IFOAM PGS Recognition – Instructions for Applicants

IFOAM – Organics International runs an international recognition program for functional PGS initiatives whose operations are based on organic principles.
PGS initiatives recognized through this program gain international visibility and credibility. We encourage those PGS initiatives that are fully operational[1], well established and grounded to submit an application for IFOAM PGS recognition.

In order to apply, the PGS should become an affiliate of IFOAM – Organics International. The adoption of an organic Standard, which is part of the IFOAM Family of Standards[2] is another condition.

PGS initiatives that apply for official IFOAM recognition and the use of the IFOAM PGS logo will undergo a quality evaluation, as follows:

1. The applicant PGS will be invited to submit the PGS Self-Evaluation form (SEF) and all relevant documents (e.g.: their standard, their manual of procedures, brochures, examples of pledges, examples of forms and adapted standards, etc.) supporting the application.

2. The IFOAM PGS Coordinator and the PGS Committee member of the continent where the initiative is from will communicate with the applicant PGS, to collect more detailed information. This includes providing two references (contacts) of external referees who are familiar with the PGS initiative and its activities, and who are able to provide their endorsement for the evaluation.

3. Together, the IFOAM PGS Coordinator, and the PGS Committee member of the continent where the initiative is from, will identify whether the applicant PGS is indeed a truly organic initiative and fulfills the characteristics of PGS as set on the SEF (especially the "IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS", which are the basic criteria for evaluation).

4. They will then write a joint report (including a summary) of their analysis, which will be discussed by the IFOAM PGS Committee.

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[1] A PGS initiative, which is functional and has put into place and tested all the necessary procedures to manage the certification system. To be considered a functional PGS initiative, it is required at the very minimum that the first farmers went through the conversion period and completed the process to obtain certification.

[2] In case you standard is not included in the Family, you can apply for to include it. To know more visit the webpage: http://www.ifoam.bio/en/how-apply-ifoam-family-standards

5. The IFOAM PGS Committee as a whole decides on the official recognition of the PGS initiative by consensus.

- ➔ If the decision is POSITIVE: the PGS initiative will receive the communication from the IFOAM PGS Coordinator, together with the access to the IFOAM PGS logo.

- ➔ If the decision is NEGATIVE: the PGS Coordinator will inform the applicant PGS of the conclusions and recommendations from the IFOAM PGS Committee. The applicant PGS will then be able to comment, follow the recommendations and request a review of the decision by Committee, after the issues have been addressed.

Finally, once PGS initiatives have obtained IFOAM official recognition, they must provide an updated version of their SEF every five years and when a revised SEF is published. A new evaluation of the initiative by the PGS Committee will take place in case substantial adaptations were made in the SEF or when the PGS initiative adopts major changes to its system. In case serious doubts about the continued functionality of the PGS arise, the PGS Coordinator or a PGS Committee member may propose a re-evaluation of the initiative at any time.