Membership Vote on the IFOAM Standard

Final approval vote of the IFOAM Standard Version 1.0

Electronic Membership Vote
Voting Closes on August 5, 2012
Dear IFOAM Members,

The IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing is intended as a new element of the IFOAM Norms that will replace the IFOAM Basic Standards. The IFOAM Standard is an internationally applicable organic standard that can be used directly for certification. It has been developed in the last 2 years, through the work of our Organic Guarantee System team, Standard Committee and World Board. The membership contributed to it through the consultation period (early 2011), the motion making process (end 2011), and the recent vote on the final motion.

You approved the motion on organic plant breeding methods unanimously (3% abstention) with 14% participation. This marks the end of the development process of this first version of the IFOAM Standard. This marks the end of the development process of this first version of the IFOAM Standard. We are therefore pleased to submit the product of this process to you for final approval vote. This version incorporates motions resolved through the motion reconciliation process and this last motion approved through membership vote.

This standard is a good organic standard, developed through a good and participatory process. We are confident that it achieves the mandate which the World Board had defined for it: meet the IFOAM Standards Requirements, be internationally applicable, be relevant to our IFOAM Accreditation Program, and be able to obtain equivalence with the EU regulation. This version is a good first version, but not the last version. Further developments and improvements, such as those demanded by the IFOAM membership during the 2011 General Assembly, are already on the work plan of our Standard Committee for the next few years, in view to prepare for the next revision round of this standard.

The World Board invites you to participate in this electronic vote until August 5, 2012 and recommends that you support the approval by voting “yes”.

Andre Leu, President

Markus Arbenz, Executive Director
The World Board’s Motion

With this membership vote, the World Board proposes to approve the IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing Version 1.0 as the new section in the IFOAM Norms for Organic Production and Processing, in replacement of the former IFOAM Basic Standards.
Why this electronic membership vote?
IFOAM Policy 20 foresees that all IFOAM Norms are decided by the IFOAM General Assembly. This is nowadays done by e-vote, which provides all members the opportunity to vote. In this case, the vote is not only about a change in an existing norm, but about the approval or rejection of a new norm in replacement of an existing norm.

The IFOAM Standard
The IFOAM Standard is one component of the new IFOAM Organic Guarantee System voted upon by the IFOAM membership in 2010. The IFOAM Standard is a service to assist the organic world by providing a convenient good practice off-the-shelf standard which can be used by those who do not want to spend resources on developing their own standard and who want to use a widely accepted standard that is endorsed by the global organic movement. Those using the standard, as well as other stakeholders, will have an opportunity to participate in its development through joining the IFOAM Standard Committee or through the consultation and voting periods.

The IFOAM Standard will replace the former IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS). The IFOAM Standard still offers a global platform for organic standard setters to discuss, exchange, negotiate and compromise on detailed standards. Certification bodies wishing to keep or obtain IFOAM Accreditation will use the IFOAM Standard or ensure compliance of their private standard to it.

The IFOAM Standard has been developed on the basis of the former IBS, but goes one step further in detail and prescriptiveness, being now a certification standard (whereas the IBS was a “Standard for standards”). International applicability is achieved through “Regional or other exceptions” which give a certain flexibility to take into account site-specific situations. The IFOAM Standard no longer includes textile processing in its scope, but now incorporates a section on organic plant breeding, allowing certification of organic plant breeding programs and “organic varieties”. The IFOAM Standard is in line with the current IFOAM positions, such as on nanotechnologies, genetic engineering, the full diversity of organic agriculture and the use of organic seeds. It has also incorporated elements that should enable it to obtain equivalence with the EU regulation for plant and plant-based products.

IFOAM Standard Committee
The IFOAM Standard Committee is composed of

- Tali Berner (Israel)
- Sarah Hathway (UK)
- Stephen Barrow (South Africa)
- Chayaporn Wattanasiri (Thailand)
- Daniel Neuhoff (Germany)
- Andrew Monk (Australia)
- Jan Deane (IOAS representative)
- Brian Baker (USA)

Its Terms of Reference are defined through an IFOAM Policy and can be accessed here.
**Link to Additional Information**

- Download The IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing Version 1.0 [here](#).
- Access the details of the process of development of the IFOAM Standard [here](#), including intermediary drafts, consultation results, submitted motions, and outcomes of the motion reconciliation process and motion vote.
- Read more about the IFOAM OGS [here](#).

**Forum**

A discussion forum is open to all IFOAM members wishing to debate their positions to the vote. It is accessible through: [http://ifoamogs.wordpress.com](http://ifoamogs.wordpress.com)

**Submitting your Vote**

Voting is open to IFOAM Members starting June 22, 2012 and ending August 5, 2012. The registration number required at log-in is your Membership ID, included in the e-mail you received with this document.

Votes cast by fax, e-mail, regular mail or in person are also valid. Name, Membership ID and a clear indication of Yes or No must be included. Please send your fax to +49 228 926 5099.

Members can log in at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ifoamstandardvote2012](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ifoamstandardvote2012) to vote on the following question:

"Do you agree with the approval of the IFOAM Standard in replacement of the IFOAM Basic Standards in the IFOAM Norms?"

- YES, I approve
- NO, I reject

**Assistance**

Questions (both technical or procedural) regarding the IFOAM Standard can be submitted to Joelle Katto-Andrighetto at ogs@ifoam.org.

For any question on the submission of your vote, please contact Martin Pairet at m.pairet@ifoam.org.