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Joint Bachelor Course on Organic Agriculture 2014

Lecture 3: Private standards and state regulation on organic farming

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SNF/SCOPES

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Development of private and legal standards

1900-1950	• Concepts and ideas of pioneers
1950	• First private standards, e.g. Nature et Progrès (FR), VSBLO (CH), Bioland (DE), Soil Association (UK)
1980	• IFOAM global standards. *International Federation of organic Agriculture Movements*
1992	• EU regulation.
1999	• FAO/WHO: Codex Alimentarius. *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Health Organization.*
2000-2013	• NOP (USA), JAS (Japan), CNOPS (China), EAOPS (East Africa)

Organic standards and regulation include (1)

- Rules for the separation of organic and non-organic farming and business activities. Some private standards demand whole farm conversion, others exclude parallel organic and non-organic production of the same crops or animals. Any mixture of organic and non-organic material has to be prevented by strict Quality Management Systems (QMS) .
- Standards and regulation demand third-party inspection and certification.
- Rules for the declaration and labelling of foods.

Rules for plant production and fertilization (2)

› Allowed:

Wide crop rotations including legumes

Harvest residues and compost

Seeds from organic production, if available

Organic commercial fertilizers

Livestock manure and slurry in crops

› Not allowed:

Chemical commercial fertilizers

GMO varieties

Rules for weed control (3)

› Allowed:

Mechanical weeders
(e.g. finger Hoe)

Harrows or
rotary/pushed hoes

Flame weeders

Handweeding

› Not allowed:

Spraying with chemical
herbicides

Rules for disease and pest control (4)

› Allowed:

Wild flower strips to promote natural emnies of pests

⬅

➡

Release of indiginous predators or para-sitides (e.g. Tricho-gramma in maize)

➡

A restricted list of sprays like plant extracts, microbiologi-cal products, mineral oils, copper or sulphur

› Not allowed:

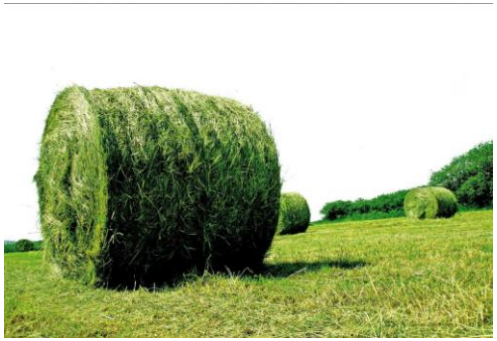
Spraying with chemicals ➡

Rules for livestock feeding (5)

- Allowed:

Robust breeds, excellent feed converter, especially for roughage, free range grazing and feeding

Excellent feed stuff quality, organic concentrates



- Not allowed:

Growth promotors and antibiotics in feed stuff

Rules for livestock husbandry (6)

› Allowed:

Animal welfare, free range grazing

Animal-friendly housing systems, dry littering

Rules for livestock husbandry (7)

› Not allowed:

Mutilations of animal

All year indoor animal keeping, fully slatted floors, tethering

Rules for livestock health and breeding (8)

› Preferred:

Health prevention by herd management

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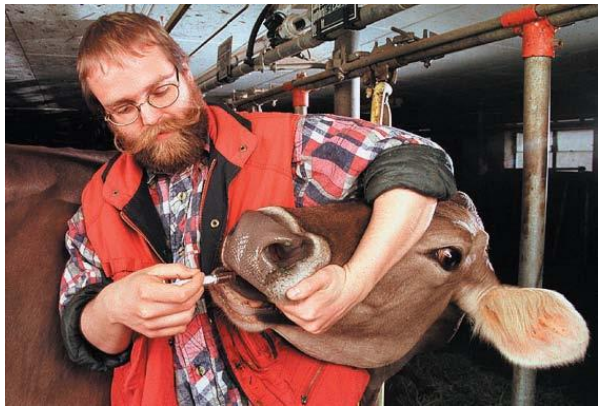
➡ Alternative therapies like phytotherapy and homoepathy



› Tolerated or forbidden:

Preventive use of chemical and antibiotic drugs forbidden, curative use on prescription of veterinarians. Doubled with-holding periods.

⬅

➡ Embryo transfer, certain reproductive and genetic breeding techniques forbidden.

Rules for food processing and trading (11)

- Processing methods should guarantee that the organic integrity and vital qualities of the product are maintained through all stages of the production chain.
- The preparation of processed organic food must be kept separate in time or space from non-organic food.

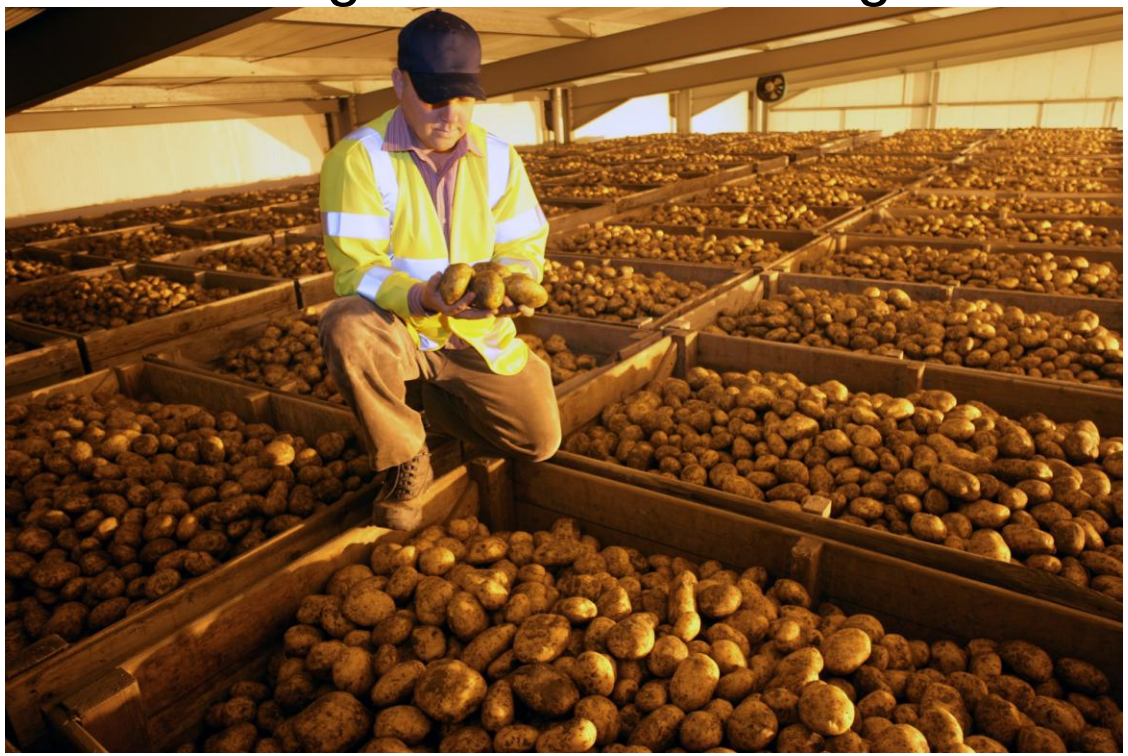
Some private standards limit extrusion of cereals as they prefer gentle processing which keeps the natural quality and authenticity

Rules for food processing and trading (12)

- The product must be produced mainly from ingredients of agricultural origin (added water and cooking salt are not taken into account).
- The following ingredients may be used: additives, processing aids, flavourings, water, salt, preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes, minerals, trace elements, vitamins, as well as amino acids and other micronutrients in foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses, **but only in so far as they have been authorised** for use in organic production in accordance with Article 21of Council Regulation(EC) 834/2008.

Rules for food processing and trading (13)

- Non-organic agricultural ingredients can only be used if they have been authorised within Article 21 or have been provisionally authorised by a Member State.
- An organic ingredient cannot be present together with the same ingredient in non-organic form or an ingredient in conversion.



Organic and non-organic potatoes cannot be stored in the same storage.

Rules for food processing and trading (14)

- Food produced from in-conversion crops can only contain one crop ingredient of agricultural origin.
- Substances and techniques that correct the results of negligence in the processing of these products or that otherwise may be misleading as to the true nature of these products cannot be used.

Synthetic food-colourings, flavour enhancers, artificial aromas, stabilisers or synthetic sweeteners are strictly banned from the manufacture of organic foods.

Inspection and certification

- Standards and regulation usually demand third-party inspection and certification. Inspection bodies are both private companies or state units. Inspection bodies are accredited by national accreditation agencies.
- For smallholder farmers, group certification is possible. In these cases, not every farm of a cooperative is inspected. The group certification procedure is supervised by a third-party inspection.
- A few countries support Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). In such cases farmers control farmers mutually. One country with PGS is Brazil.

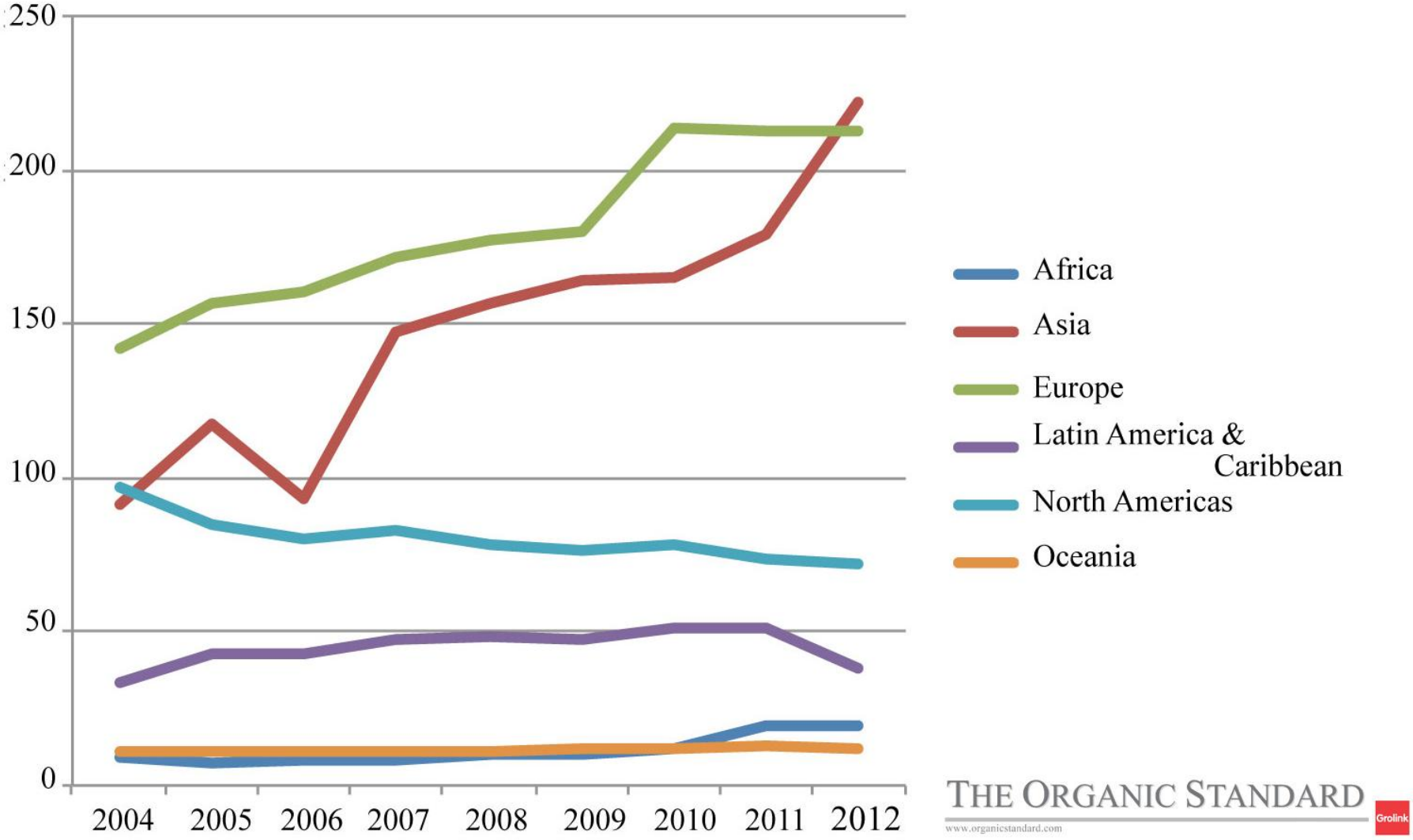
Organic Regulations by Continent (2011)

	Countries with Regulations 2002	Countries with Regulations 2012	
Europe	27	38	EU 27 Other: 11
America and Caribbean	6	21	
Asia and Pacific	10	25	
Africa	1	2	
Total	**44**	**86**	

Countries Drafting Regulation

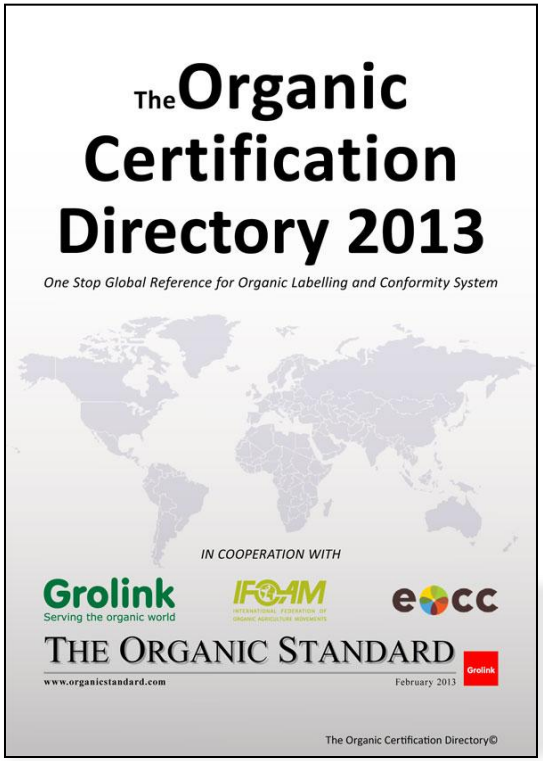
- Europe: Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Asia: Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Vietnam.
- America and Caribbean: Jamaica, St Lucia.
- Africa: Egypt, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Number of certification bodies per region



Countries with most certifiers

Country	2012	2011
South Korea	76	33
Japan	61	61
USA	49	51
Germany	32	31
Spain	27	28
China P.R.	24	28
India	24	22
Canada	23	23
Romania	17	17
Italy	13	13
Poland	11	11
Bulgaria	10	10
France	10	7



Source: www.organicstandard.com/directory

Equivalency of the big markets

- The countries with the largest organic market share (consumption) have mutual recognition arrangements e.g. USA and the EU.
- Organic products of both are mutually accepted to be equivalent and no complementary certification is needed.
- Geographical scope: Products grown or imported in US/EU (acceptance of each others imports)
- The following products are excluded and a complementary certification is required:
  - Apples and pears from US
  - Livestock from EU
- Not in the scope: Wine, Aquaculture

Import rules in EU

- In addition to the US, other Third Countries are recognised as being equivalent.
- Control bodies (CB) are directly approved for operating inspection and certification in Third Countries (since 01.07.2012)
  - 53 certification bodies approved
  - for around 60 countries
- Individual import authorizations expire by 01.07.2014 the latest.

Organic banana quality inspection

The standard setters dilemma

Too little detail in standards

Too much detail in standards

Lack of clarity and too much room for interpretation

No flexibility to allow for varying conditions (e.g. different climatic, soil, cultural, economic and social conditions)

Comparing Standards (1)

	IFOAM	EU	US NOP
Scope	Products labelled as organic	Raw products, food, feed	Products labelled as organic
Label	1-100 % organic ingredients	„impression“ organic Minimum 95 % organic ingredients	Term „organic“ 1-100 % organic ingredients
Con-version period	Annual: one year prior sowing; perennial: 1.5 prior harvest Full application of organic farming practices	Annual: two years prior sowing; perennial: 3 prior harvest Full application of organic farming practices (inspection during conversion required)	No application of unauthorized substances for 3 years prior harvest (inspection only prior first organic harvest)
Fertili-zation	Human excrements: restricted, exceptions possible	No human excrements	No human excrements.

Comparing Standards (2)

	IFOAM	EU	US NOP
Fertilizers	No Chilean Nitrate	No Chilean Nitrate	Chilean Nitrate up to 20 % of total nitrogean requirement
Parallel Produc-tion	Accepted if clear separation is insured	Restricted: only with varieties which can be distinguished visually or for perennials;	Not mentioned – no restrictions
Buffer Zones	Required	Not mentioned	Required
Veteri-nary treat-ments	Double with-holding period, chemical allo-pathic veterinary drugs accepted	Double withholding period, antibiotics allowed if necessary to avoid suffering of animals	Antibiotics not allowed

Comparing Standards (3)

	IFOAM	EU	US NOP
Feeding	Max. 10-15 % conv. feeding permissible	By derogation up to 5 % conv. feeding up to 2011 for non-herbivores	No conventional feeding
Animal husbandry	8 pages	Very detailed	No animal specific requirements
Farm inputs	Positive and negative listing	Only positive list	Positive and negative listing
Approach	Principle of health, ecology, fairness, care	Process oriented approach	More materialistic approach with stricter lines

Literature/ References

The Organic Standard (2013). The organic certification directory 2013. One Stop Global Reference for Organic Labelling and Conformity System

www.organicstandard.com/directory (Last Access 29th April 2014)

Acknowledgement

This lesson was prepared within the project „Advancing training and teaching of organic agriculture in South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Hungary)“ , funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNFS) within the SCOPES program 2009-2012 (project No. IZ74Z0_137328).