



## Summary report of ITF agreements and recommendations

ITF 8th meeting, Geneva 6-8 October

## Key messages

- Base acceptance of imports on equivalence
- Judge equivalence according to International Standards (Codex and IFOAM) and the IROCB
- Use several mechanisms for import acceptance as there is none that fits all
- Accept diversity and innovation, e.g. group certification & PGS
- Private-public partnership in development and implementation of import regulations

## Criteria for solutions

Continued growth of organic agriculture and maintenance of its principles based on the following:

- Benefit producers and consumers and the organic market as a whole;
- Take into account of national sovereignty;
- Access to markets with minimal bureaucracy;
- Fair competition between operators;
- Adequate and consistent consumer protection and trust;

## Criteria for solutions (cont)

- Sensitivity to different biophysical, socio-economic environments;
  - Stakeholder support and involvement;
  - Take account of market choice;
  - Transparency of operation and decision-making.
- Special consideration should be given to the situation of developing countries

## Production Standards

- Equivalence: the standards used in various countries will be different but should follow a basic framework
- The ITF recommends that for import approvals governments use Codex Alimentarius CAC/GL 32 & IFOAM Basic Standards as the basis.
- Use the EquiTool for equivalence assesment

## Requirements for Certification Bodies

- One set of international certification performance requirements that can be the basis for equivalence –The International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies
- Used when regulating imports and developing requirements for organic certification bodies

## Cooperation and mutual recognition

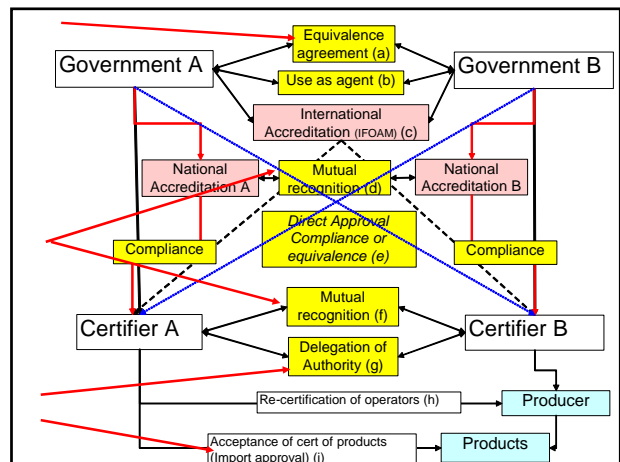
- Governments to utilize and encourage in their regulatory systems cooperation and mutual recognition in certification and accreditation
  - One evaluation/assessment can form the basis for multiple accreditations.
  - A platform for cooperation between accreditation/approval bodies for organic certification is created

## Using certification bodies

- Use mutual recognition between certification bodies as *one option* for import approval (PENDING)
- Consider delegation of certification decision (IROCB)

## Developments

- Group certification should be approved
- PGS and other alternatives be considered



It can be a frustrating journey through all the standards and regulations of the global organic marketplace.



Now there's an opportunity to create a clearer path.