

## Interface between IFOAM's guarantee system and regulations

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## Gunnar Rundgren

### Torfolk Gård

Organic farming and food processing

### KRAV

- Founder, president, general manager, 1985-1995  
Head of international affairs

### Grolink

- CEO Grolink AB 1995-
- Publisher of The Organic Standard

### IFOAM

- Engaged 1990-
- IFOAM President 2000-



## IFOAM Promo!

- Whole organic sectors is engaged
- 700 member organisations
- 110 countries
  - Information exchange
    - Publications, Conferences etc.
  - Lobbying
    - WFS, WSSD, FAO etc.
  - Guarantee system
  - Policy development



## IFOAM and DC

- I-GO project and other projects
- Development Forum
- The Guarantee system
- Specific policies and activities such as:
  - Small holders
  - OA and Food Security
  - Local Market development
- No funds – sorry!



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## Harmonisation AND diversity

- The IFOAM International Guarantee system
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- Interface between IFOAM system and regulations
- Markets
- Small Holders groups
- The IFOAM Harmonisation Conference



## The IFOAM International Guarantee System

- IFOAM Basic Standards
- IFOAM Criteria for Accreditation
- IFOAM Accreditation Programme
- Mutual Recognition between IFOAM Accredited Certifiers
- The IFOAM Seal



## IFOAM Basic Standards

- Pioneer in international standard-setting
- Intensive consultation
- IFOAM Standards Committee
- Internationally recognized
- Standards for standards - allowing variations



## Internationally recognised

- IFOAM Basic Standards and Criteria are registered by the ISO as International Standards
- Basis for hundreds of private sector standards
- Basis for regulations (EU 2092/91)
- Basis for Codex Alimentarius



## Standards for standards

Variations based on criteria



## IFOAM criteria for certification



- Sector specific application of the ISO 65
- Developed in the organic sector
- Consultation as the IFOAM Basic Standards



## The IFOAM Accreditation Programme

- Voluntary - not all IFOAM certifying members are accredited
- Open - also for non-IFOAM members
- Self financed
- Based on IFOAM Basic Standards and Accreditation Criteria
- Implemented by the IOAS

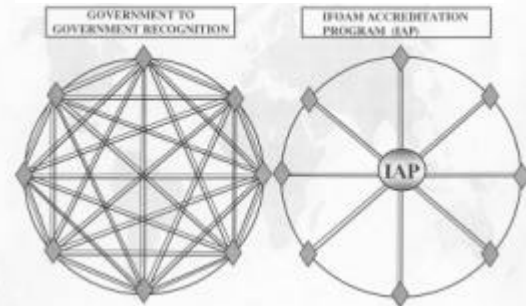


## IOAS – the International Organic Accreditation Services

- IAOS Board is appointed by IFOAM
- Operates independently
- Head Office in USA



## Accreditation Systems



## Standards and Regulations

- **STANDARDS:** Voluntary agreements reached by consensus processes involving the users and producers of goods and services
- **REGULATIONS:** Mandatory requirements set by government regulations
- **HYBRID:** Standards referenced by regulations
- **TREND:** Replace regulations with standards because:
  1. Standards are easier to use and harmonize internationally
  2. Deregulating reform in many countries

Presentation by ISO Secretary General to UN Ambassadors, Geneva, 7 May 1999



## Interface with regulations

Advantages:

- International harmonisation
- Simplifying legislation
- Saving resources by eliminating duplicative work
- Saving money and troubles for those involved



## Options

- Reference to IFOAM Basic Standards and Accreditation Criteria
- Recognition of IFOAM Accreditation
- Contracting the IOAS for services
- Mutual recognition between certification bodies



## Referencing IFOAM Norms

- National private sector standard approved by IFOAM can be referenced in regulation
- Regulations can reference the IFOAM Basic Standards and Accreditation Criteria as being the basis for imports



## Recognition of IFOAM Accreditation

- IFOAM Accreditation can be used as a means (one of several) for ensuring integrity of Certification Body
- IFOAM Accreditation can be sufficient for import approval



## Contracting the IOAS

- Complete accreditation service
- Contracted for evaluations etc.
- Submit reports generated by IFOAM Accreditation



## Mutual recognition by certification Bodies

- Governments can delegate the acceptance of imports to approved certification bodies
- Certification Bodies can use IFOAM Accreditation as the basis for (import) recognition



## Markets

- It is buyers and consumers that decide which standards they prefer
- It is buyers and consumers that decide which certification they trust

Being legal is not enough!



## Small Holder certification

- IFOAM Policy 1999:
  - Certification shall be adapted to local situation
  - Simplified procedures should be allowed when risk is low
  - Certifiers and governments should accept group certification



## IFOAM rules for small holder certification

- Laid down in the IFOAM Criteria for certification
- IFOAM has organised 2 workshops with certifiers, producer groups and governments to reach consensus on requirements and procedures
- The results of our workshops are respected



## IFOAM Conference on harmonisation and equivalence

- Co-organised with UNCTAD and FAO
- > 200 participants:
  - Organic sector
  - 42 reps from 22 governments
  - Good DC participation
    - (thank you! sponsors)



## Conference conclusions (selected!)

- There ARE a lot of problems
- Regulations alone are not going to solve these problems
- IFOAM alone can't solve these problems
- Need to find concrete co-operation between governmental and non-governmental (private) systems



## Conference conclusions (some more...)

- Regulation may not be the first priority for a DC
  - Not really needed for import access
  - The sector need to be developed before
  - Scarce government resources can be better used
  - Lack of trust between the sector and the government
- Regulators should consider enabling framework regulations rather than setting detailed standards - that can be done by the sectors



## Conference conclusions (some more...)

- There is indeed a need to take special consideration of developing countries in areas such as:
  - Cost for Certification and Accreditation (whether national or international)
  - Group certification
  - Standards



## Conference conclusions - Steps to take!

- Make conclusions known!
- Joint Task Force FAO, IFOAM, UNCTAD and governments to agree on mechanisms for equivalence

