Welcome to this issue of the OGS Courier. A lot has happened since the last issue (May 2014). Not the least, the publication of the new IFOAM Norms, including the extensively revised IFOAM Accreditation Requirements. Those have undergone their most significant revision since 2005. In the 2014 version of the IFOAM Standard, you will also find a number of new requirements, particularly on social justice and protected cropping. We hope that standard setters, organic scheme owners and regulators worldwide will get inspired by those new developments and take up some of the requirements into their own systems.

Various programs that need a reliable approach to identify trustworthy organic standards are increasingly turning to the IFOAM Family of Standards as a criterion for deciding which organic certification they will accept. The latest in doing so is NATRUE, the natural and organic cosmetic scheme. A bit earlier, following in the steps of BioFach, MENOPE, the Middle East Natural & Organic Products Expo also began to use this approach. We trust that those will inspire other organic cosmetic schemes and other organic trade fairs to do the same.

Finally, looking into the future, IFOAM is preparing a new version of its organic aquaculture standard. An extensive discussion is currently taking place within the sector, in which IFOAM plays an important role. We hope that the outcomes of this discussion, once translated into a new standard, will be of inspiration to all organic aquaculture standards setters, and that it will foster a common understanding of what “organic” means, in terms of aquaculture.

“In the 2014 version of the IFOAM Standard, you will also find a number of new requirements, particularly on social justice and protected cropping.”

Joelle Katto-Andrighetto
Value Chain Manager
NATRUE is the International Natural and Organic Cosmetics Association and promotes authentic natural and organic cosmetics since October 2007. The NATRUE label sets a high standard of quality and integrity so people worldwide may enjoy natural cosmetics truly worthy of that name.

For two of its certification categories: “Natural Cosmetics with an Organic Portion” and “Organic Cosmetics”, NATRUE requires a minimum percentage (70% and 95% respectively) of organic ingredients. As NATRUE intended to create a global label, the definition of what qualifies a raw material to be considered as “organic” was technically challenging. Indeed, “organic” is regulated by dozens of different regulations and standards worldwide.

To address this challenge, NATRUE has decided to adopt the IFOAM technical definition of what constitutes an accepted organic standard: that is, one that is approved under the IFOAM Family of Standards. Such standards have passed a rigorous assessment by IFOAM experts and demonstrated both their local relevance and their equivalence to the international Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS). The IFOAM Family of Standards represents both the diversity and the unity of what is considered organic worldwide.

NATRUE has just updated its Label Criteria. The new version (2.9) of these requirements is now defining organic raw materials as those being certified by a duly recognized certification body or authority to an organic standard or regulation approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards.

IFOAM and NATRUE believe that these new criteria will benefit producers, traders and consumers, with an approach that combines inclusiveness and integrity. Producers certified to their local organic regulation or standard will now be able to supply NATRUE cosmetic manufacturers, provided that the local standard has been approved by IFOAM. This should ultimately favor the uptake of the NATRUE label globally and ensure its credibility towards consumers.


The IFOAM Standard Committee is still working on the improvement of the aquaculture section of the IFOAM Standard, in preparation for the next version of the norm. The Committee collected inputs from the IFOAM membership and the general public through a broad public consultation running from May to July 2014. The consultation was entitled “How does the organic movement define what “organic” means for aquaculture?”. The public was encouraged to respond to a survey questionnaire containing questions related to the following issues: the acceptability of open water facilities and recirculating aquaculture systems, the need for a connection to natural ecosystems, feed, conversion, biodiversity requirements, migratory species, and chemical allopathic veterinary treatments.

IFOAM received answers to the questionnaire from 49 persons/organizations, from 25 different countries. Overall, the input was of very high quality, and many answers very extensive and well informed. Survey respondents will receive a report of the survey results.

The IFOAM Standard Committee will now process the results of this survey and feed them into the IFOAM Standard revision process. A workshop on organic aquaculture is also organized by IFOAM at the Organic World Congress in Istanbul in October, and will be the opportunity for any interested stakeholder to contribute to this debate in person.
The IFOAM membership approved the 2014 version of the IFOAM Norms. This version, including the IFOAM Standard version 2.0 and the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements version 2.0, hereby supersedes version 2012 of the IFOAM Norms. The COROS (Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards – IFOAM Standards Requirements) remain unchanged in this version of the norms.

The decision was taken through electronic vote during the period June 2 to July 15, 2014. The IFOAM Standard and the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements were approved with respectively 94% and 91% of the votes. The participation rate was however rather low, with 13% of the voting members casting a vote.

The most significant changes in the 2014 compared to the 2012 versions concern:
- For the IFOAM Standard: new requirements for protected cropping, connection to the soil and fertility amendments, animal welfare and animal origin requirements, social justice requirements and requirements on solvents and on GMO-free labeling.
- For the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements: nearly all sections of the norm have been modified. Chapter 9 (Acceptance of other product certification) has undergone the most extensive revision.

IFOAM thanks the members of the Standard Committee and Accreditation Requirements Committee for the impressive amount of voluntary work that they dedicated to this process. We also thank all those who provided input during the consultation periods and motion periods.

The new version of the IFOAM Norms, as well as detailed information on the development process and on changes as compared to the 2012 versions, can be found at: http://www.ifoam.org/en/ifoam-norms.
That’s Organic - Worldwide.

**GLOBAL**

IFOAM Standard
International Standard for Forest Garden Products (FGP)

**AFRICA**

Tunisia Organic Regulation
East African Organic Products Standard
Afrisco Organic Standards, South Africa
Siyavuna Organic Standards, South Africa
Uganda Organic Standard, Uganda
Zimbabwe Standard for Organic Farming, Zimbabwe

**ASIA**

Chinese Organic Regulation
Indian Organic Regulation
Israel Organic Regulation

**EUROPE**

Bio Suisse Standards, Switzerland

**OCEANIA**

National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce, Australia

**THE AMERICAS**

Argentina Organic Regulation
Canada Organic Regulation
Costa Rica Organic Regulation
USA 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.

Click on each standard to see more details.

Best viewed with Adobe Reader

www.ifoam.org/ogs

Note: Applicant standards are marked in grey.

Applicant standards are marked in grey.
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.

**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

**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