

Current status of harmonisation in organic trade

Gunnar Rundgren, Nov 2004



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Standards (regulations)

- International standards (Codex, IFOAM)
- Private standards, e.g. Soil Association
- “National” standards, e.g. Canada
- Incorporated in Regulations, e.g. EU, NOP
- Some standards only for exports, e.g. Australia

NB: often you have to follow the standards of the buyer!



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

IFOAM and Codex

- Codex
 - Governmental body
 - Assist governments
 - *Possibly used in dispute?*
 - Written as standards for production
- IFOAM
 - Non governmental
 - Written as standards for standards



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Scope of standards

Regulation of marketing! – starting point for most standards

- Crop Production, processing and livestock (most)
- Wild harvest (most)
- Aquaculture (few)
- Textiles (few)
- Bee-keeping (many)
- Mushrooms (most)
- Etc., etc, etc



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Regulations (end 2003)

| Region | Fully implemented | Final not implemented | In draft |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| EU-15 | 15 | | |
| Rest of Europe | 11 | 2 | 4 |
| Asia & Pacific | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| Americas & Caribbean | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Africa | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Middle East | - | | 2 |
| Total: 60 | 37 | 8 | 15 |



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

385 organic certification bodies in 65 countries

A dozen of CBs are operating world-wide – most countries have certification service available

| | |
|----------------|----|
| USA | 71 |
| Japan | 66 |
| Germany | 29 |
| Canada | 26 |
| Spain | 20 |
| Brazil | 17 |
| Italy | 11 |
| United Kingdom | 11 |
| Austria | 10 |
| India | 9 |



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Certification Bodies per region

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Africa | 9 |
| Asia | 91 |
| Europe | 143 |
| Latin America & Caribbean | 34 |
| North America | 97 |
| Oceania | 11 |



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Certification norms for organic

- ISO 65 (ref by EU, not by US or JAP)
 - IAF Guidance
- Regulatory requirements
 - USDA, EU, JAS
- IFOAM Norms
 - IFOAM Accreditation Criteria (IAC), ISO 65+
- Guidance or sector agreements
 - E.g. Grower group certification, maps
- ISO 19011 (Audits)
 - Applies both for certification and accreditation of quality systems
 - Various other ISO Guides, e.g. Guide 53



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Accreditation framework

- Accreditation Norms, i.e. Norms for accreditation and accreditation organisations (ISO 61 > ISO 17011)
- Accreditation organisations
 - national (NABs)
 - international (IOAS)
- International Framework, (IAF, ISEAL)



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Accreditation vs approval

- No clear distinction between accreditation and approval
- US: USDA "accreditation"
- EU member states: "Approval and Supervision", sometimes accreditation



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

International organic accreditation- IFOAM Accreditation

- Based on IFOAM Norms
- Implemented by the IOAS
- Basis for mutual recognition of CBs
- IFOAM Accreditation has gained limited regulatory acceptance (South Korea, RS)
- IOAS has acquired NIST "approval"
- IOAS technical work is widely used and respected
- IOAS cooperation with some NABs and governments



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Inspection/Certification system

- Government Inspection bodies (some EU member states, some US states)
- or
- Private certification bodies approved by government (most common solution)



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

Market access/harmonisation options

- (Mutual) recognition between certification bodies
 - Unilateral (acceptance)
 - Can be limited in scope
- Mutual recognition between national accreditation bodies (IAF)
 - Relates to the to the qualification of CBs only
- Equivalence agreements between Countries
 - Unilateral or bilateral
 - Can be limited in scope
- Direct approval of foreign bodies

(Equivalence) agreements between countries

- EU Third Country list (11.1) - few
- US acceptance of other “accreditors”- few
- US equivalence agreement -none
- Japanese – few, CB still needs to register

(Mutual) recognition between certification bodies

- ACB MLA – based on IFOAM Accreditation
- Trust Contracts under Japan regulations
- Certification acceptance arrangements (Japan, KRAV)
- Various arrangements between certifiers
 - More or less in line with the regulations....

Direct approval by CBs

- Direct NOP Accreditation
 - Based on compliance
- EU derogation (11.6)
 - Based on equivalence, implemented by members states
- Japan registration of RFCO
 - Based on equivalence of country, and compliance of CB

A few additional complications...

- Re-exports, origin of all raw materials
- Differences in scope
- Documentary requirements (e.g. EU Customs regulation)

Approval Status

| | IFOAM | Japan | ISO 65 | EU | USA |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Africa | | | 2 | | |
| Asia | 4 | 66 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Europe | 14 | 16 | 62 | 120 | 31 |
| Latin America & Caribbean | 4 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 9 |
| North America | 4 | 6 | 18 | | 66 |
| Oceania | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| Sum 2004 | 30 | 95 | 96 | 132 | 112 |
| Sum 2003 | 26 | 81 | 74 | 112 | 106 |

NB: De facto approval in the EU under art 11.6 not included

WTO agreements

- Trade issues in "Organic" falls under the TBT
- Has played no/little role so far
- Some complaints have been brought to the TBT Committee - no disputes



IFOAM



INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON
HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Current Status Rome Nov 2004 – Gunnar Rundgren

