

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.



OCEANIA



IFOAM Standard

International Standard for Forest Garden Products (FGP)



AFRICA

Tunisia Organic Regulation
East African Organic Products Standard
 Afrisco Organic Standards, South Africa
 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

Korea Organic Regulation

OFDC Organic Certification Standard, China
 Sunshine Earth Organic Standard, China
 HKORC Organic Standard, Hong Kong
 Biocert India Standards, India
 Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association Organic Standard, Japan
 MASIPAG Organic Standards, The Philippines
 CONU Organic Standard, South Korea
 DCOK, LLC International Standards, South Korea
 GOAA International Standards, South Korea
 ACT Basic Standard, Thailand
 Vietnam PGS Standards, Vietnam



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

AssureQuality Organic Standard, New Zealand
 BioGro Organic Standards, New Zealand



EUROPE

EU Organic Regulation
Switzerland Organic Regulation
Turkey Organic Regulation



Bio Suisse Standards, Switzerland

Biocyclic Standards, Cyprus
 Nature & Progrès Standards, France
 Gäa Private Standards, Germany
 The EcoWellness Standard, Germany
 CCPB Global Standard, Italy
 Italian Organic 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 experts against the COROS (Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards), an international norm approved by IFOAM, 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 booth at all major trade fairs (e.g. BioFach), conferences and events, and on the IFOAM 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 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
IFOAM'S WORK TO
HELP HARMONIZE AND
IMPROVE ORGANIC
STANDARDS WORLDWIDE.**



The IFOAM Family of Standards is the most powerful tool through which IFOAM 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
IFOAM 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. 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.**



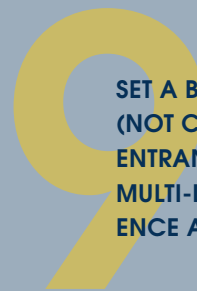
Is your standard stricter than average? Is your standard especially innovative in particular areas? The assessment against the COROS will reveal these strengths and, with your consent, the conclusions of the assessment will be published through the Family Frame. This will give other stakeholders in the 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 EQUIVA-
LENCE AGREEMENTS.**

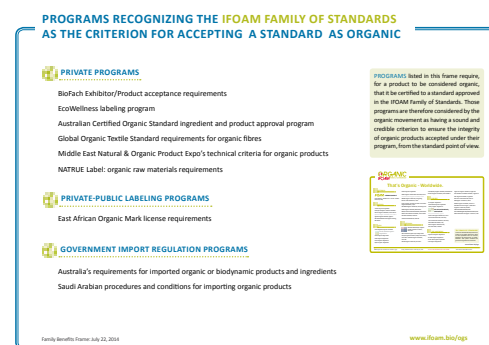


As a government, or even private standard owner, you may be thinking of signing agreements with other governments or standard owners to recognize each others' standards as equivalent. A solution which is increasingly being considered is to have approval in the Family of Standards a precondition to enter 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 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.



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 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 website (www.ifoam.org/ogs). Submit a completed application form, along with an English, French or Spanish version of your standard, to ogs@ifoam.org. 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.