

The IFOAM FAMILY of STANDARDS Why and how to apply.

The IFOAM Family of Standards draws the line between organic and non-organic standards. The Family contains all standards officially endorsed as organic by the Organic Movement, based on their equivalence with the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards. The Family contains both private standards and government regulations.



That's Organic - Worldwide.



GLOBAL



IFOAM Standard

International Standard for Forest Garden Products (FGP)



AFRICA

Tunisia Organic Regulation
East African Organic Products Standard
Siyavuna Organic Standards, South Africa
Uganda Organic Standard, Uganda
Zimbabwe Standard for Organic Farming, Zimbabwe



ASIA

Asian Regional Organic Standard
Saudi Arabia Organic Regulation
China Organic Regulation
India Organic Regulation
Israel Organic Regulation
Japan Organic Regulation



OCEANIA



National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce, Australia

New Zealand Organic Export Regulation
Pacific Organic Standard, Pacific Community
Australian Certified Organic Standard, Australia
NASAA Organic Standard, Australia



EUROPE

EU Organic Regulation
Switzerland Organic Regulation
Turkey Organic Regulation



Bio Suisse Standards, Switzerland

Biocyclic Standards, Cyprus
Nature & Progrès Standards, France
The EcoWellness Standard, Germany
CCPB Global Standard, Italy
Krav Standards, Sweden



THE AMERICAS

Argentina Organic Regulation
Canada Organic Regulation
Costa Rica Organic Regulation
USA Organic Regulation

Argencert Organic Standard, Argentina
Letis IFOAM Accredited Standard, Argentina
OIA Organic Standards, Argentina
Bolicert Private Standards, Bolivia
IBD Organic Guidelines, Brazil
DOAM Organic Standards, Dominica
Red Mexicana de Tianguis y Mercados Orgánicos' Standard, Mexico
CCOF International Standard, USA
Farm Verified Organic Requirements Manual, USA
NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care, USA

THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS

contains all standards officially endorsed as organic by the Organic Movement, based on their equivalence with the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards. Both private standards and government regulations are admissible.

www.ifoam.bio/ogs

10 REASONS to apply for the IFOAM FAMILY *of* STANDARDS, including tangible benefits.

UPON APPLICATION TO THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

1

GET A THOROUGH, INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF YOUR STANDARD.



Upon applying to the Family, you will have your standard assessed in detail by IFOAM - Organics International experts against the COROS (Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards), an international norm approved by IFOAM - Organics International, FAO and UNCTAD. This assessment will enable you to see potential areas of improvement and serves as an input for possible standard revision.

2

MAKE YOUR STANDARD - & ORGANIZATION - MORE VISIBLE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.



The IFOAM Family of standards acts as THE global directory of organic standards. It is prominently displayed at the IFOAM - Organics International booth at all major trade fairs (e.g. BioFach), conferences and events, and on the IFOAM - Organics International website. As soon as you apply to the Family, your standard will be listed (initially as an applicant) in the Family Frame.

3

BE PART OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF ORGANIC STANDARD SETTERS.



Organic standard setting requires technical expertise as well as political sensitivity. In the IFOAM Family of Standards you are linked to IFOAM - Organics International experts and the many other organic standard setters across the world, allowing you to share your expertise and benefit from that of others.

4

CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF IFOAM - ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL TO HELP HARMONIZE AND IMPROVE ORGANIC STANDARDS WORLDWIDE.



The IFOAM Family of Standards is the most powerful tool through which IFOAM - Organics International promotes harmonization (whenever possible) and the improvement of all organic standards globally. There is a large potential for progress in both these areas. By joining the Family of Standards, you bring your direct and indirect support for this work.



**GET TO KNOW
THE COROS AND
PARTICIPATE IN ITS
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.**



The COROS has become the most important international reference norm for evaluating organic standards. The assessment process of the Family of Standards will enable you to grasp exactly how the COROS tool works in its approach and in its details. This will increase your ability to influence the future development of the COROS norm. It is also an indispensable step if you aim to use the COROS yourself in the future to assess other standards or for other purposes.

ONCE YOUR STANDARD HAS BEEN APPROVED IN THE FAMILY OF STANDARDS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:



**GAIN CREDIBILITY
THROUGH OFFICIAL
ENDORSEMENT OF
YOUR STANDARD.**



This is the core function of the Family of Standards. It contains all standards officially endorsed as equivalent to the COROS (and therefore as truly organic) by IFOAM - Organics International. This is the international credibility criteria for organic standards. You can communicate this official approval to your clients, partners, authorities, etc. through the use of a specific logo which comes with the approval.



**EFFICIENTLY
COMMUNICATE
THE STRENGTHS OF
YOUR STANDARD.**



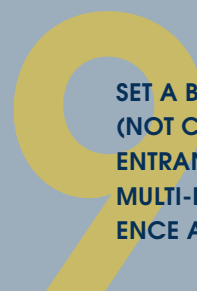
Is your standard stricter than average? Is your standard especially innovative in particular areas? The assessment against the COROS will reveal these strengths and, with your consent, the conclusions of the assessment will be published through the Family Frame. This will give other stakeholders in the organic movement, as well as interested buyers, consumers and journalists, a quick and independent overview of the added value of your standard.



**ACCESS OTHER OGS
SERVICES THAT ARE
CONTINGENT UPON
FAMILY APPROVAL.**



the IFOAM Family of Standards is the centerpiece of the new IFOAM Organic Guarantee System (OGS). This means that to access other services of the OGS, such as accreditation, you first need to have your standard approved in the Family.



**SET A BASIS FOR POSSIBLE
(NOT COMPULSORY)
ENTRANCE INTO BI- OR
MULTI-LATERAL EQUIVAL-
ENCE AGREEMENTS.**



As a government, or even private standard owner, you may be thinking of signing agreements with other governments or standard owners to recognize each others' standards as equivalent. A solution which is increasingly being considered is to have approval in the Family of Standards a precondition to enter into such agreements so as to guarantee a minimum acceptable level for all equivalent standards (i.e. achieving COROS equivalence).

10

ADD VALUE TO
YOUR STANDARD BY
ACHIEVING INCREASED
MARKET ACCESS FOR
YOUR CLIENTS.

Certain countries already recognize the Family of Standards as a basis for equivalence of foreign standards. This means, once your standard is approved in the Family, it is automatically approved as equivalent by these countries and your clients can get market access using your standard. IFOAM - Organics International is negotiating with further countries, and in the future this approach will become increasingly widespread. The Family of Standards promotes the concept that one standard is enough to access several markets. Reputable organic fairs and other private programs are also increasingly looking at certification against a Family-approved standard as a criterion for product acceptance. The list of all public and private programs that require certification to a standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards is available at: www.ifoam.bio/en/ifoam-family-standards.

PROGRAMS RECOGNIZING THE IFOAM FAMILY OF STANDARDS AS THE CRITERION FOR ACCEPTING A STANDARD AS ORGANIC

PRIVATE PROGRAMS

- BioFach Exhibitor/Product acceptance requirements
- EcoWellness labelling program
- Australian Certified Organic: Standard ingredient and product approval program
- Global Organic Textile Standard requirements for organic fibres
- Middle East Natural & Organic Product Expo's technical criteria for organic products
- NATRUE Label: organic raw materials requirements

PRIVATE-PUBLIC LABELING PROGRAMS

- East African Organic Mark license requirements

GOVERNMENT IMPORT REGULATION PROGRAMS

- Australia's requirements for imported organic or biodynamic products and ingredients
- Saudi Arabian procedures and conditions for importing organic products

Family Benefits Plan 1 July 22, 2014

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Who can apply

All organic standards that can be used for certification or other forms of verification are eligible to apply for the IFOAM Family of Standards, if they are final (not draft) documents that can be made public. Approval depends on the results of an equivalence assessment using the COROS.

All organic owners that are currently developing or revising organic standards or regulations can also request assistance from IFOAM - Organics International on how to bring their standard in line with the COROS. This is a separate service (not part of the formal IFOAM Family application process).

How to apply

If you are a private standard owner, download the Family of Standards application form from the IFOAM - Organics International website (www.ifoam.bio/ogs). Submit a completed application form, along with an English, French or Spanish version of your standard, to ogs@ifoam.bio. The Family of Standards is a service subject to fees (for private standards). If you would like a government regulation to be considered for the IFOAM Family of Standards, please contact us directly.