



The different types of organic guarantee systems

What is a guarantee system for organic agriculture?

The different types of guarantee

Why is a guarantee system needed?

- Consumers pay a premium price, or make an extra efforts to seek organic products, because they believe that such products correspond to particular efforts at the production level.
- Producers should produce according to expectations. They commit to follow a set of organic practices.
- Organic practices are often laid down in an organic standard. An organic standard often gives producers access to an organic label.
- Label = consumer recognition and trust.
- Who guarantees that the producers really follow the standard? → organic guarantee system.

Who provides the guarantee: 1st, 2nd and 3rd parties

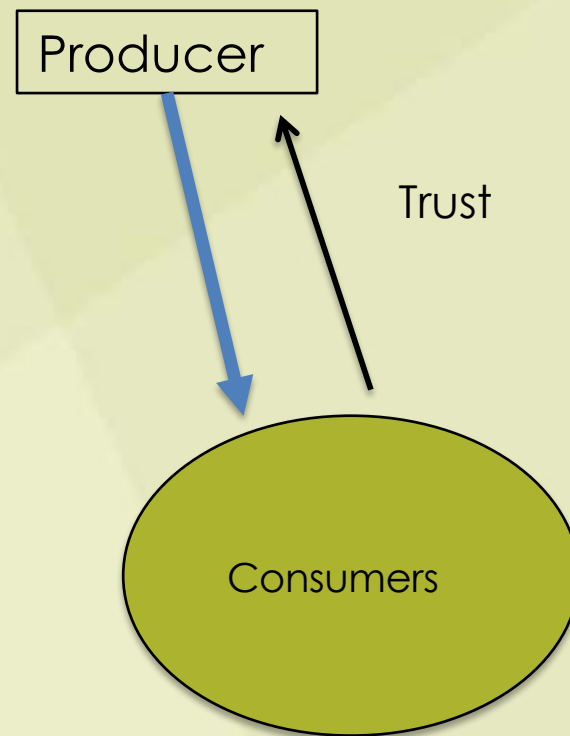
- First party is the producer himself. Second party is the buyer. A third party is a person/body that is independent from both the producer and the buyer (has nothing to do with the value chain)
- First party guarantee: Self Claim
- Second party guarantee: e.g. PGS.
- Third-party certification: Independent certification body

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

What is third party certification?

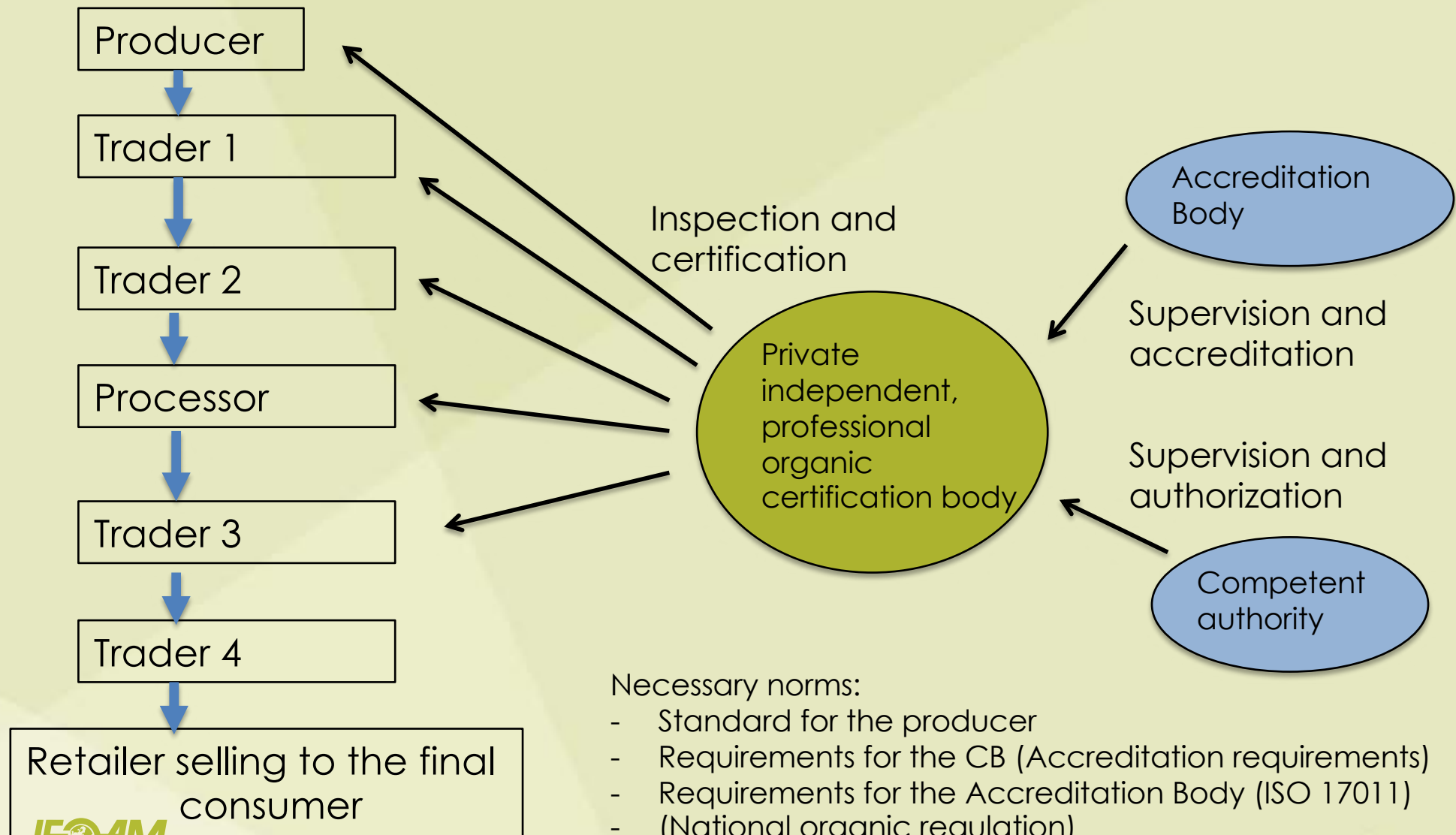
- Currently dominant system for organic guarantee.
- Access to export markets
- Professional service. Inspectors are professionals, CB is a specialized organization (for profit or not).
- Independence / impartiality (ISO 17065). No producer organization, no advisory service
- Can be governmental
- Individual or group certification
- Group certification requires an internal control system
- Usually CBs must be overseen by an AB & a competent authority

Scenario 3: Direct sales, without formal guarantee system

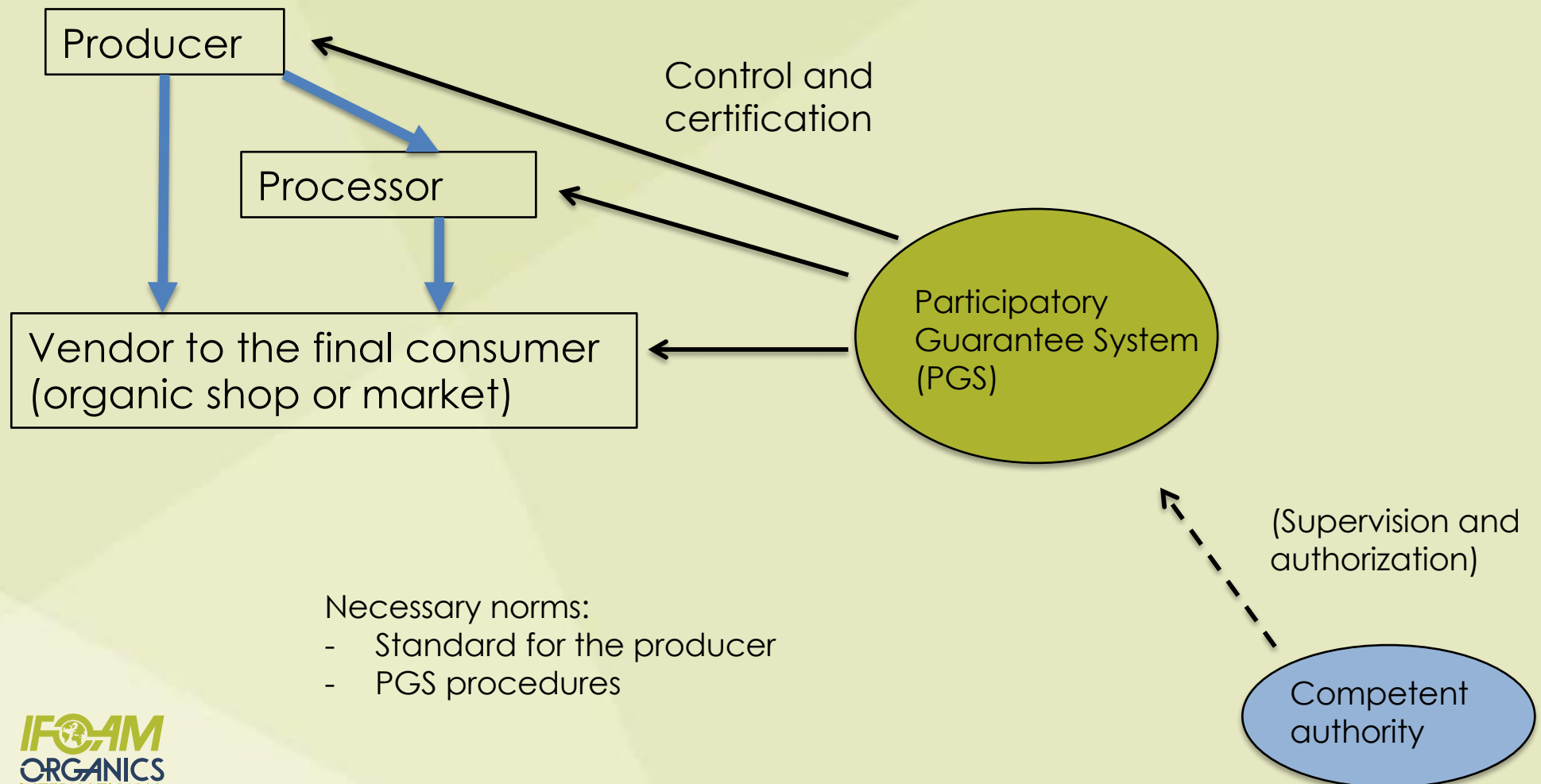


Necessary norms: none
No label use

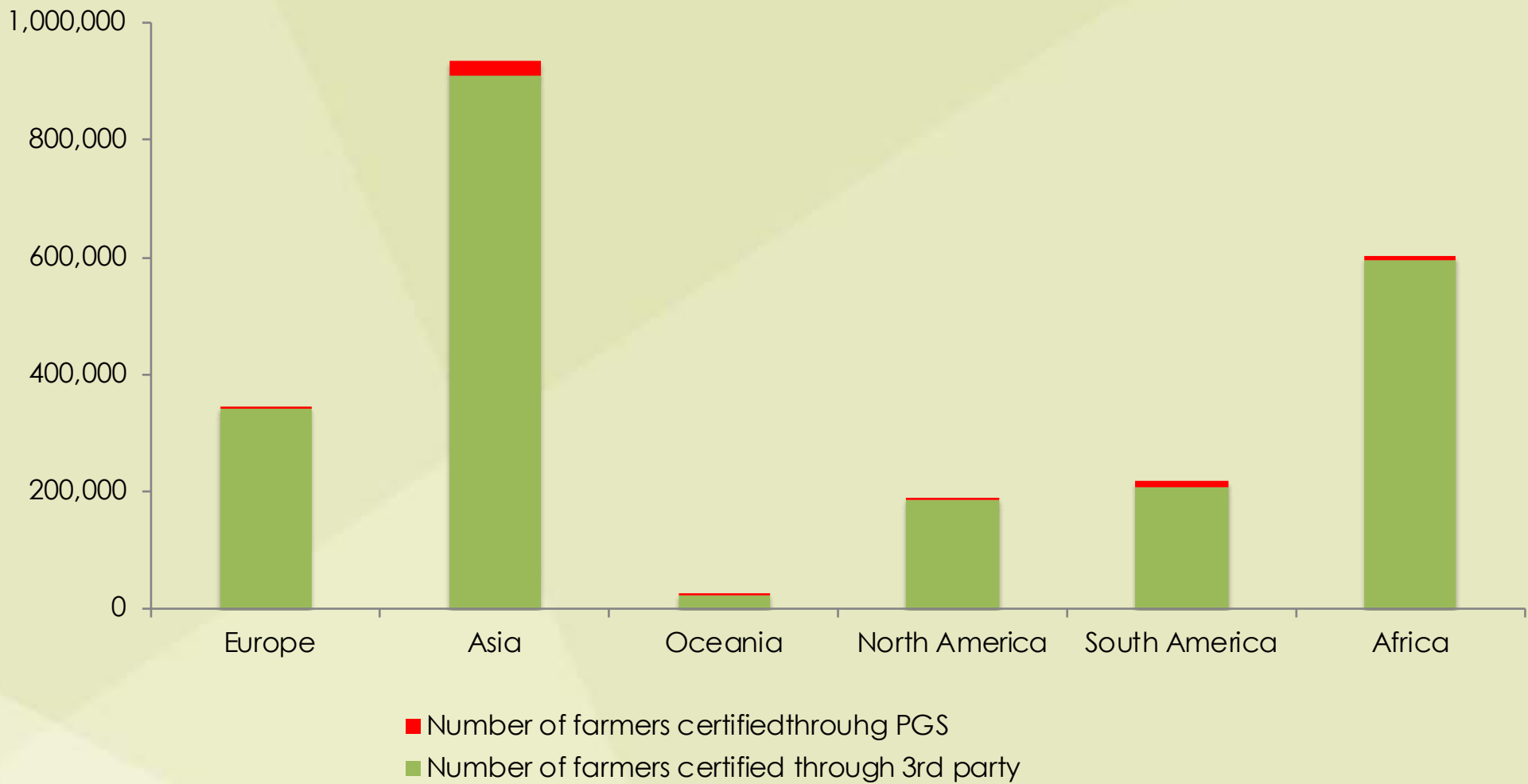
First scenario: long value chain, with 3rd party certification



Scenario 2: short value chain, with PGS



PGS versus 3rd party in numbers



Organic standards and regulations: a global overview

Types of organic standards

- Private standards



- National / governmental standards



- Regional standards



- International standards

- IFOAM Standard
- Codex Alimentarius

Regional variations between organic standards

- Culture, climate, agricultural practices, economy, natural resources...
- Local values and consumer preoccupations (animal welfare, biodiversity, buffer zones)
- Legal framework
- Status of development of organic agriculture (e.g. animal feed).

The IFOAM Family of Standards



That's Organic - Worldwide.



GLOBAL

IFOAM IFOAM Standard

International Standard for Forest Garden Products (FGP)
Biocyclic-Vegan Standard



AFRICA

Tunisia Organic Regulation
East African Organic Products Standard
The SAOSO Standard, South Africa
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

Diaoyutai Private Organic Standard, China
OFDC Organic Certification Standard, China
Sunshine Earth Organic Standard, China
HKORC Organic Standard, Hong Kong
Biocert International Standards, India
Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association Organic Standard, Japan
MASIPAG Organic Standards, The Philippines
DOOK, LLC 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



EUROPE

AsureQuality Organic Standard, New Zealand

EU Organic Regulation
Switzerland Organic Regulation
Turkey Organic Regulation
 **Bio Suisse Standards, Switzerland**
Nature & Progrès Standards, France
The EcoWellness Standard, Germany
CCPB Global Standard, Italy
Krav Standards, Sweden

Approved in 2017 on the basis of an equivalence assessment against the COROS. Assessment summary available on click.

USA Organic Regulation
Argencert Organic Standard, Argentina
OIA Organic Standards, Argentina
Bollicert Private Standards, Bolivia
IBD Organic Guidelines, Brazil
CCOF International Standard, USA



THE AMERICAS

Argentina Organic Regulation
Canada Organic Regulation
Costa Rica Organic Regulation
Ecuador Organic Regulation

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

Note: Applicant standards are marked in grey.

Family Standards Frame: January 03, 2018.

[Click on each standard to see more details.](#)

Best viewed with Adobe Reader

The COROS

The IFOAM Standards Requirements – also called Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS) – is an excel matrix tool. It was developed and approved by IFOAM, FAO and UNCTAD.

The image shows a screenshot of an Excel spreadsheet titled "Evaluation matrix template for the Equivalence assessment of standards against the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards". The spreadsheet is organized into several sections:

- Section 1: Main objectives and detailed requirements in the COROS** (highlighted in orange). This section lists 10 broad objectives, such as "1.1. Production, processing, and distribution of organic products" and "2.1. Environmental protection, biodiversity, and soil fertility".
- Section 2: Assessment of Objective 1** (highlighted in red). This section details specific requirements for Objective 1, such as "1.1.1. Production of organic products" and "1.1.2. Processing of organic products".
- Section 3: Assessment of Objective 2** (highlighted in red). This section details specific requirements for Objective 2, such as "2.1.1. Environmental protection" and "2.1.2. Biodiversity and soil fertility".

The main body of the spreadsheet is a grid with columns for each objective and requirement, and rows for assessment criteria. The criteria include "Significant variations possible", "Assessed from the person doing the assessment", "Applicable provision regarding control and monitoring of compliance", and "Is the standard assessed against the COROS?". The grid contains various data points, including checkmarks and numerical values, indicating the assessment results for each standard against the COROS.

The COROS contain all common requirements found in organic standards, and arranges them under 10 broad objectives. Equivalence assessment then looks at how well those 10 objectives are met by every standard that is assessed against the COROS.

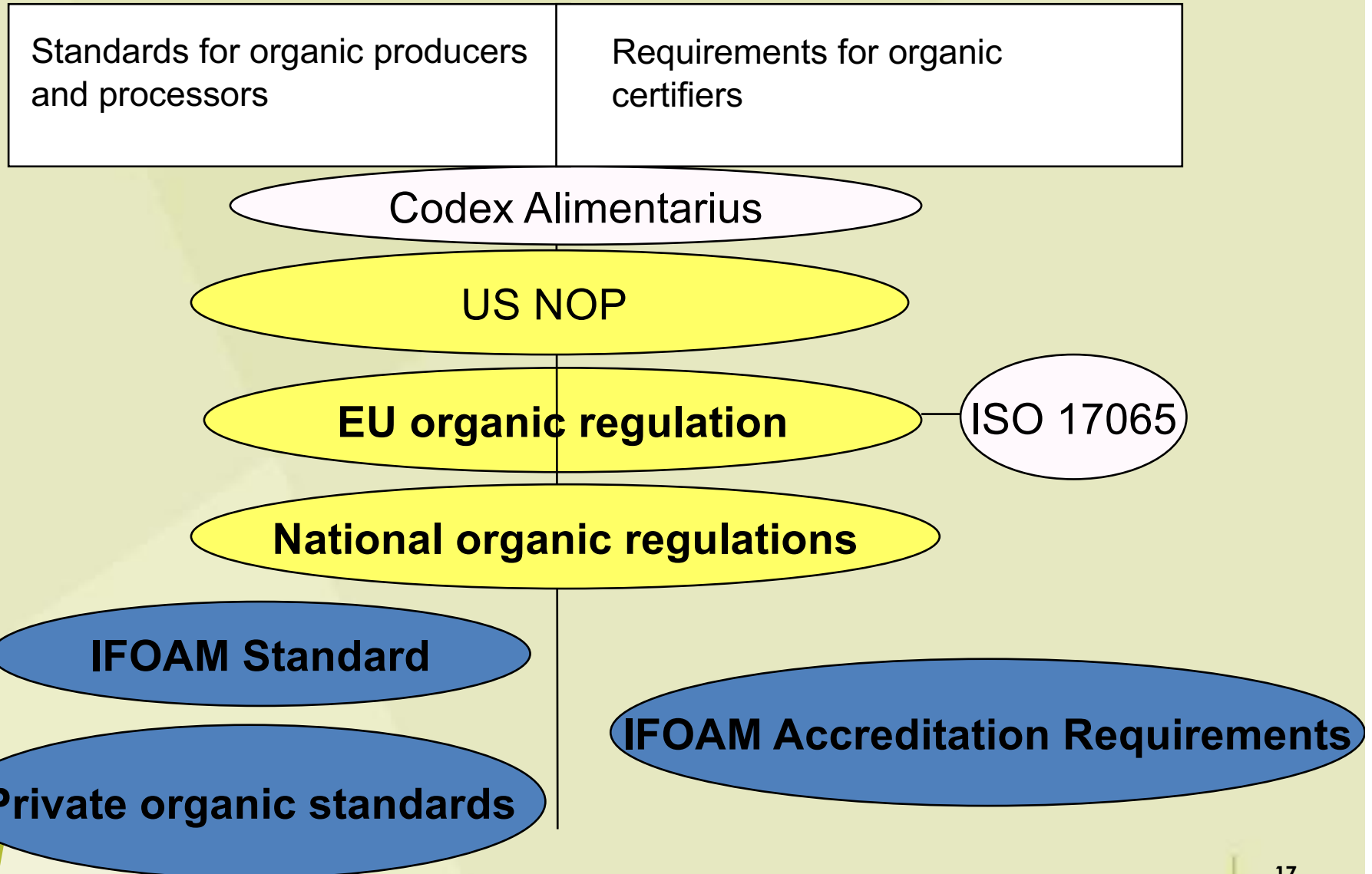
The 10 COROS objectives

1. Organic management is long-term, ecological and system-based.
2. Soil fertility is long-term and biological-based.
3. Synthetic inputs at all stages of the organic production chain and exposure of people and the environment to persistent, potentially harmful chemicals are avoided/minimized.
4. Pollution and degradation of the production/processing unit and surrounding environment from production/processing activities are minimized.
5. Certain unproven, unnatural and harmful technologies are excluded from the system.
6. Animals are treated responsibly.
7. The natural health of animals is promoted and maintained.
8. Organic integrity is maintained throughout the supply chain.
9. Organic identity is provided in the supply chain.
10. Fairness, respect and justice, equal opportunities and non-discrimination is afforded to employees and workers.

The IFOAM Standard

- Off-the-shelf organic certification standard maintained by IFOAM.
- Development of the IFOAM Standard by the IFOAM membership offers a platform to discuss detailed standard requirements.
- Can be used for certification or to claim compliance with it, under contract with IFOAM.
- Main use is to serve as reference & starting point for local standard development.
- Belongs to IFOAM Family of Standards and constitutes a globally-usable practical interpretation of the COROS.

Scope of organic standards and regulations



Benefits of certification

- Market development, premium prices
- Improve the image of the organic sector
- Consistency and trust in organic production
- Encourages production and market planning
- Identification and transparency. Facilitates contacts between market operators
- Basis for subsidy system
- Data collection on the sector

Certification requirements

- Key concept: impartiality (Independence)
- Avoiding conflict of interests (no advice)
- Proper procedures and documentation system
- Non-discriminatory services
- CB quality system (management review, performance review, internal audit, complaint procedure).
- Confidentiality versus public access to information
- Risk-based

- Certification process involves: application --> agreement/contract → review of application → inspection (+ sampling & testing) → review of certification report & certification decision → issue of certificate/CAR.

- Specific requirements in IAR: group certification, input certification/approval

The IFOAM Accreditation

- IFOAM Accreditation program started in 1994.
- The IFOAM Accreditation requires that the CB:
 - Be compliant with the **IFOAM Accreditation Requirements** (formerly called IFOAM Accreditation Criteria)
 - Use an organic standard approved into the IFOAM Family of Standards.
- Currently 16 IFOAM Accredited CBs.
- India: Biocert International & Social Certification Services



Is a regulation needed?

- USA: domestic market reached 7 billion dollars in 2001 (date of the first regulation).
- South Africa, Australia, New Zealand: still no domestic regulation.
- India: domestic regulation came into place in 2018. 300,000 producers already PGS-certified. 1,5 million Ha in organic. Sikkim 100% organic in 2015.
- East Africa: a regional standard officially adopted by the EAC, a regional organic mark, no regulations. Uganda/Ethiopia 2nd and 3rd countries in the world in number of organic producers.

Tools for organic regulation



COUNTRIES WITH AN EMERGING ORGANIC SECTOR

(still low development of the domestic market for organic products)

IS THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY ASKING FOR A COMPULSORY REGULATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE?

NO

YES

DO NOT REGULATE THE DOMESTIC MARKET.

You may develop a national (or regional) organic standard adapted to local conditions and link it to an organic mark and to a set of accepted verification systems.

You may also first focus on developing an organic promotion policy.

DEVELOP A NATIONAL ORGANIC REGULATION, in partnership with your national organic stakeholders and with international advice (IFOAM - Organics International).

NATIONAL STANDARD TEMPLATE based on the IFOAM Standard (you may adapt it to your national conditions, with a stakeholder participation process).

Make sure the final version of your standard is approved into the IFOAM Family of Standards.

TEMPLATE MANUAL for the management of a national logo

Use the **ORGANIC REGULATION TEMPLATE** for countries with an emerging organic sector as a starting point.

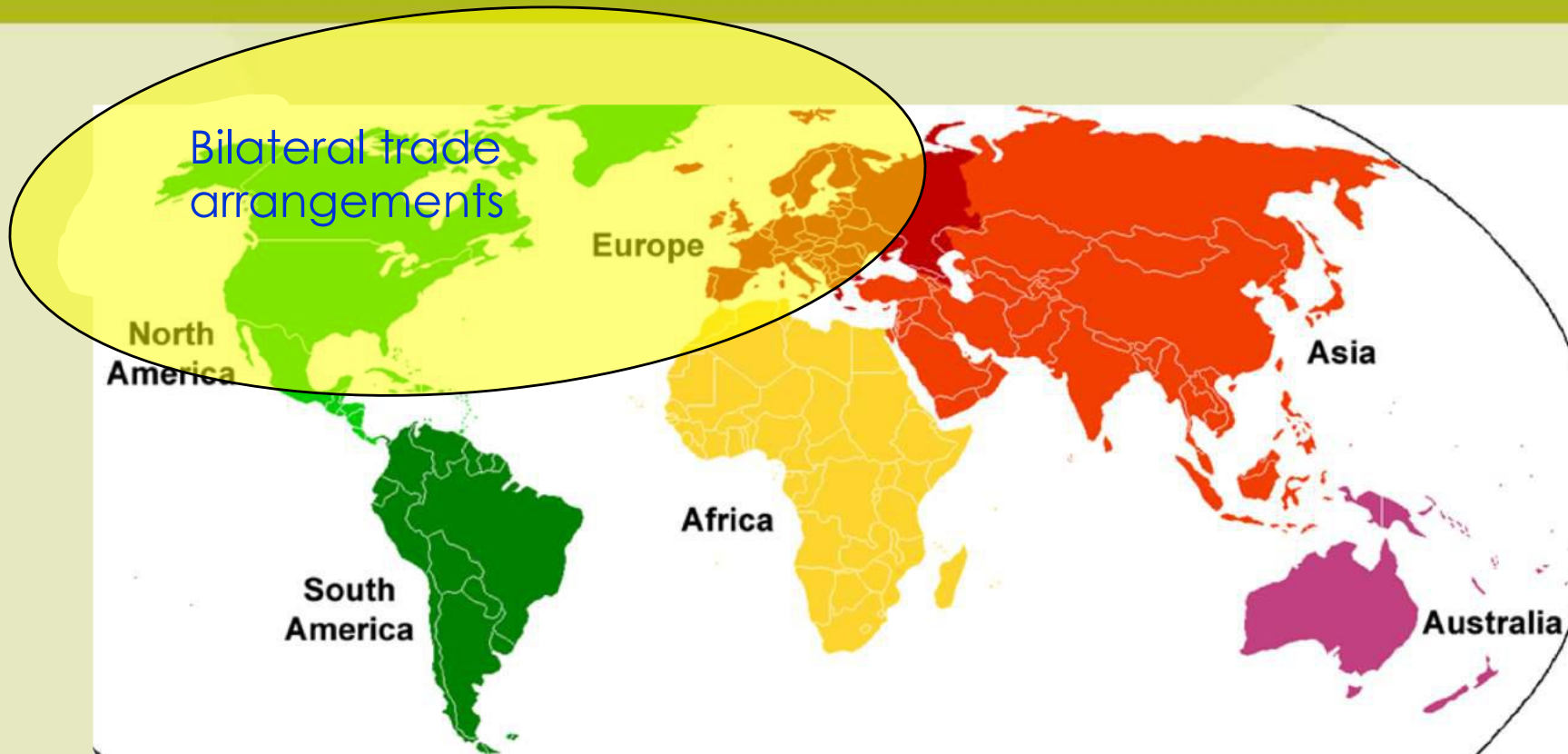
TEMPLATE ORGANIC PROMOTION POLICY (pending)

Harmonization & Equivalence

The problem

- Every country has regulated, is regulating, or is about to regulate organic. They develop their own standards.
 - Additionally, we estimate around 100 private organic standards, owned by associations, CBs, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), etc.
 - Control system requirements also different.
- ⇒ Mostly no mutual acceptance between those various systems
→ technical barriers to organic trade

Trends in regulations:



- Equivalence within the main markets
- Compliance for third countries
- Asia, Africa: national standards/frameworks instead of labeling legislation

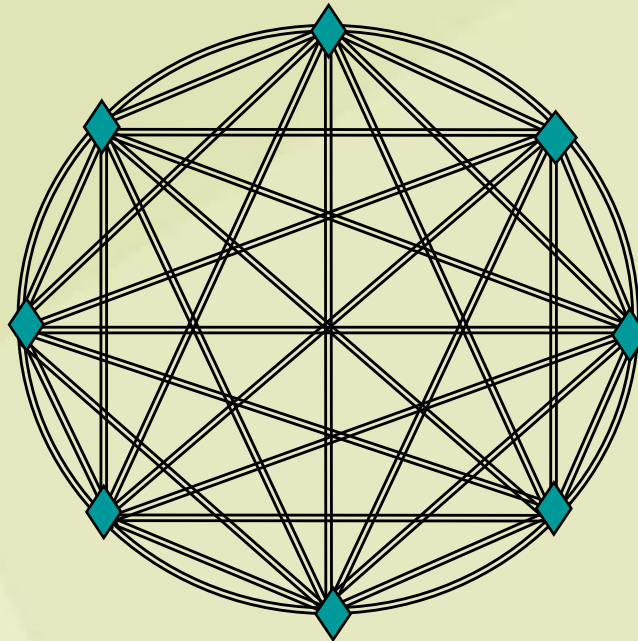
Harmonization and Equivalence

- **Harmonization:** Process aiming at establishing identical (organic) standards and requirements for conformity assessment bodies
- **Equivalence:** Acceptance that different standards fulfill common objectives (approval of regional variations)
- **Bilateral equivalence:** mutual equivalence recognition (political decision)
- **Unilateral equivalence:** technical/political decision by one party to grant equivalence to another.

The limits of unilateral/bilateral equivalence

Current situation:

number of assessments needed to have equivalence between all 35 national/regional organic regulations:



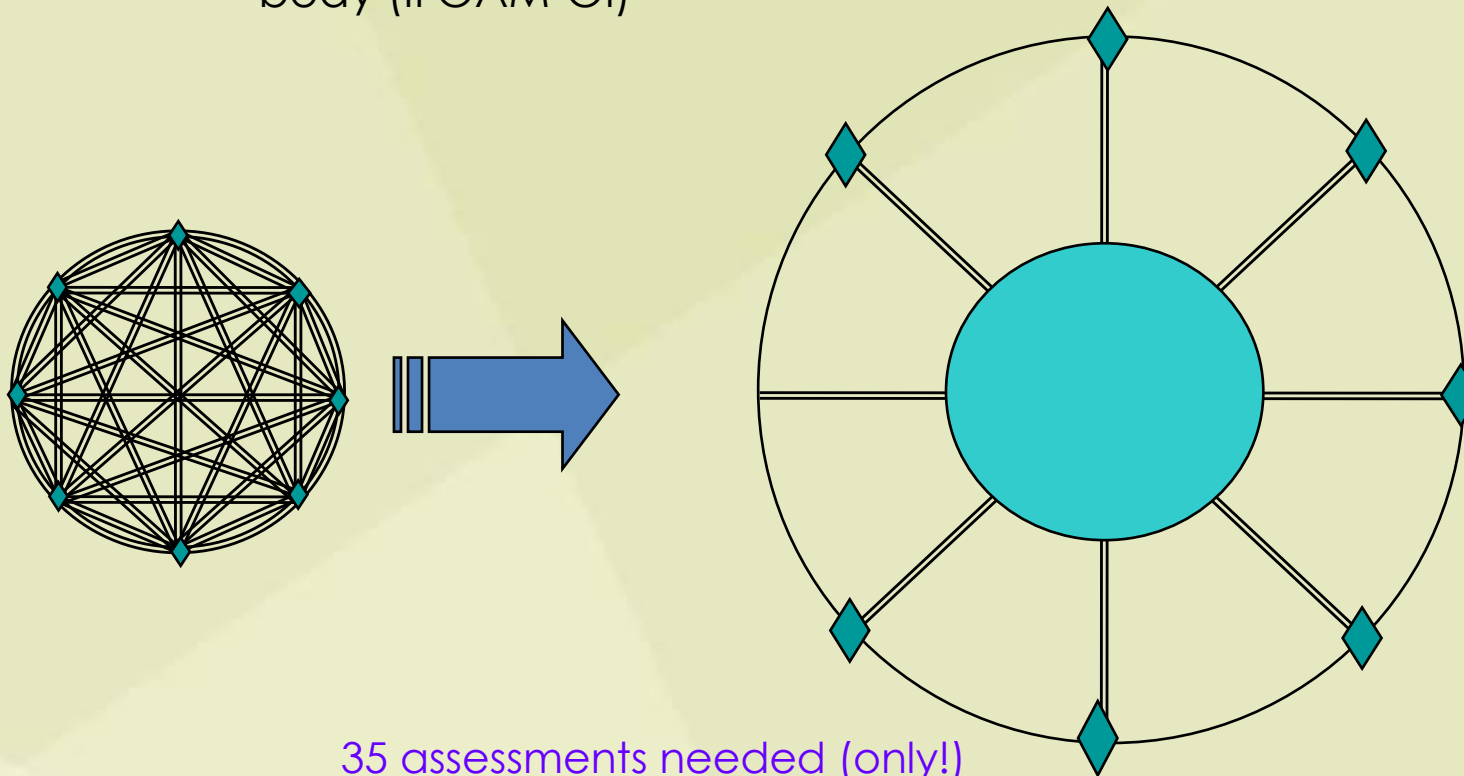
35 countries who want to trade means --> 1200 equivalence assessments needed

If adding private standards to the picture: more than 3000 equivalence assessments needed

The limits of unilateral/bilateral equivalence

IFOAM-Organics International's vision:

1 international reference standard (COROS¹) and international assessment body (IFOAM-OI)



35 assessments needed (only!)

If adding private standards, only around 135 assessments needed

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ASIA

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China Organic Regulation
India Organic Regulation
Israel Organic Regulation
Japan Organic Regulation

Korea Organic Regulation

Diaoyutai Private Organic Standard, China
OFDC Organic Certification Standard, China
Sunshine Earth Organic Standard, China
HKORC Organic Standard, Hong Kong
Biocert International Standards, India
Social Certification Services Organic Standard, India

Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association Organic Standard, Japan
MASIPAG Organic Standards, The Philippines
DCOK, LLC International Standards, South Korea
ICOOP-IFOAM standard, 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

AsureQuality Organic Standard, New Zealand



EUROPE

EU Organic Regulation
Switzerland Organic Regulation
Turkey Organic Regulation



Nature & Progrès Standards, France
The EcoWellness Standard, Germany
Krav Standards, Sweden



THE AMERICAS

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Family Standards Frame: January 11, 2019.

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



PRIVATE PROGRAMS

- BioFach Exhibitor/Product acceptance requirements
- EcoWellness labeling 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
- South African Organic Sector Organization Standard
- Textile Exchange Organic Content Standard's requirements for organic material



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

PROGRAMS listed in this frame require, for a product to be considered organic, that it be certified to a standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards. Those programs are therefore considered by the organic movement as having a sound and credible criterion to ensure the integrity of organic products accepted under their program, from the standard point of view.



THANK YOU!

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