is long overdue, but it has failed to produce a vision for the IFOAM Accreditation that is convincing. In the new concept, it is explicitly positioned to be a differentiation tool rather than a harmonisation tool, far from its original purpose. While it may serve the interest of a few accredited certification bodies and the IOAS, it lacks any contribution to the objectives of IFOAM.

ISO 65 accreditation is increasing but still less than a third of all organic certification bodies are ISO 65 accredited. This is now mandatory under the EU system, unless the control is managed by the national government, in which case it is by default independent, reliable and credible – this

statement, however, could be disputed. TOS has repeatedly questioned the added value of accreditation, in general, and ISO 65 accreditation, in particular, in fact we are still waiting for the value of any accreditation to be demonstrated. The value to the clients and the market that is, the value for the accreditors is quite apparent.

Be that as it may, a major concern is to what limited extent the issues related to certification and accreditation are subject to public debate. Well, not only public debate, any debate. While minor changes in standards seem to engage a lot of people, the continual reshaping of the conformity assessment systems are largely left to the 'experts'. The requirements for certification and accreditation, however, has an enormous impact on the organic sector, and their effects are often more dramatic than the standards. Still, very few take the effort to question the direction of the system. Some vote with their feet and simply leave organic certification. This year, for the first time, the TOS Organic Directory includes Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), although currently there are only 25. However, many operators that leave certification do not then go over to a PGS system, they just leave certification altogether, possibly disillusioned with the organic sector in general. It is a pity that the administrators of the organic guarantee systems – be it government or private sector – are inward looking. They really should put their ears to the ground to listen for what is not yet visible but is due to come. ■

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They really should put their ears to the ground to listen for what is not yet visible but is due to come.

# The Organic Standard Annual Review

## Organic news and events published in The Organic Standard during 2010

### EU Regulation

#### *EU new labelling legislation:*

*February:* Following the competition launched in 2009 to design the new EU organic logo and the subsequent voting process opened to the public, the winning logo was announced in February. The winner was the 'star leaf'.

*March:* The Commission Regulation (EU) No. 271/2010 on the EU logo was published. It specified the general format of the new code numbers for certification bodies.

*July:* The new labelling regulation came into force on 1 July. Debates at events throughout the EU discussed the issue, especially with regard to the new obligation to state the place of farming besides the logo.

#### *Other issues:*

*January:* The EU Regulation requirement to reduce the percentage of non-organic feed for pig and poultry from 10% to 5% came into effect on 1 January. This is an interim rule that applies up to December 2011. From 1 January 2012 producers must use 100% organic feed.

Concern among the organic pig and poultry sector on how to feed their animals after 2011 led to a conference, organised by the Knowledge Centre for Agriculture in Denmark in November. The conclusion was that there is not enough organic high-value protein feed available.

*May:* The EU Regulation No. 471/2010 of 31 May 2010 includes Japan in the list of approved third countries provided for in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

*June:* The 2009 EU Commission proposal regarding a regulation for organic wine-making caused much debate. Following a Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF) meeting in June, the Agriculture Commissioner, Dacian Cioloș, withdrew the proposal. Therefore, wine continues to be unregulated in the EU, apart from national and private rules and wine bottles are not allowed to display the new EU organic logo.

*July:* The aquaculture and seaweed production implementation rules came into force on 1 July.

*September:* The EU Commission appointed 13 candidates to form the permanent group, known as the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP), and 62 for the pool group.

*November:* The EU Commission received 72 requests from certification bodies both within and outside the EU for recognition as an equivalent CB for imports into the EU. A first overview of the applications showed that only a few applicants actually submitted a complete dossier and so were possible candidates for recognition.

### US National Organic Program (NOP)

*January:* The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) became the 56th USA accredited certifying agency for NOP, and the 16th state to offer organic certification. The total number of accredited certifying agents, counting the foreign certification bodies was 100 at the beginning of the year.

#### *February:*

- After the Proposed Access to Pasture Rule was published by NOP in 2009, followed by a public consultation period and heated discussions the USDA published its Final Rule on 12 February. The purpose of the new regulation is to amend the NOP standards to clarify the use of pasture in raising organic ruminants. This Final Rule is the culmination of a process that was initiated in 2005 by NOSB.
- A 'National Organic Action Plan' (NOAP) for the USA was published. Although the initiative for the NOAP came from the private sector, the report's recommendations had a significant effect on the USDA's management of the NOP.

Later in the year, Mark Lipson, Senior Policy Analyst at the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), was appointed Organic Program Specialist at USDA to coordinate the development of the plan and to identify, monitor and evaluate organic activities across USDA agencies.

*March:* Responding to its mandate to expand activities NOP held an internal strategic planning meeting, where initial strategic goals and objectives were developed.

*April:* After several cases of composts contaminated with pesticides in 2009, the composts affected were

prohibited and NOP studied the case. It concluded that the standards do not state a zero tolerance regarding contamination in inputs or to the soil, and lifted the ban. A further case of herbicide-contaminated compost in Washington received a similar treatment by WSDA.

*October:* USDA published the first edition of the Programme Handbook designed for NOP users. Prepared by NOP the handbook provides guidance about the national organic standards and instructions that outline best practice.

*November:*

- Based on NOSB recommendations, NOP decided to remove tetracycline and oxytetracycline calcium chloride from the National List after the expiry date of 21 October 2012.
- The USDA announced that the complete listing of NOP certified operators is now available to the public.

## Equivalency News

*EU Regulation / NOP:* Discussions underway towards establishing an equivalency arrangement between the EU and the US. Meetings took place throughout the year and others are planned for 2011.

*Canada / EU Regulation:* In May and June mutual assessment visits took place, by EU Commission officials visiting the Canada Organic Office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and later on by the Canada Organic Office officials travelling to Brussels to perform a full peer review of the European competent authority. The two authorities are expected to discuss the findings of their mutual assessments and determine the final timeline for a possible equivalency.

*Canada / NOP:* The agreement achieved in 2009 was consolidated in 2010 and it is now fully functioning. In BioFach Nuremberg, in February, NOP and OTA in Canada gave a presentation on the imports agreement. In November it was agreed by both countries that the statement, 'Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement', should accompany products produced under the terms of the arrangement.

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## JANUARY

### Sweden:

- The name of the certification body, Aranea was changed to Kiwa Aranea. Aranea was bought from KRAV by Kiwa, an international certification company, in 2009.
- Swedish climate standards, produced by KRAV and other partners from outside the organic sector, were published. They cover general standards, farm requirements, plant production, greenhouses, milk production and fisheries. The first cod caught according to these standards reached the market in May as 'Climate Smart KRAV Fish'.

**The Netherlands:** Skal developed standards and certification for organic catering and restaurants.

**France:** The *Haut Conseil des Biotechnologies*, the Government's advisory council on biotechnology outlined rules for a voluntary GMO-free labelling scheme.

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## FEBRUARY

**Australia:** Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) announced a new consumer feedback programme known as the 'Organic Crusader'. The programme was launched to help regulate unscrupulous organic claims in the market. Consumers are encouraged to provide feedback and report any dubious organic claims in the market.

**India / International:** An article published in a German newspaper at the beginning of the year suggesting much of Indian organic cotton was actually GM cotton and that the two main CBs in the area were aware of the situation, was proven to be based on misconstrued and wrong interpretations of certain facts. However this led to the creation of a Consortium on Organic Cotton Integrity composed of several organisations, which met for the first time in Biofach Nuremberg.

In August, the Consortium released a guidance document on how to avoid GMO contamination in organic cotton.

**USA / UK:** Several severe sentences were passed in UK and US courts reported by TOS during 2010. Some of them resulted in a jail sentence, such as a legumes trader (US) and an eggs processor (UK), both for fraudulently selling huge amounts of products as organic. Another case involving a jail sentence in the US was reported in October, for fraudulently marketing fertiliser as suitable for organic crops.

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This led to the creation of a Consortium on Organic Cotton Integrity.

## MARCH

### International:

- The Italian certification body, CCPB, joined Quavera Alliance, an initiative of international cooperation between specialised certification bodies. Later in the year the Brazilian CB, IBD, also joined the Alliance.
- ISO/IEC 17065, which will replace ISO/IEC 65 in 2011, was reported to be in a Committee draft stage. The revision was in response to ISO recognition in the evolution of product and process certification, and in particular social and environmental standards.
- ISEAL approved the revised ISEAL Standard-setting Code, now in its fifth version.

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## APRIL

**USA / EU:** QAI, a certification body for the USA NSF/ANSI Standard 305 for Personal Care Products Containing Organic Ingredients, and the European NaTrue signed an agreement to allow companies certified under one of these standards to have the option to simultaneously acquire certification under the other standard.

**International:** IFOAM consulted its stakeholders on the new proposed Organic Guarantee System (OGS) which suggested offering different services: IFOAM Family of Standards, IFOAM Standard, IFOAM Community of Best Standards, IFOAM Accreditation and System Accreditation.

The response was positive, so later in the year the proposed OGS was accepted. The IFOAM World Board accepted the mandate to start implementation of the new system and report to the General Assembly 2011 in South Korea.

**Mexico:** On 1 April 2010, the Presidency of the Republic of Mexico issued the regulation for the Law of Organic Products; four years after the Law was published. However, the practical implementation rules for organic production had not been defined, consequently, much of the certification activities will continue to use regulations such as the NOP, the EU Regulation and/or the JAS.

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## MAY

**Canada:** After lobbying by the Canadian organic sector, the Can\$60 charge for the Organic Production Systems standards, introduced when the Canadian Organic Regime (COR) came into force on 30 June 2009, was dropped.

**Asia / International:** The Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) convened a workshop on harmonisation and equivalency. The workshop, attended by participants from 12 Asian countries, resulted in the creation of a regional working group to work on harmonisation, equivalency and cooperation, and to develop an Asian Organic Standard.

**Tunisia:** The national 'Bio-Tunisia' label was launched. The label will initially be awarded to olive oil, dates and cereals.

**India:** Celebrated ten years of its National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). It was used as a time to remember the country's leading achievements, including equivalence recognition of the NPOP by the EU

and Switzerland and recognition of its conformity assessment by the USDA. The regulation includes Grower Group certification.

Later on during the year the Indian Government approved the launching of a national organic participatory guarantee system (PGS), which was under Government patronage.

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## JUNE

**International:** On its first anniversary the GOMA Project reported on its achievements and where more work is needed to achieve its main project targets: developing the practical use of the ITF tools and supporting regional initiatives for harmonisation.

**Central America:** Inter-American Commission of Organic Agriculture (CIAO), composed of organic agriculture Competent Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean, joined efforts to develop the first regional organic standards for Central America. GOMA agreed to support the project.

**Europe:** The 'innovative Public Organic Food Procurement for Youth' (iPOPY) project, headed by the Norwegian Bioforsk Organic Food and Farming, ended. A conclusion of the project was that there is a majority opinion in favour of an EU-wide harmonised organic certification scheme for restaurants and catering.

**UK:** A restructuring process at the Soil Association – with several senior staff members being moved from their management positions into roles of policy advisors and with significant

The majority are in favour of an EU-wide harmonised organic certification scheme for restaurants and catering. ■

resignations and redundancies, both at the Soil Association, the charity, and Soil Association Certification Ltd (SACL) – culminated with the resignation of Patrick Holden, Director of the Soil Association for the last 15 years.

**Switzerland / International:** Dr Rainer Bächli, founder and Director of the Institute for Marketecology (IMO) died in a car accident on 10 June. As homage to him, TOS re-published an opinion article written by Dr Bächli for TOS in 2003 and titled 'Regulated organic agriculture system turns against farmers'. Though written seven years earlier his assessment of the situation is still applicable.

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## JULY

**Australia:** The equivalency requirements for the Australian Standard (AS 6000) were approved by the standards committee on 1 July. The countries and/or regulations currently deemed acceptable for providing equally reliable imported organic products are the USA, the EU, Switzerland Japan, Canada, Taiwan and New Zealand. Certification bodies operating in countries not included in the list can choose between being accredited by the Australian accreditation body JAS-ANZ to the Australian requirements or by IOAS to the IFOAM Basic Standard and other approved IFOAM standards (the Family of Standards).

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## AUGUST

**Latin America:** A report published in Global PGS Newsletter showed the inclusion of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) within the

legal framework of Latin American countries. Of the seventeen countries studied, twelve have PGS and in seven (Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay) PGS is included in their law or resolution.

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## SEPTEMBER

**Central Asia:** The 3rd international conference on the organic sector development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 17-18 September. By holding the conference in Kazakhstan, the organisers took the decision to support the emerging organic movement in the region.

The state of development is very variable in the different countries of the region. Only Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia have a local certification body. Moldova leads the region with regard to organic production, organisation of the sector and governmental support.

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## OCTOBER

**Indonesia:** The 2002 National Standard of Indonesia on Organic Food System (SNI 01-6279-2002) was revised, and the document number of the standard changed to SNI 6279-2010. In the new revision, it specifically states that only products certified by an accredited certification body can be labelled as organic.

**Australia/ Japan:** Australian Certified Organic (ACO) signed an agreement with Japanese Organic Cosmetic Organization (JOCO) that will allow

cosmetics products carrying the ACO 'Bud' logo to also carry the JOCO logo. JOCO established a standard for organic cosmetic products based on JAS.

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## NOVEMBER

**South Africa:** A new draft policy for the South African organic sector went out for consultation. It recommended that South Africa should urgently finalise its organic regulation, which has been in the making for almost ten years. The regulations for the local markets will be based on local conditions and will allow group certification and PGSs.

**EU:** The European Organic Certifiers Council (EOCC) launched a document reporting on an in-depth analysis of the facts and considerations from a certifiers point of view regarding the evaluation of inputs according to Annexes I and II of the Regulation 889/2008.

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## DECEMBER

### Brazil:

- A law requiring organic products sold in supermarkets and restaurants in Brazil to bear a national certification seal on their packaging came into force.
- ANC became the first organisation to be PGS Accredited by the Brazilian Government. ■

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JOCO established a standard for organic cosmetic products based on JAS.

## news shorts...

### ORGANIC FOOD TO PREVENT HUNGER AND PROMOTE HEALTH

This December, the US Congress passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which includes a \$10 million Organic Pilot Programme by OTA designed to help provide organic food choices in school nutrition programs.

Under the Organic Pilot Program, competitive grants favouring socially disadvantaged schools will be offered for schools to increase organic offerings in their meal programmes. The Organic Pilot Program is not mandatory, which means the Appropriations Committee will decide on funding for the programme.

In addition to the Organic Pilot Program, the bill includes a \$40 million Farm-to-School Program that OTA also supported. This mandatory funding will provide financial support and technical assistance in the US Department of Agriculture to increase the use of local foods from small and medium-sized farms in schools.

The federal child nutrition programmes in the US play a critical role in preventing hunger and promoting healthy diets among children from birth until the end of secondary school. ■

Source: [www.organicnewsroom.com/2010/12/organic\\_trade\\_association\\_appl\\_3.html](http://www.organicnewsroom.com/2010/12/organic_trade_association_appl_3.html)

## Certifiers rise or fall?

*The eighth edition of The Organic Certification Directory will be published in February 2011. The Directory lists all the organic certification bodies in the world. Previously, it was issued as a special edition of The Organic Standard but will now be issued separately and distributed for free to the organic world. Two of the many new features in the Directory are that it will be published online on the TOS website and also list Participatory Guarantee Systems Organisers.*

There has been modest growth in the number of certification bodies in most regions of the world, though the number has increased rapidly in some European countries. This is because some international certification bodies have started new branch offices, and as these gain approval by, for instance, the EU or local government they are counted as a new certification body by this Directory. The total in 2010 was 532, up from 489 in 2009. Most certification bodies are in the European Union, the United States, Japan, South Korea, China, Canada and Brazil. See table.

Eighty-three countries have a domestic certification body, but this does not mean that producers in the other countries are without the service of certification. Many of the listed certification bodies also operate outside their home country and there are very few countries in the world that do not have a certification body operating within its borders. Generally, certification bodies operating internationally are based in a developed country and offer their certification services in developing countries. Very few operate in several developed countries, for example, though some EU-based certification bodies are accredited to the US National Organic Program (NOP) not a single one offers its services in the United States. A

handful work on several or all the continents.

Most of Africa and large parts of Asia still lack local service providers. There are only 12 certification bodies in Africa (in Egypt, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia). Asia has 165 certification bodies, most of them based in South Korea, China, India and Japan. The Caribbean has very few certification bodies. The Pacific has certification bodies only in Australia and New Zealand, and these operate in most of the countries in the region.

### Countries with the largest no. of certification bodies

Country	2010	2009	2008
Japan	59	59	60
USA	57	55	57
South Korea	33	32	32
Germany	32	31	32
Spain	28	28	27
China P.R.	27	29	29
Canada	21	21	21
Brazil	20	20	20
Romania	18	2	3
India	17	16	13
Italy	15	16	16
UK	12	9	10
Poland	11	7	7

Since 2003 the number of certification bodies has risen sharply in Asia and Europe, increased in Latin America and has been relatively stable in Africa and the Pacific region. In the US, the introduction of the NOP initially caused a fairly drastic reduction in the number of certification bodies, after which the situation stabilised. In some countries, notably China, Japan and South Korea, the introduction of a regulation has led to a growth in the number of certification bodies. However, in Japan, the number dropped after a few years.

A significant rise of certification bodies is noted in Eastern Europe and a modest rise in Central Europe in the past year. Romania now has 18 certification bodies, up from two in 2009. Poland has increased by four, United Kingdom by three, and Germany has one new body. Denmark reformed their governmental certification system, which resulted in two new certification bodies. Africa got two new certification bodies. See graph below.

## Number of operators and farmers

Certification bodies were asked for

information about the number of operators they certify. Two hundred and thirty-one responded, representing a total of 192,272 operators. Two hundred and two certification bodies gave an answer regarding the number of farmers. They certified, in total, 1,215,519 farms, with BCS (Germany) topping the list, claiming to certify 342,000 farms. IMO's head office (Switzerland) alone reports more than 120,000 and its office in Latin America 36,000. Many of the farmers are certified in group certification for smallholders. India has the highest number of organic farms in the world. Although less than half of the certification bodies in India reported the number of certified operators the total of the figures reported was still 315,000 farmers: OneCert India and Apof Organic Certification Agency certify 100,000 farms each, USOCA certifies 51,000 farms and the Natural Organic Certification Association certify 27,000. Naturland (Germany) reports 50,000 farms, and Certimex (Mexico) nearly 30,000 farms.

It should be noted that a farm can be certified twice. For example, Naturland does not have its own

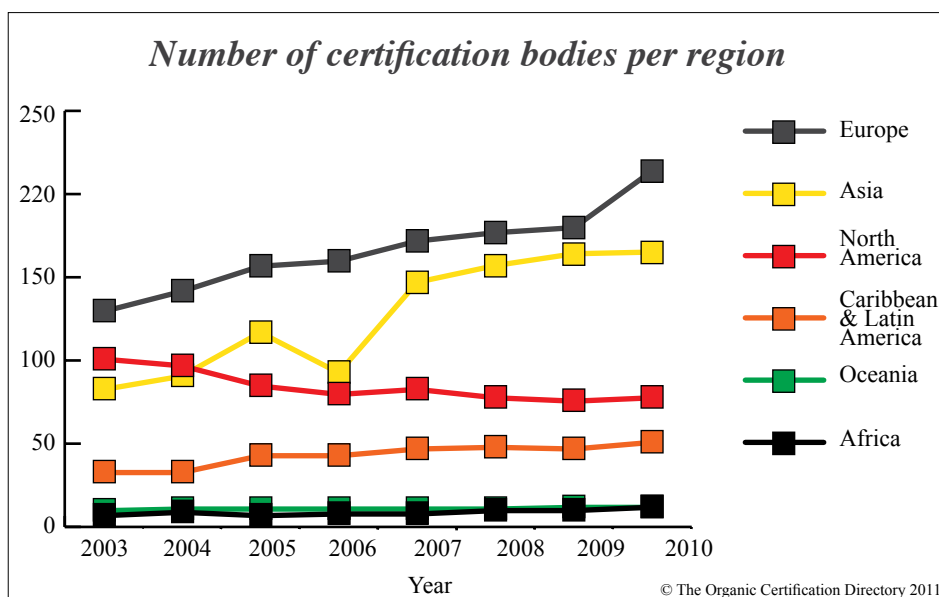
inspectors and uses other organisations, such as IMO, to inspect their farmers to Naturland standards. IMO may then certify the same farmer, e.g. for EU approval or NOP, and therefore the same farmer will be included in Naturland and IMO's figures and count as two in the statistics. Nevertheless, the worldwide number of certified farms is likely to be in the range of two million or possibly more, as information is lacking from many important countries and half the certification bodies.

## Turnover

Most organisations are still not transparent about their turnover. Only 80 organisations responded. Of these, many report figures in the range of 100,000 to 500,000. Ecocert France with a reported turnover of 8 million euros, has without question the highest figure. Other organisations reporting a turnover of 2 million or more are CCPB Ltd (Italy), Suolo e Salute s.r.l. (Italy), DIO Certification & Inspection Organization of Organic Products (Greece), BIOHELLAS SA Inspection Institute of Organic Products (Greece), Debio (Norway), ICEA (Italy), bio.inspecta AG (Switzerland), Stichting Skal (The Netherlands), Ecocert SA (International Department) (Germany) and Qualité-France SA (France). The global turnover in organic certification is clearly above 200 million euros, but could be double this or more. A turnover of 400 million euros would represent one percent of the estimated market value, or stated otherwise, 200 euros per farmer.

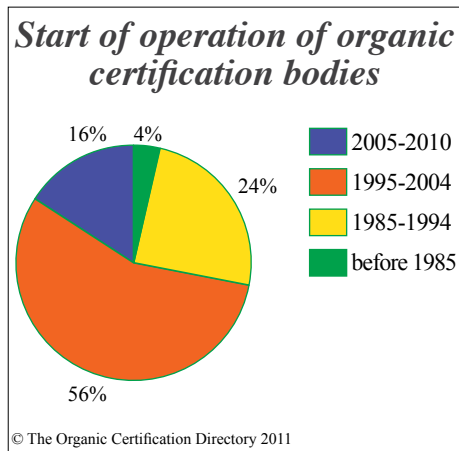
## Starting date

Of the 339 that responded to the question concerning the starting date of their organisation, only 13 started before 1985; more than half of them



# certification & accreditation

started in the decade between 1995-2004. See pie chart below.



## Approvals

Worldwide, there are five significant accreditation schemes, IFOAM, JAS, ISO 65, the EU Regulation and US NOP. Only ten organisations, four Italian and two each from Argentina, Australia and New Zealand, reported all five approvals. The EU represented the biggest increase in approval status with an increase from 182 in 2009 to 214 approved bodies in 2010. The majority of imports into the EU come through certification granted under article 11.6 (i.e., the importer's derogation).

The first African NOP approved certification body is from Egypt. ISO 65 accreditation in Africa is up by two, from 166 to 168, though this still represents less than a third of the certification bodies operating in the continent. The number of organisations approved by Japanese JAS scheme increased by one. The US system has 128 approved bodies, of which 72 are outside the United States. See graph on right.

IFOAM has lost five accredited certification bodies, four in the United States and one in Japan. These are: Minkan Inasaku Kenkyujo Ninsyo

Center from Japan, and CCOF Certification Services, OCIA International, Inc. Organic Crop Improvement Association, Organic Certifiers Inc. and Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) from the USA. See table below

## Other criteria

One hundred and twenty four certification bodies claim to have their own standard.

This year, for the first time, *The Organic Certification Directory* has listed Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), which worldwide

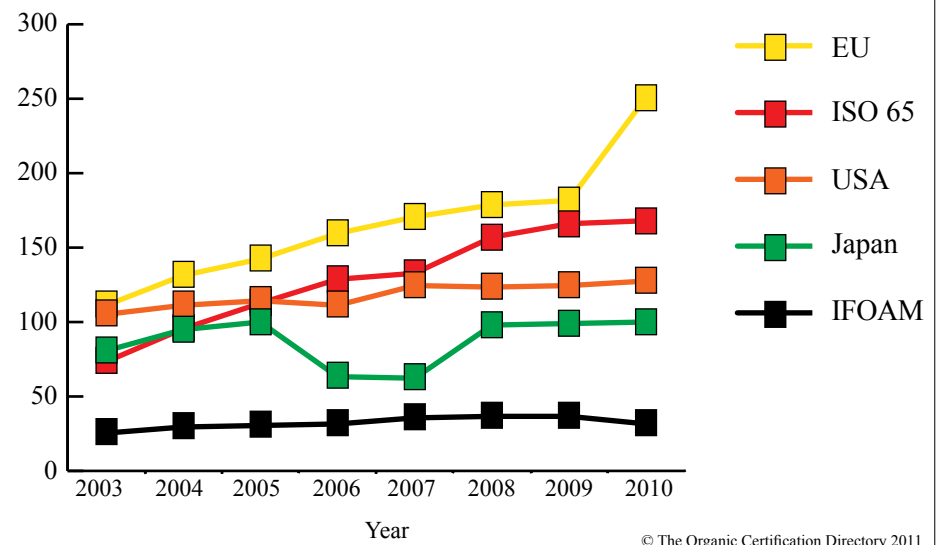
totals 25 schemes. The *Directory* has also started listing Private Labelling Organisations and companies offering organic inspection services. The three lists are not included in the statistics of approvals and certification bodies. ■

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*The Organic Certification Directory* will be published in February 2011 as a PDF and online. More information can be found on [www.organicstandard.com/directory](http://www.organicstandard.com/directory)

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## Change in approvals numbers per year in different regions



## Number of approvals per region in 2010

Region	IFOAM	Japan	ISO 65	EU	USA	Total
Africa	3		6	4	1	12
Asia	7	60	20	30	12	165
Europe	11	13	93	184	35	214
Latin America & Caribbean	6	4	18	12	10	51
North America	1	17	26	14	64	78
Pacific	4	6	5	7	6	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>532</b>

## news shorts...

### HOW TO SELL ORGANIC PRODUCTS

New research shows retailer private labels are showing the highest sales growth in the current environment. Two examples are the leading brand of organic foods in the US, which was launched by a supermarket, and in Germany, where the leading brand of organic and natural cosmetics is the private label of a pharmacy. Retailers' success with private labels is because they enable organic products to be marketed at competitive prices. In some cases, the organic products are even cheaper than conventional ones. At the same time it is in Germany where the traditional private labels for organic foods are most successful, maybe because there they have been introduced by discount retail stores, pharmacies, supermarkets as well as organic food shops.

At the same time, some manufacturer brands are becoming marginalised and are having to re-focus on specialist retailers. This includes some of the better known organic brands which in the current market are finding that being organic is not enough. Consequently, many are positioning themselves as supporters of some other value-added scheme, such as an ethical or sustainable scheme. ■

Source: *The Global Market for Organic Food & Drink (3rd Edition)*. *Organic Monitor* ([www.organicmonitor.com/r0811.htm](http://www.organicmonitor.com/r0811.htm))

## Eating out in Denmark

### *How kitchens achieve organic bronze, silver or gold*

*Denmark has a labelling programme for restaurants and caterers serving organic food. The programme offers three levels - gold, silver, bronze - of certification, depending on the percentage of organic raw materials used. At the beginning of the year the fees were removed; how has this affected uptake?*

In May 2010 the Danish Minister of Food and agriculture handed the silver label to the kitchen that serves food to the Copenhagen city hall. While making the presentation the Minister announced that both the registration and the annual fee for this scheme had been, retrospectively, withdrawn. This means that all the restaurants that have already paid certification fees will now be refunded. By removing the registration fee, the obstacle to many restaurant and caterers to serving organic food was removed.

When the Minister made his announcement in May there were 18 kitchens in Denmark working with the scheme (seven gold, seven silver and four bronze). By August, the number had almost doubled to 30 organic dining labels, and in December 2010, the total had reached to more than 50 kitchens registered with the scheme, and with many more currently working on gaining registration.

In February 2009, Denmark was the 'Country of the Year' at the Bio-Fach Fair in Germany. At that time it was announced that the Government's

goal was to have 5% of all large-scale kitchens<sup>1</sup> in Denmark (about 1,000-1,200 in total) to be registered with the scheme. Thus, despite the significant increase in registered large-scale kitchens over the last year, it is clear there is still a long way to go to meet the goal.

#### History

The rules for the Danish Organic Cuisine Label for the marketing of organic food products in large-scale kitchens, like restaurants, cafés, hospitals, schools and other catering businesses, came into force on 1 January 2009. This was the same day that large-scale kitchens were exempted from the EU Regulation.

The goal of the scheme was to be a non-bureaucratic system that would be easy to work with and would encourage restaurants, caterers and canteens to use more organic produce. It was developed by The Danish Food Administration, with consultations with HORESTA (member organisation of restaurants and hotels), Organic Denmark, International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems

The goal of the scheme was to be a non-bureaucratic system that would be easy to work. ■

## news shorts...

### NATURAL SCEPTICISM

A poll conducted by Mango Sprouts Marketing involving 1,000 natural products found many consumers on the lookout for eco-friendly claims to be sceptical about the term 'natural'. Two thirds of those questioned said they would favour a uniform standard to certify the claims.

Though organic products must adhere to strict organic standards set by the US Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) still declines to define the word 'natural' – despite the fact that its use on food packaging is rapidly increasing. This is contrary to the survey finding where 34% of the consumers surveyed were 'not very' or 'not at all' confident in current natural labelling; and 65% said they would prefer to see 'natural' products certified for both processing and ingredients.

In addition, 33% of consumers surveyed favoured the labelling certification to be conducted by an independent non-profit organisation and/or a government standard; 23% supported industry-monitored labelling; and 18% preferred retail certification. ■

Source: FoodNavigator-USA

For more information please see [www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Financial-Industry/Skepticism-about-natural-products-continues-finds-survey/?c=m49EhG1O%2FxZKowkAORj9nA%3D%3D&utm\\_source=newsletter\\_weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%2BWeekly](http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Financial-Industry/Skepticism-about-natural-products-continues-finds-survey/?c=m49EhG1O%2FxZKowkAORj9nA%3D%3D&utm_source=newsletter_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2BWeekly)

(ICROFS); kost- og ernæringforbundet (Danish Diet & Nutrition Association) and Dansk Erhverv (Danish Chamber of Commerce). The working group that was formed during the process found inspiration from existing models in the other Nordic countries.

The Organic Cuisine label is managed by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in collaboration with Organic Denmark, and the Danish National Association for Organic Food and Farming, which supplies information and advice for the project.

The rules ensure that consumers easily understand the involvement of the large-scale kitchens with organic produce. At the same time the rules support the efforts of the kitchens in using more organic raw produce.

According to the new rules, the large-scale kitchens can use one of three 'organic labels' that indicate the proportion of raw materials used that are organic. The proportion is measured by cost (in kroner) or by weight (kilos), and is given in three levels, bronze, silver and gold, defined by percentage ranges: 30-60%, 60-90% or 90-100% respectively.

For example, if the organic percentage is calculated by cost, a restaurant that has spent 100,000 kroner (13,400 euros) buying ingredients has to have spent 30,000 to 60,000 kroner (4,000-8,000 euros) on organic ingredients for the bronze level, 60,000 to 90,000 (8,000-12,000 euros) for the

silver, and 90,000 to 100,000 (12,000-13,400 euros) for the gold category.

Large-scale kitchens with the 90-100% label are, in addition, allowed to call themselves organic – e.g. 'organic restaurant'.

Before a large-scale kitchen is allowed to use one of these labels, they must send an application to the local food administration, showing that the proportion of organic raw materials used over the previous three months has been within the relevant percentage range. The kitchen is then registered as a user of the relevant label and the authorities subsequently carry out an on-site inspection in order to ensure that the conditions for using the label are fulfilled. The same authority that is in charge of the certification of organic catering is also the authority that is responsible for the control of large-scale kitchens in general.

The labels are coloured bronze, silver and gold, see below.

Since the large-scale kitchens are not covered by the EU organic Regulations, organic dishes cannot be marketed with the EU-label.

As well as displaying these labels, large-scale kitchens can proclaim their use of certain organic raw produce. For example, they can state, 'This kitchen uses only organic potatoes and carrots'. Such claims assume that the large-scale kitchen exclusively uses the organic products mentioned



The three 'organic labels' that indicate the proportion of raw materials used that are organic: bronze, silver and gold.

## news shorts...

### AQUAGAP ANNOUNCES ITS NEW STANDARD

In November 2010 AquaGAP completed their new standards and logo revision, which was its third version. No major changes were made to the content of the standards but more clarifications were provided on some of the points. The new logo can now be used on all AquaGAP certified products and will be included in all certificates issued by AquaGAP starting immediately. ■

Source: AquaGAP

For more information please see [www.aquagap.net/news.htm](http://www.aquagap.net/news.htm)



### CANADIAN STANDARDS EQUIVALENT IN TAIWAN

IOAS has previously mentioned that products certified according to CAN/CGSB 32-310 are accepted as equivalent for import into Taiwan. Contrary to suggestions that this recognition might end 31 October 2010, IOAS confirmed in November 2010 that the equivalence remains in place, and suggested that for questions on access to Taiwan please, refer to the Taiwanese Agriculture and Food Agency at [mcoa@mail.afa.gov.tw](mailto:mcoa@mail.afa.gov.tw) ■

Source: [www.ioas.org/x10-08%20Canada.pdf](http://www.ioas.org/x10-08%20Canada.pdf)

in the claim. In addition, the kitchens can say that certain dishes are organic provided the kitchen exclusively uses organic ingredients for the dish.

If over a three-month period the proportion of organically sourced ingredients falls below the stipulated minimum percentage for the category in question, the dining establishment is no longer allowed to display the label. If a manager knows that the proportion is going to change, like for instance when changing wholesalers, the authorities must be informed beforehand.

Every kitchen undergoes an internal control every three months, which is verified during the annual inspection conducted by the authorities. Records must always be precise, and it should be possible for the inspector to follow. This means that the category, which is determined by the proportion of organic ingredients, cannot be changed overnight.

### A user of the label

The canteen serving city hall in Copenhagen meets the silver criteria. The company running this canteen, Meyer Kantiner, manages more than 60 other canteens, serving around 12,000 meals a day. Five of their kitchens are currently labelled through the scheme, with 15 more to join the scheme in the near future.

A representative for Meyer Kantiner explained that the kitchen in Copenhagen could go for a higher proportion of organic ingredients if it was demanded by the clients. However, it is important to be aware that a change cannot be made quickly as suppliers have to be warned or even

changed and the whole procedure has to be planned in advance. Keeping control of the invoices, which will have to be reviewed by the inspector during an inspection, is another key issue. The clearer the invoices are, like ingredients divided into organic and non organic, the easier it is to register.

Merethe Holst, Director of Meyer Kitchen, is satisfied with the scheme as it allow her to show that the kitchen uses organic ingredients. However, she is already talking of a second version of the scheme, which would have a broader perspective on the definition of 'organic'. For example, she would like there to be a greater focus on carbon dioxide control, use of local produce, and for the scheme to take into consideration products like wild berries, fish from sustainable fisheries, etc.

### Critics have been meet

Originally, the labelling scheme required kitchens to pay a registration fee of 1,000 kroner (134.18 euros), and an annual fee of 720 kroner (96.61 euros). For some of the smaller public kitchens, which already faced a tight budget, these costs were an obstacle to joining the scheme. These fees have now gone.

Another issue that attracted criticisms at the early stages of the scheme was the process for calculating how the organic proportion was calculated. Originally it was only based on cost. However, under this criteria a restaurant serving expensive organic ham, could achieve a high score without using many other organic ingredients. In response to this

This means that the category, which is determined by the proportion of organic ingredients, cannot be changed overnight. ■

criticism, in July 2009 it was changed to allow a kitchen to choose whether to calculate the proportion of organic ingredients by weight or cost.

## Promotion of the 'organic medal'

Between June 2009 and February 2011, Organic Denmark will receive 200,000 euros from the Danish Innovation Act to promote the new label.

The project is titled, 'Information for catering units and consumers about the new Organic Cuisine label', and is sponsored by the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries under the Danish Innovation Act. One example is a document produced this September called 'feel your organic', which was distributed to large-scale kitchens through a food magazine.

## The label holders

More than 70% of all the labelled canteens with Organic Gold (90-100% organic share) are institutions or schools, and many of them have joined over the summer, after the fees were removed. Many of these stakeholders pointed out that it is possible to become a gold label holder without changing the budget. For example, one kitchen, Nyborg Gymnasium, went from 0 to 70% organic on the same budget, and so now is a 'silver' label holder.

## And how?

The individual kitchens have to do their own calculations to determine the proportion of organic produce used. They then show the paperwork, including the invoices and a list of wholesalers, to the inspector from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. The inspectors merely check that the kitchen's calculations are correct.

To make the calculations kitchens can use a spreadsheet provided by the certification system. See box. ■

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## Tools

The spreadsheet contains four pages, which include:

- An example of how the calculations can be done calculating in kroner.
- An example of how to calculate the organic percentage in kilograms.
- A blank page for the kitchen to fill in its own figures.
- A list of what raw materials cannot be included in the calculation such as water and salt, and food acquired from hunting and wild fishing.

## How to calculate the organic percentage:

The formula to calculate the proportion of organic ingredients used in cost (kroner) is:  $100\% \times C/(A-B) = \text{organic } \%$ .

When,

A: the total value of all bought-in conventional and organic raw materials.

This information is based on invoices, which should be clear and easy to follow, and include the value of organic/conventional raw material from own harvest, hunting and fishing and other non-farming produce, like bottled water, salt and non-food (like glass, candles, etc.).

B: the value of ingredients that should not be included in the calculation of the organic proportion. This means the value of raw materials from hunting and fishery and others as indicated above if they are on the invoice.

C: the value of the bought-in organic ingredients and the value of organic raw material from own harvest.

The formula to calculate the proportion of organic ingredients used by weight (kilos) is:  $100 \times B/A = \text{organic } \%$

When,

A: the total net weight of the bought-in/used raw materials, including bought-in conventional and organic raw materials as well as organic/conventional raw material from own harvest. It does not include raw material from hunting, fishing and other non-farming produce, like bottled water and salt.

B: net weight of bought-in organic raw materials and organic raw material from own harvest.

## Sources:

*www.okocater.dk*  
*Fødevarestyrelsen - vejledning om økologisk storkøkkendrift, July 2009.*  
*Robert Lind Danish Veterinary Food service.*  
*Kantinen 3/2009*  
*Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (www.fvm.dk).*

## For further information:

*www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Foedevarer/Maerkning/Okologi/Storkokkener/forside.htm*  
*www.oekologisk-spisemaerke.dk*

*To find the registered kitchens and wholesalers with the organic labels in Denmark: Bekendtgørelsen/legislation (only in Danish) see www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=122702*

## news shorts...

### FIRST FOREIGN CB TO GET SOUTH KOREAN ACCREDITATION

Australian Certified Organic (ACO) has become the first international certification body to gain accreditation to the South Korean organic standard following the negotiation of a landmark deal.

ACO, a subsidiary of Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA), is now the first certification body outside of South Korea to hold accreditation for both raw and processed food certification.

The accreditation means ACO can provide organic certification in accordance with the Korean regulations administered by the South Korean Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MFAFF). ■

### TWO MORE NATIONAL ACCREDITATIONS FOR ECOCERT

In December 2010, Ecocert announced its accreditation for the national organic regulations of Saudi Arabia and Brazil (under Ecocert Brasil). Both countries require certification of organic products to be conducted by locally accredited certification bodies. In Saudi Arabia the law is under the Standard & Control of Organic Farming Activity and in Brazil under the new Brazilian law no. 10.831/03 that will be enforced from 1 January 2011. ■

Source: Ecocert

For more information please see [www.ecocert.de](http://www.ecocert.de)

## Can genetically engineered and organic crops coexist?

Two agricultural economists at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Catherine Greene and Katherine Smith, have recently published an article titled 'Can Genetically Engineered and Organic Crops Coexist?' – and USDA is trying hard to find a positive answer to this question. The article points out that in the US organic and non-GMO producers bear all the risks and costs of coexistence, unlike the EU, where 'mandatory labels for GE products shift some of the cost of coexistence to GE product processors and sellers'. The article also suggests that 'widespread use of genetically modified crops may also play a significant role in dampening the adoption of organic farming systems'.

The latest controversy has to do with how alfalfa (lucerne) genetically engineered to withstand applications of Monsanto's herbicide Roundup or glyphosate is regulated. In December USDA released its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Monsanto's Roundup Ready Alfalfa, in which it considered three alternatives: to maintain the GMO alfalfa's status as a regulated article, to deregulate it, or to deregulate it with geographic restrictions and isolation distances for the production of GMO alfalfa. USDA appears to be favouring the latter two options and this is causing real concern among US organic farmers. Alfalfa is pollinated by bees and they fear that if GMO alfalfa is deregulated organic forage crops will be compromised. A final decision on the question is expected in mid-January, following public comment, in time for producers to decide about planting the engineered alfalfa.

Shortly after release of the EIS, USDA hosted a meeting with representatives of the biotech industry, conventional and organic farmers, consumers and the organic industry to discuss the potential for coexistence. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, expressed that the USDA is 'equally committed to finding solutions that support not only the developers and users of biotechnology products, but [also] growers who rely on purity in the non-genetically engineered seed supply'. Conventional farm groups are not happy with this new interest shown by USDA to accommodate the needs of organic and non-GMO producers, while organic producers are sceptical about the feasibility of measures being suggested to protect their crops from contamination. Resolution of this problem will not be easy, and much is at stake. ■

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Article 'Can Genetically Engineered and Organic Crops Coexist?' available on [www.choicesmagazine.org/magazine/article.php?article=131](http://www.choicesmagazine.org/magazine/article.php?article=131)

Link to USDA-APHIS documents related to GMO alfalfa EIS: [www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/alfalfa\\_documents.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/alfalfa_documents.shtml)

Alfalfa is pollinated by bees and they fear that if GMO alfalfa is deregulated organic forage crops will be compromised.

## BioGro adopts a ‘one for all’ inputs approval system

New Zealand certification body, BioGro will be introducing a new system for approving input products and will be replacing the old form with a new one called ‘Organic Management Plan Inputs’. These changes are taking place as part of BioGro’s ‘Organic Management Plan’ (OMP). The new form is to be used for horticulture, cropping and viticulture. Certified operators will be required to list all products

intended for use, both permitted or restricted. This change is based on export market regulations that require BioGro to approve all inputs and not just the restricted inputs only. Operators are required to show justification on the use of restricted materials or BioGro will set the conditions for use of the input products. The application received will be checked and notification will be emailed back to the operator within two working days.

Organic market standards have somewhat different requirements in terms of what inputs are allowed. BioGro input approval will meet the requirements of all the main organic markets worldwide in order to prevent confusion over which inputs are allowed in which specific market. This will avoid the risk of jeopardising the access of products into any particular market. BioGro’s approach is to only certify inputs that have met the requirements of all the markets it provides certification for. ■

Source: BioGro

For more information please see [www.bio-gro.co.nz/content/files/BioNews\\_Oct-Nov\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bio-gro.co.nz/content/files/BioNews_Oct-Nov_2010.pdf)

## Agroecology Family Farming *A proposal from the Andean Community*

In 2010 a project called ‘Agroecology Family Farming’ (with the acronym – in Spanish – of AFAC) was launched in Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The project, conducted with the support of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for development (AECID) and the Andean Community (CAN), was set up to investigate the current situation regarding family farms in the region. It includes activities such as identifying relevant actors, the general characterisation of family farming and organising national workshops. One workshop, which received feedback about agroecology in family farming, took place on 11–12 November 2010.

Participants at the Andean workshop were from the public sector, small farmers associations and NGOs, and represented all the participating countries. In addition, the workshop included international speakers, such

as Roberto Ugás, IFOAM’s Vice President, and Laércio Meirelles, Red Ecovida’s member and founder. Topics discussed at the workshop included the studies conducted in each of the participating countries and their proposals to establish and develop a programme for agroecology family farming.

Roberto Ugás explained the worldwide importance of family farming. He also said that it is the first time a multilateral organisation like CAN has invested resources from international cooperation to investigate the agroecology of family farming in the Andean region. He continued that the project also seeks to establish a full programme of support for this type of agriculture and to establish a network at the Andean level. Mr Ugás emphasised

that organic products require differentiated policies, control mechanisms and promotion, especially as the majority are produced by small organic family farmers.

At the end of the workshop, delegates defined the main policies of the Andean programme, which are to support the identification, development and diffusion of agroecology family farming. This means that these policies will be the basis for the development of future public policies in Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. ■

Source: Press Releases from CAN  
[www.comunidadandina.org/prensa/notas/](http://www.comunidadandina.org/prensa/notas/)



# Women's vision in agricultural certification

## 'Con Manos de Mujer'

Since early 2007, the Guatemalan certifier Mayacert has worked towards highlighting the role of women among the small coffee producers in the region of Huehuetenango (Guatemala). Working with the women's group, the Association of Integral Development of Chimiche (ADIFECH), Mayacert launched a diagnosis, validation and systematisation assessment tool, called 'Women's Coffee Certification'. The first audit and certification under this scheme was conducted in 2008 on ADIFECH / ACODIHUE. Today, the certification scheme has evolved and it is now known as 'Women's Hands' (Con Manos de Mujer) and applies to other products in addition to coffee.

Women's Hands is a certification scheme that promotes the improvement of social, economic, environ-

mental and production quality of its beneficiary women. In addition, it aims to improve conditions and the relationships between all those involved in the supply chain. The scheme is based on several different organic standards, as well as other standards such as fairtrade and the Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C). This later scheme is included because, like the Women's Hands scheme, 4C was originally developed as a rule for coffee growing.

Currently the Women's Hands scheme is based on four principles, 21 criteria and 165 indicators for determining the level of compliance of the farm and/or association of women producers. The principles are:

1. Production quality.
2. Social responsibility.
3. Environmental responsibility.
4. Economic responsibility.

In summary, products are grown according to certain criteria, focusing on environmental aspects, and with limitations on the use of external inputs. Quality control of the production focuses on the minimum quality criteria to be taken with the product during harvest, post-harvest and delivery, that is the steps where correct handling is essential to preserve the product quality. The scheme also seeks to ensure a safe working environment (international conventions developed by the ILO's conventions 87, 98, 100, 111) for which the health and safety, hygiene and cleanliness and workers' rights are part of social responsibility.

With regard to environmental responsibility, farms are required to make an environmental impact assessment in areas such as wildlife protection, energy efficiency, water protection, soil management and proper use of external inputs. The farms must then establish an action plan. Traceability and the use of records are part of the criteria evaluated under economic responsibility. All these criteria are verified by Mayacert and its auditors.

Until now, this certification scheme has been directly and exclusively managed by Mayacert. Responding to the visualised needs of rural women, especially in Guatemala, 'Women's Hands' is a certification scheme that has taken its first steps, and it clearly has very promising prospects. ■

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Logo for  
Women's Coffee  
Certification  
scheme

## partnership ...

### GOMA and TOS partnership

The Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) project's newsletter and TOS are media partners. The aim of this arrangement is to create a synergy and expand the scope of the information dissemination on issues of common interest such as harmonisation and equivalency of organic standards and regulations. Notwithstanding the agreement, TOS will report objectively about the GOMA project and may or may not express its support for efforts by GOMA.

GOMA is a joint project between FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD.

More information about GOMA can be found at: [www.goma-organic.org](http://www.goma-organic.org)

## news shorts...

### TIME FOR ORGANIC COSMETIC REGULATIONS IN TAIWAN?

After implementation of an organic regulation in Taiwan, the Consumer Foundation (CF) is demanding a clamp down on organic cosmetic claims. Tests conducted on make-up products sold by eight cosmetic companies in the country were reported by a local newspaper. They purportedly revealed that the products tested are not fully organic.

The newspaper also reported that five of the companies are marketing products as organic without any valid organic certificates. Many of the ingredients are written in scientific English that is not understood by many Taiwanese consumers. The foundation is concerned that such labelling may lead consumers to believe formulations are 100% organic products when they are not.

A successful demand will lead to significant changes in the way organic personal care is regulated and labelled. Also setting a precedent for organic regulations in Asian countries. ■

*Source: Organic Monitor*

*For more information please see [www.organicmonitor.com/asia.htm#1](http://www.organicmonitor.com/asia.htm#1)*

## NOSB apiculture standard recommendations updated

In November 2009 the US Accredited Certifiers Association Apiculture Working Group submitted a proposal to the US National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The proposal, which was an update of the NOSB's 2001 apiculture recommendation, was considered in the latest NOSB meeting. Its purpose is to harmonise certain US apiculture standards with those of the EU and Canada. Aspects discussed in the proposal include forage zone, surveillance zone and transition period. Detailed apiculture standards voted by NOSB members included the following:

- The forage zone of a 1.8 mile radius (3 km), in addition to a surrounding surveillance zone or land area of a 2.2 mile radius (3.4 km).
- The surveillance zone would exclude crops produced using exclud-

ed methods.

- The forage zone should be organically managed (either as crops or wild harvest), but NOSB recognises that bees may occasionally forage on non-organic land in the surveillance zone.
- The Organic System Plan should demonstrate that sufficient organic forage is available with the forage zone throughout the year and the crops in surveillance offer minimal risk to organic integrity. ■

*The complete recommendation for organic apiculture standards is available online at [www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBFinalRecommendations](http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBFinalRecommendations)*

*For more information please see [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo)*

*Source: NOP*

## More on tracking organic imports/exports

On 13 October 2010 the inter-agency 484(f) Committee for Statistical Annotation of Tariff Schedules established 20 imports and 23 exports codes for selected organic products mostly from the horticultural category. The new codes came into effect on 1 January 2011 and will be published in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the US on the US International Trade Commission's website. The step is another interest shared by the US and Canada in order to track import and export of organic products from both countries.

According to the Foreign Agricultural Service office in Ottawa, it is estimated that nearly 70% of Canada's organic consumption comes from imports, and 90% of those imports come from the United States. Organic produce and processed foods are estimated to make up the majority of US organic products exported to Canada. ■

### **For more information:**

*[www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088254&acct=nopgeninfo)  
TOS115: 'US to Track Organic Imports and Exports'.*

## No more potassium permanganate in the EU

The Directive 91/414/EEC regulates the placing of plant protection products on the market. This Directive is periodically reviewed and new products are included in its Annex 1 and others are excluded, which means that their use becomes prohibited in Europe.

In a revision undertaken in 2008 (Decision 2008/768/EC), potassium permanganate and the fungus *Beauveria brongniartii*, used in biological control were excluded from Annex 1. According to the Commission Decision, the reason was that: 'The sole notifiers for *Beauveria brongniartii*

and potassium permanganate informed the Commission on 5 September 2007 and 22 February 2008 respectively, that they no longer wished to participate in the programme of work for these active substances, and therefore further information will not be submitted'.

The grace period provided after this decision expired on 31 March 2010, therefore these products cannot be used in the EU anymore, nor in

conventional nor in organic farming. However, potassium permanganate is still listed in Annex II of the Regulation CE 889/2008, as a 'Fungicide and bactericide; only in fruit trees, olive trees and vines'.

Potassium permanganate is not permitted in NOP, and therefore was one of the outstanding differences regarding permitted inputs between NOP and the EU Regulation. This prohibition now sorts out a common cause of non-conformity with NOP standards among European growers when they wanted to get NOP certification to sell their products in the USA. ■

This prohibition sorts out a cause of non-conformity with NOP standards among European growers. ■

## Revision of US National List

The US Federal Register published on 13 December 2010 (Volume 75, No. 238) added new substances to be included in the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List). The table shows the specific requirements on the use of the substances.

The amendment removes the listing for glycerine oleate (glycerol monooleate). The use exemption for this substance as a synthetic inert ingredient in organic crop production expired on 31 December 2006. ■

Source: NOP

For more information see [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELP RDC5088166](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELP RDC5088166)

Reference	Substances added
§ 205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production	<b>Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate</b> (CAS #-15630-89-4) Use of this substance in food crop production is restricted to approved food uses identified on the product label
	<b>Aqueous potassium silicate</b> (CAS #-1312-76-1) Silica used in the manufacture of potassium silicate, must be sourced from naturally occurring sand.
§ 205.605 Nonagricultural (non organic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labelled as 'organic' or 'made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))'.	<b>Gellan gum</b> (CAS # 71010-52-1) Only in high-acyl form.
	Fortified cooking wines. (1) <b>Marsala</b> (2) <b>Sherry</b>
	<b>Tragacanth gum</b> (CAS #-9000-65-1)

# did you know?

## The seed owners

According to Context Network, the proprietary seed market (that is, brand name seed subject to exclusive monopoly – i.e., intellectual property), now accounts

for 82% of the commercial seed market worldwide. The top ten seed companies have 67% of the market, and a combined turnover of US\$347 million. ■

Monsanto (US).....	\$4,964m .....	23%
DuPont (US).....	\$3,300m .....	15%
Syngenta (Switzerland).....	\$2,018m .....	9%
Groupe Limagrain (France) .....	\$1,226m .....	6%
Land o' Lakes (US).....	\$917m .....	4%
KWS AG (Germany).....	\$702m .....	3%
Bayer Crop Science (Germany) .....	\$524m .....	2%
Sakata (Japan).....	\$396m .....	<2%
DLF-Trifolium (Denmark).....	\$391m .....	<2%
Takii (Japan): .....	\$347m .....	<2%

Source: [www.etcgroup.org/upload/.../707/.../etc\\_won\\_report\\_final\\_color.pdf](http://www.etcgroup.org/upload/.../707/.../etc_won_report_final_color.pdf)

## Crazy regulations

We all know how being small can be hard in an increasingly standardised and certified world. The Danish organic journal, *Oekologi & Erhverv*, reported on the challenges for Mette Meldgaard (a former IFOAM Board member) in her small-scale fruit processing operation on her own farm. She almost had to close down the operation because she did not want to invest some 5,000 euros in a toilet for the employee. As

she herself is the only employee she claimed that it should be enough with the toilet she already has in her house at the same location. She eventually got a derogation. Her next fight is about having to build a separate dry storage area for the two bags of sugar she normally has in storage. ■

*Gunnar Rundgren  
Gunnar@grolink.se*

Source: *Oekologi & Erhverv*

### subscriptions ...

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Organisations that have several people who want to read the journal are encouraged to contact us for a group rate.

## THE ORGANIC STANDARD ■

[www.organicstandard.com](http://www.organicstandard.com)  
ISSN No. 1650-6057

is owned and published by Grolink AB

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