



BCS EURÖKO NEWS

Your Organic Certification Service 1/2014
Official Newsletter of the Certification Body DE-ÖKO-001

Independent - competent - consequent



Peter Grosch, BCS-founder and owner

Foreword by Mr. Peter Grosch

Dear clients, dear readers,

Slowly I am beginning to have my doubts. It could be me, that I just cannot understand why the wheels of the history of organic farming are being systematically turned backwards to such a radical extent.

I am not mentioning this topic here for the first time. Whoever has read this article over the years will remember my postulation, not to “administer” organic agriculture. That has obviously not helped at all.

Everybody is unanimous in that organic farming is orienting itself to a new system of thinking. From the universal world view of Rudolph Steiner about the relations between the living, up to the research of Frederic Vester into ecological systems - perhaps going back to the Incas and others - we are not dealing with a primitive, emotionally delusional understanding of nature, but with thoughts and actions in systems.

This was taken into account with the EU eco regulation 2092/91 and the understanding of the system was made the basis also of control and certification. Step-by-step but steadily we have been drifting away from this - and now we finally land at the product certification ... the same old song, knowing well that with this, the approach to the system dies off and gets onto a track that is not appropriate for tackling the issue.

That is too much for ME:

I understand that it is tremendously practical and prettily managed when you get “noble” numbers by means of analyses. But what - for heaven’s sake - does that have to do with organic production and processing? Where is chemical usage the typical element? In organic farming??

Residues from chemical-synthetic pesticides can provide particular information as an additional criterion in the control. But as real proof of an illegal usage they are, in most cases, insufficient ... and hence, by far the most organic frauds were just not discovered through the evidence of residues. This has been known for a long time but does not seem to be of interest in the new direction of business.

But because it is so practical and has something magical about it, it is now attempted by using other analysis methods (here: isotope determina-

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tion) to detect (in a flash) the difference between ORGANIC and conventional in order to disqualify goods. I do not doubt that in the meantime there is a lot of reference data available, but this method is still not justiciable. It is thus still very critical to use this as a basis for making far-reaching decisions.

The only certainty that arises through all these exercises is that of a massive increase in costs - in the end for the consumers!

There are several measures working in the same direction that concern us as certifier. Instead of strengthening our rights to access and our rights to take drastic action, instead of safeguarding our position such that we can take a look and act (I do not mean this with regard to costs!), we have to take tremendous care that we do not get into trouble with any liabilities endangering our existence, when the state will then just ignore us.

The conditions for accreditation have also been re-designed. We are experiencing an explosion in costs:

a certifier that has never attracted any negative attention in 15 years now has to be examined more intensively than before! They have thought of many things that have in part nothing to do with the risk or creation of an objective determination of a high safety level. The result: a massive price increase for the organic industry which certainly does not want to and cannot be left alone with it: this will also be reflected in the prices on the market.

Is this now on purpose or is it thoughtlessness? As mentioned before: I do not understand it! Everything is going in the - from my point of view, wrong - direction of product certification and massive rise in prices - without really resulting in more safety.

One surrenders to the temptation of new measuring methods and even postulates freedom from foreign contamination in the ppb range. Enthusiastic hysteria is enhanced about supposed health dangers that have now quite suddenly arisen from substances produced by weeds that now - thanks to finer measuring methods - are classified as risky, substances that cannot be removed during harvesting or afterwards. That's great, really fantastic, all those things that we can detect. And then, well, how we can earn merit by giving the public "timely" warnings about risks to their health and welfare ...!

I personally ask myself whether we are barking loudly up the wrong tree. These substances have always existed - but aren't the REAL risks and dangers to health to be found where systemic poisons are used, and absolutely nothing is known of their behaviour in combination and their long-term effects? Obviously: the black box will not reveal the reason - but another one can be detected and then magnificently exaggerated.

It is of course necessary to assure you that here I do not argue for a weak standard, while the rest would be ideology. We take everything seriously and cannot be suspected of watering things down with regard to meeting standards and consequent action where these are not met. Naturally, we always work with laboratory analyses where it makes sense.

We fulfil the conditions of our accreditation norms, not only in our base location in Germany, but also of course elsewhere - and that is why you do not really have to look all over the place to see whether we are hiding breaches in the system elsewhere. That we fulfil the accreditation has been proved on numerous occasions. Nevertheless it is being intensified in a blind rage. It would be more important and constructive to look and go there where it has long been known that flourishing abuse occurs. Why doesn't this happen? One can speculate

I plead once more for maintaining the system certification and the logical and targeted use of laboratory analyses for the organic market. And I insist that it is more intelligent and helpful to support certifiers instead of increasingly restricting and hindering them.

In the end I am certain that it is not due to my own, too narrow "organic" point of view when I think of the current trend as going in the wrong direction. If I look at the positions of the OFPA, BÖLW (Federal Association of the Organic Food Industry) or other real expert circles - and place importance on these self-designated "professional consumers" such as they earn through their specialist knowledge - then they all confirm my intense feeling of uneasiness, not to say, my horror, about what is "going on".

The EU Commission is reported to take the position that organic norms must become stricter. I maintain that such demands always make an impression, but are absurd as long as the potential of the existing set of rules has not been fully exhausted. The Commission should first ensure



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that really all regulations are applied efficiently everywhere in the same way. If that does not work, then something new can gladly be devised.

And then the Commission complains that there is now such a terrible number of organic standards that have to be trawled through to find a particular one. Marvellous - yet the same commission - not for quite comprehensible reasons - had caused exactly this unnecessary number, so that every certifier must present his own standard in order to be recognized for working in third countries!

Just what do they want? But please, not at the expense of all market participants!

With this in mind I wish you a successful Biofach 2014

Your

News about the standards

EC Regul. 834/2007

(by Mr. Reiner Claus)

Current - Changes in the organic regulations

In 2013 the regulation (EU) 889/2008 was changed twice.

Some points have been amended by the implementation regulation (EU) No. 392/2013. Hence, it is now compulsory to take a quota of samples of materials not complying with the organic production rules. Corresponding samples are to be taken and analysed from at least 5% of the enterprises. Furthermore, obligatory notification is regulated in more detail in cases of irregularities and violations or when enterprises withdraw from the control procedure. Also new is that the certifications, generally indicated as "certificates", must be published on the internet. This obligation has been realized in Germany by the certificate enquiry of the Conference of Control Bodies (KdK e.V.).

Internationally (outside the EU) the certified enterprises are published in the form of a list on the home page of the responsible control body.

Furthermore, the collection and forwarding of extensive data from the organic control procedure is regulated in the implementation regulation.

The interim agreements for aquaculture have been extended by the implementation regulation (EU) No. 1030/2013 for one and a half years until 1 January 2015.

Please see the corresponding regulations for further details.

Changes in the EU organic regulations can be seen under <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>. Here you will also find consolidated versions of the organic regulations.

What will the year 2014 bring?

The EU Commission plans an amendment of the basic regulation on organic farming 834/2007. A first proposal of the legislation should be presented already in February 2014. And therefore just in time for the Biofach here in Nuremberg.

It is furthermore planned to integrate the regulations of the control system according to regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 into the draft of the amendment of regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. This regulation deals with the "official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules". It was referred to in this connection to end the situation that until now legal entities were subject to two regulations.

Exciting discussions are thus to be expected at the Biofach.

Processing - change of rule concerning yeast!

Since the 1st of January 2014 yeast and yeast products are considered to be ingredients of agricultural origin. Thus the application of conventional yeast in organic products is strongly limited. It can only be used to a maximum proportion of 5%. Please do also consider that an organic product cannot contain conventional and organic yeast at the same time.

Import - Changes in the import regulation

The import regulation 1235/2008 has been changed in several essential details by the implementation regulation (EU) No. 125/2013. As well as the information regulation in the case of



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irregularities and violations these also concern the Annexes III and IV of regulation 1235/2008.

Thus the “list of third countries” (Annex III of regulation 1235/2008) has been amended. Processed agricultural products from India may not be imported according to the regulation of Article 33(1) (= list of third countries) but only according to Article 33(3) (= list of control bodies) or by means of a marketing authorisation (Article 19). Unprocessed agricultural products may continue to be imported according to the regulation on the list of third countries (Article 33(1)).

The “list of control bodies” (Annex IV of regulation 1235/2008) has been supplemented and changed in many places. BCS is thus, since last year, a recognised equivalent control body in third countries for organic wine production as well as for products from organic aquaculture

Croatia joined the EU on 1 July 2013. Thus all regulations concerning import of organic products in the EU have been nullified since this date. Accordingly the import regulation was amended by the regulation (EU) No. 519/2013.

By means of the implementation regulations (EU) No. 567/2013 and (EU) No. 586/2013, further details in the annexes III and IV of the regulation (EC) 1235/2008 have been revised, corrected and also previously authorised control bodies deleted from the annexes.

Here we would ask our importers to observe the legal changes urgently and to inform themselves regularly about amendments to the basic regulation. We would also like to point out that a consolidated version of the import regulation can be seen under <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>.

Import - Effects of the legal changes

Marketing authorisations are limited to a period!

The German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) has announced that when the regulation 508/2012 concerning the amendment of regulation 1235/2008 became effective there was a clear decrease in the number of marketing authorisations. According to the current status, marketing authorisations from the Fed. Office for Agriculture and Food can only be issued with validity up to 30.06.2014. From 1 July of this year, no more marketing authorisations will be issued. Earlier authorisations also lose their validity. Please pay urgent attention to this!

Referring to the use of the code number, we would like to point out again here that it is compulsory to use the code number also when importing. Missing or incorrect code numbers can cause tremendous irritations and extensive controls. The code number of the last producer or processor must be stated according to Art. 24 (1) reg. (EC) No. 834/2007.

National Organic Program (NOP)

(by Mr. Marcus Wolfrum)

Since 01.07.2012 an independent NOP certification is no longer necessary for EU enterprises in order to **gain access to the US organic market** (exception: aquaculture). Ever since then, a certification according to the EU eco regulation is sufficient. In addition, the following **auxiliary conditions** are to be observed by the **exporter**: (1) The last preparation process must have taken place in the EU (2) Products made from/containing agricultural components of animal origin (meat, milk, eggs) must have been produced without using antibiotics. This can also be checked within the scope of the EU audit **after prior notification**, if analogously confirmation of the additional label “antibiotic-free” is also provided on the organic certificate of the presupplier. (3) The general labelling regulations of the NOP are to be observed. (4) For each export, a certification must be obtained from the EU control body so that the recipient in the USA can prove that the conditions of equivalence have been satisfied.

Even when under slightly changed prerequisites, there is also an analogous procedure for the **import of organic products from the USA**. For this purpose, the USA was included in Appendix III of the EU eco import regulation VO 1235/2008 and listed there with all of its control bodies. Due to the different application areas and the partially differing approvals of (production) processes and/or additives, discrimination can occur in trading, for example, if a particular product can only be certified according to the NOP, but not according to the EU eco regulations. Keywords: Stevia, supplementation with vitamins, mineralisation.

Causes for occasional confusion are the circumstances that the equivalency arrangement only applies to bilateral trade between the USA and the EU and that the contents of the NOP regulation were not altered. Thus until now it has not been possible for enterprises in the EU to use EU organic additives within the scope of their previous NOP certification. On the other hand, independent NOP certified enterprises do not require



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equivalence certificates for specific shipments of their NOP products in order to market these (globally) as such.

In contrast to the EU eco regulation, the (whole-sale) trade with organic products under the NOP is still not subject to compulsory control. Nevertheless, the traceability further back than the wholesale retailer up to the last certified pre-supplier must always be verifiable. In this case, the NOP certificate (of the last processor) for the goods' labelling must be provided. For "private labelling", the recommendation of the USDA to the client is to obtain certification for the corresponding NOP products. After all, every NOP controlling body is obliged to examine all those labels where it is mentioned and/or be able to obtain information on receiving pertinent enquiries about the respective transactions.

(Source: National Organic Program Handbook - Guidance and Instructions for ACAs and Certified Operations, U.S. Department of Agriculture → www.ams.usda.gov).

Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS)

(by Mr. Wolfgang Broszat)

News about JAS and the MAFF homepage

There have been no fundamental changes in the JAS organic standard since 2012. Only the JAS Q&A Catalogue (Questions & Answers) for agriculture and processing that was completely revised in the previous year has again been extended within one year (current version: September 2013). The Q&A Catalogue is an important addition to the JAS organic standard. This document can be downloaded from the internet under:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/e/jas/specific/organic>

Entirely new on this "organic page" of the MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) is that it contains statistical data about the trading of the JAS organic products.

Furthermore, a list with the JAS certified Japanese import companies was published for the first time. This list is interesting particularly for organic producers in those countries whose organic standards and control systems had been recognised as being equivalent ("privileged" countries) - like e.g. Germany. Due to this, the extensive search for potential buyers is no longer necessary and initial access to the growing market of the "country of the rising sun" e.g. based on a EU certification has been made easier and faster.

In the meantime there is even the possibility of affixing the much sought after JAS organic label on organic products already directly on-site. Until now this was only allowed for the Japanese importer. This new handling is only permitted in "privileged" countries; which are at the moment all EU member-states, Switzerland, USA, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. The proxy application of the JAS organic label is bound to the following conditions:

- (1) Unprocessed products must have been produced in the respective country according to the national organic standard of that country.
- (2) Processed products must contain a minimum of 95% plant-based organic raw materials or ingredients.
- (3) Raw materials from third countries must be certified pursuant to the respective organic standard of the ("privileged") country where they are further processed; e.g. an EU processor is only allowed to roast and grind EU certified raw coffee.
The pure repackaging or relabeling of organic products from third countries - so-called "re-packing" - is not permitted.
- (4) The Japanese importer has to be JAS certified; he makes the JAS organic label of his Japanese certifier available.
- (5) A contract must be concluded between the organic supplier and the JAS certified importer in Japan, in which amongst others the "assistance" in the "grading" process and the attachment of the JAS organic label are regulated in detail.
- (6) The nominated "assistant" of the supplying company must provide evidence of JAS training. This is the responsibility of the Japanese importer.

Japan: Organic Trade Fair & Organic Market

In 2013 the 13th BioFach took place in Japan. Just under 190 exhibitors from 19 countries presented their organic products, natural cosmetics and organic textiles to more than 15,000 visitors. The trade fair organizer assesses the development of the Japanese organic market as very positive - because "in the last few years many people have changed their life-style and eating habits. [...] This was perceptible at the BioFach Japan 2013".



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Despite the good image that organic products also enjoy in Japan and the growing interest in ecologically produced products - not least because of the atomic catastrophe in Fukushima - the branch's turnover has only increased slowly until now. A development similar to that observed in the EU during the 90s. One of the main reasons for the (still) slowly growing demand for organic products is the generally high price level for foodstuffs. In Japanese retail trade, for instance, conventional potatoes cost more than twice the global average, apples are even more than three times as expensive. The prices for organic products are even significantly higher due to the higher production costs. This could be a real attraction for those organic producers who are looking for new sales markets. Please contact us if you are interested in a JAS certification - or simply send us an e-mail:

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Chinese Organic Standard

(by Mr Wolfgang Broszat)

Now and again BCS receives enquiries about exporting organic products to China. This giant country in the Far East is becoming more and more the focus of many producers and processing enterprises as a lucrative and giant market for "organic goods" from Europe and elsewhere. The problem is however: China does not have an equivalency or recognition agreement with other countries. Thus the only door-opener for exporting organic wares into the "Middle Kingdom" (Chin.: Zhōng guó) is a certification according to the Chinese Organic Standard (GB/T 19630 – 2011).

BCS has been active now in China for more than 15 years and is registered there as a control body - however, only for export goods. Up until two years ago there was the possibility for BCS clients to be offered a "Chinese certification" via its cooperation with the China Organic Food Certification Centre (COFCC), one of the well-known and oldest serving Chinese control bodies. Due to a changed legal situation, this path has in the meantime been blocked. But there is still the possibility to directly contact our long term cooperation partner COFCC. Contact: Mr. Xiang Jiao; e-mail: jx@ofcc.org.cn

However, it does not matter for which Chinese control body you decide: whoever wants to export to China will have to concern themselves more closely with the legal requirements. The revised version of the Chinese Organic Standard is divided into 4 parts (production / processing / labelling and marketing / management system) and is only available in Chinese and English.

The control will in any way be conducted by a Chinese inspector. Many approved inspectors however do not have any or only an insufficient knowledge of English. This can make it necessary to engage an interpreter. The planned date for the outstanding inspection is also important because, due to the climatic conditions in China, there is, for example, a main season for the inspection of agricultural enterprises (ca. May to September). During this time it is difficult to get hold of a Chinese inspector - this can lead to delays in having the inspection conducted.

GLOBALG.A.P

(by Ms. Martina Chacón)

GRASP add-on module

At the end of 2013 the revised version of the GRASP add-on module was published. The current version GRASP V1.2 has been applicable since 1 December 2013 and will be compulsory from 1 March 2014.

What is GRASP?

The abbreviation stands for GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice, a voluntary, add-on module for risk assessment of the social needs of workers. It was developed to examine and assess the basic indicators of possible social risks in enterprises of primary production. At the same time it can serve to create awareness of good social management and to facilitate its implementation at company level.

What meaning does GRASP have for marketing?

GRASP helps producers to establish a good social management in their agricultural enterprises and to protect employees as one of the most important resources of the enterprise. It offers buyers additional assurance and is increasingly being demanded by the leading buyers on the market.

Several large retailers have already in the course of the past year announced that they will demand GRASP in addition to the GLOBALG.A.P. certification as of the 2014 harvesting season.



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Who can be assessed by GRASP?

Every enterprise that produces agricultural or horticultural products can apply for the additional GRASP assessment, as long as it has been certified according to a GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard.

The GRASP module refers to control points listed in the section on Workers health, safety and welfare of the IFA standards and cannot therefore be applied separately without an existing GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certification.

For this reason, it is also not possible for trading or packaging companies with a GLOBALG.A.P. chain of custody certification to undergo GRASP assessment.

Provided however that the product handling takes place under the responsibility of the producer and is included in its IFA certificate, GRASP must also be assessed in the area of product handling, even when this has been given to a subcontractor.

How is it done?

GRASP complements the GLOBALG.A.P. certification with issues regarding the working conditions on the certified enterprise. Normally, the GRASP criteria that have to be fulfilled are examined and assessed within the annual GLOBALG.A.P. audit.

The results of the GRASP assessment are published in the GLOBALG.A.P. database if there is a valid IFA certificate. But they are only visible for business partners within the supply chain and buyers who are registered as GRASP observers and have signed the Terms of Reference about accessing GRASP results.

Every enterprise receives a formal proof of assessment (similar to a certificate) which is valid for one year.

What is inspected?

The main focuses of the inspection concern questions about employee representation, in-house complaints management, self-commitment to comply with good social practice, health and safety in the workplace, work contracts, payment of wages, hours of working and protection of minors.

The assessment is conducted according to a 5 step assessment system (yes, fully compliant/yes, some improvements needed / not compliant but some steps taken / not compliant / not applicable).

What is new in version 1.2?

Because the interpretation of the compliance criteria and the establishing of the minimum

demands always depend on national legislation, until now GRASP could only be applied in countries which have developed national interpretation guidelines and have been recognised by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. It was therefore only enterprises in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Germany, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Colombia, Morocco, Mexico, Austria, Pakistan, Spain, South Africa, USA and Vietnam that were able to upgrade their certificate with a GRASP assessment.

Since 1.12.2013, GRASP assessments can be conducted in all countries, even when there are no recognised national interpretation guidelines. However, each control body has to apply for an exception for every country. A plan of measures to be taken for developing a national interpretation guideline must be submitted together with the application.

The GRASP add-on module cannot be applied to enterprises that do not employ anyone at any time. Should GRASP be requested by the buyer, the producer must provide an appropriate self-declaration. All control points will then be assessed as being not applicable and the corresponding justification stated.

Alterations in fees for the supply chain (Chain of Custody) and the GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture Standard (valid from November 2013).

Aquaculture: Here the fee scale has been extended. The maximum fee until now was 1000€/year at an annual production of more than 5,000t. It has now been increased to a max. of 2000€ and for more than 25,000 t/year. For breeding enterprises separate fees of 100€/year are charged for each category broodstock, seedlings - ova and seedlings - juvenile stages, independent of the quantity produced.

Chain of Custody: Until now a flat rate of 100€/year was applicable, independent of the amount, for each product group.

When the fees are now calculated, they will be based on the number of suppliers providing GLOBALG.A.P. products. The minimum fee is 100€ for less than 50 sources of supplies. The scale ranges up to a maximum of 500€ per year for supplies from more than 1000 sources.

The annual fee is charged independent of the product group and includes the access to the bookmarking tool for traders which previously had to be additionally acquired.



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Bookmarking for traders

For an easier overview and research on the certification status of their suppliers, all entities buying or selling GLOBALG.A.P. certified products can use the bookmarking module in the GLOBALG.A.P. database. After signing an agreement of confidentiality an individual list of suppliers can be uploaded. This can be updated, filtered or extended at any time. By means of the bookmarking system the producer's information can be complemented with additional product, lot or delivery data (e.g. article name, delivery date, traceability code like SSCC).

Awarding the product handling to subcontractors (only relevant for the module Fruit & Vegetables)

Enterprises that have commissioned subcontractors for packaging their products who have their own certification in the post-farm gate sector often assume that through this the chapter of produce handling has been naturally fulfilled for the GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

But to what extent the produce handling site must nevertheless be inspected within the scope of the GLOBALG.A.P. audit depends on different factors.

Basically 3 constellations are to be distinguished:
Case A: The subcontractor has a GLOBALG.A.P. certificate.

Case B: The subcontractor is certified in the post-farm gate sector according to a food safety standard.

Case C: The subcontractor is not certified.

Case A: The subcontractor has a GLOBALG.A.P. certificate

The producer enterprise must receive a report from the subcontractor containing information about the date of inspection, the certifying body and the inspector assigned, and detailed information about the subcontractor. Furthermore, the inspection report listing the results of the relevant control points and the compliance criteria must be made available.

The GLOBALG.A.P. certificate of the other control body can be recognised by the control body of the producer. Where justified, the control body can also decide about conducting its own inspection of the produce handling site.

Case B: The subcontractor is certified in the post-farm gate sector according to a food safety standard

If the subcontractor has a certificate from one of the standards in the post-farm gate sector rec-

ognised by the GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative), then the majority of the inspection points in the section regarding produce handling can be considered as having already been inspected. However, in most cases an inspection of the subcontractor's premises within the scope of the GLOBALG.A.P. audit is unavoidable because the GLOBALG.A.P. inspector is obliged himself, locally, to check the separation and traceability as well as post-harvest treatments.

This case concerns for example certification of a subcontractor according to IFS, BRC or PrimusGFS.

Fall C: The subcontractor is not certified.

In this case he himself must carry out an inspection annually on the fulfilment of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. control points. This can be conducted by the subcontractor himself or through the producer enterprise as a representative of the contractor. The self-assessment checklist list must be available to the external GLOBALG.A.P. inspector throughout the inspection.

The producer is responsible for observance of the control points applicable to the tasks performed by the subcontractor. The producer checks and signs the self-assessment of the subcontractor for every order agreed on and every season.

In any case, a local inspection of the site where the product is handled is included in the GLOBALG.A.P. audit.

FairTSA

(by Dr. Winfried Fuchshofen and Mr. Severin Schönberger)

News about the Fair Trade Sustainability Alliance (FairTSA): The Planning of Community Development Projects

In this edition of the BCS EURÖKO NEWS we would like to make you aware of an essential aspect of the FairTSA Fair Trade Program by means of two selected examples: the community centred development projects. Both of the examples presented here were inspected by BCS inspectors who were specially trained for this purpose, and also certified by BCS.

The planning of community development projects is an important step in the procedure for their successful implementation. An excellent example for such a planning procedure is the planning session conducted by CEDAC in July 2013 in Phnom Penh, at which more than 50



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farmer representatives were present. CEDAC is a non-profit organisation in Cambodia that has the objective of supporting small farmers and country communities. CEDAC cooperates with many well-known organisations like HEKS (Swiss Church Aid), GIZ (German Society for International Cooperation, previously named GTZ/DED), GRET (Experts for a Fair Development), to name only a few. CEDAC has committed itself to offering advice on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) by means of which bigger harvests are achieved through a lower planting density and a better development of the single plants when using significantly less water.

It is intended that the 2014 cooperative should cover about 1,000 rice farmers. Since the marketing of the "Mekong flower rice" has been very successful, it is to be expected that the number of members in the cooperative will clearly increase over the coming years. Our licensing partner, Lotus Foods Inc. in California has an essential role here.

In the planning sessions, the participating farmers experience more about the FairTSA Fair Trade Program and can contribute their own views and wishes to the project planning.



FairTSA Community Planning Workshop

The workshop shown in the above photo was professionally accompanied by Mr Keam Makarady (CEDAC) and Mr Claudius Bredehöft (GIZ).

An essential result of this workshop was the planning for the construction of several simple rice mills that will be financed to 80% by CEDAC and will for the first time allow the farmers themselves to market a high-quality product and

thus take an important step towards financial independence.

One project that is already in an advanced phase is the one carried out by Celebes Coconut and the farmers delivering coconuts and bananas to the company. Located in the north of Mindanaos, ca. 3,000 small farmers cultivate these tropical fruit in an agroforestry system that leaves the natural rain forest intact, and demonstrates altogether one of the most close-to-nature cultivation systems.

The first phase of the community development project involved the drilling of wells that could be easily reached in two of the project villages.



Well Inauguration on Mindanao

In the next project phase, solar lighting will be installed in several villages that do not have any electricity supply. This project phase is currently in planning and should be implemented at the beginning of 2014.

Lecture about Fair Trade and FairTSA by Dr Fuchshofen at the Annual Meeting of the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) in Costa Rica

The IOIA invited Dr Winfried Fuchshofen, Executive Director of FairTSA, to give a lecture about "Fair Trade and the role of FairTSA" at their annual meeting in March 2014 in Costa Rica. Since this annual meeting takes place in connection with the first Spanish language NOP training of the National Organic Program (NOP) of the USDA, there will surely be many inspectors and representatives from certifiers from Middle and South America participating. Should anyone be interested in a personal meeting with Dr



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Fuchshofen, they should contact him directly by e-mail under wfuchshofen@fairtsa.org.

Clients of BCS and interested parties can as always pose Mr Severin Schoenberger general questions about the procedures of FairTSA by e-mail: schoenberger@bcs-oeko.de

GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)

(by Ms. Sabine Götz)

Revision procedure GOTS 4.0

A revision of the GOTS Standards is conducted every three years. In order to ensure the quality and feasibility of the standards it is necessary to adapt them continuously. Here, the objective is to define high ecological and social requirements according to the current state of technology. GOTS sees its task in contributing to sustainable development. This means amongst other things:

- The use of raw materials from organic farming,
- The use of environmentally friendly methods in the further processing of fibres (spinning, weaving, dyeing, bleaching, finishing, etc.),
- Waste water from dye factories goes through closed treatment systems,
- The implementation of a works own environmental management system,
- As well as complying with work and social standards.

The participants of the revision procedure

As well as inviting the member organisations of GOTS

- the **OTA** = Organic Trade Association (USA),
- the **IVN** = International Textile Association of the Textile Industry (Germany)
- the **Soil Association** (England) and
- the **JOCA** = Japan Organic Cotton Association (JA),

to the revision procedure, accredited certifiers, 20 stakeholder-organisations (interest groups) were also invited.

These organisations act internationally with their specialised knowledge in the areas of organic farming, textile processing, textile chemistry and also in the field of work and social standards.

Non-profit organisations, consumer and environmental associations were also represented in the development the Version 4.0.

Wet finishing process

Considerable contributions were made on the development of criteria and assessment procedure for chemical input in the wet finishing process and finishing processes in the production of textiles.

Bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing are as the most frequently used procedures particularly intensive in chemicals.

Material composition

With the label "made with organic", GOTS permits the addition of 30% fibres from non-organic production in the material composition. There were suggestions on this topic about what proportions of recycled fibres and regenerated fibres from organic production or sustainable renewable sources could be contained in the additional fibres

For your information:

For regenerated fibres (viscose, modal, cupro, acetate, lyocell) the raw material is natural cellulose. Traditional procedures for manufacturing of e.g. viscose are extremely intensive in chemicals and waste water.

The fibre lyocell was developed some years ago during the search for regenerated fibres that are produced in an environmentally friendly manner. The raw material cellulose is obtained from eucalyptus and beech trees in the sustainable timber industry.

In the production of the cellulose fibre, a non-toxic solvent is used in a closed material cycle. In comparison to other regenerated fibres, its manufacturing process is evaluated as being clearly less detrimental to the environment because in this procedure, only a minimum of the original amount of the chemicals and water is required.

Non-clothing and accessories

Other topics discussed in the revision were the development of the requirements for product groups in the non-clothing sector, e.g. body care products and mattresses, and the establishing of the requirements for non-textile accessories.



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Inspection of work and social standards

The compliance with social and industrial law standards must exist throughout the entire supply chain. In addition to the criteria of the **core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation** like the prohibition of forced labour, freedom of association, the right to a secure job, equal pay, prohibition of child labour through the entire textile supply chain, it is also required to pay a wage that ensures a livelihood.

The compliance with these requirements is controlled during local inspections. A part of this audit is the personal interview of the employees about the above mentioned criteria, as well as inspecting work contracts and pay slips.

Various suggestions were made about this, like how in general the practices for the inspection of the social audit can be optimised. For instance, it was not always easy for employees to agree to an anonymous and confidential interview, or it was not possible to look at work contracts and pay slips.

GOTS version 4.0 and its manual are expected to be published in March 2014.

KOC (Korea Organic Certification)

(By Mr. Tobias Fischer)

As a general rule, since 1.1.2014 all organic products marketed in South Korea must also be certified according to the South Korean standard KOC (Korea Organic Certification).

This means that the entire production chain - from farmer to the last processing/packing - must be KOC certified.

From the point of view of the production technology, there are only a few differing requirements between the KOC and, for example, the EU organic certification. However, the requirements for the documentation from the enterprise are higher. Thus, for example, there is a form stipulated by the KOC legislation for the description of the enterprise. There is also a difference in that samples have to be taken annually from soil and plants/products by the inspecting control body (like BCS) and tested for residues.

BCS is one of the control bodies accredited by the Korean authorities and can offer the services

described above. Please contact us if you have any enquiries regarding this.

The Korean Ministry MAFRA (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) has however made two exemptions:

1. The so-called "Exempt ingredient list" published on 8.11.2013

The Exempt Ingredient List contains a positive list of the products that can continue to be exported to Korea - i.e. as until now - that have another organic certification like e.g. EU organic regulation, NOP, etc.. The precondition is that it concerns processed products certified by a control body recognized in Korea (e.g. according to EU organic regulation, NOP, etc.) and which will be further processed in Korea. However, the Korean organic label can then no longer be applied to the end product processed in Korea, but the products may only be marketed with an indication that they are organic.

2. The so-called "Educational Period" published on 31.12.2013

Although the initially mentioned requirement still applies that all organic products imported into Korea must be certified according to KOC, due to international efforts the MAFRA has decided to allow a period of grace between the 1.1.2014 and 30.6.2014 to allow the KOC regulation to be implemented. During this period, organic products with e.g. EU organic certification can continue to be imported into Korea and be processed there, and the Korean organic label can be applied to the end product. In the time up to 30.6.2014 the responsible Korean authority will not place any sanctions or fines on Korean companies, but only issue information that this practice will be punished after 1.7.2014 and appropriate fines will be imposed. However, the educational period does only apply to processed products exported to Korea.

Furthermore, it was communicated that negotiations are already being held between i.a. the EU Commission and MAFRA regarding mutual recognition (equivalence).



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Brazilian Organic Regulation (Law no. 10831/2003)

(by Mr. Caio Diniz)

Since 1 January 2011 all organic products marketed in Brazil must meet the requirements laid down in the Brazilian governmental regulation of organic agriculture (Law no. 10831/2003, Decree no. 6323/2007 and Normative Instructions came into force - see www.agricultura.gov.br/desenvolvimento-sustentavel/organicos/legislacao).

The regulation contains the standards for the production, processing, storage, transport, labeling, trading and control mechanisms (e.g. third party certification) of organic products, of both plant and animal origin.

Organic products to be exported to Brazil must also meet the mentioned standards and be certified by an accredited certification body. The accreditation of certification bodies is performed jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA) and the General Coordination for Accreditation of INMETRO. Since the regulatory process was consolidated in 2011, BCS customers requesting organic certification in accordance with the Brazilian regulation are being served through a successful partnership with the local certification body TECPAR.

Currently, BCS is in process of accreditation and we expect to offer the Brazilian organic certification as from the second half of 2014 (soon after the FIFA World Cup™). The Brazil's organic market has increased year by year since the regulation came into force and BCS is the partner of your choice to provide confidence to your organic products produced in or exported to Brazil!

Excerpt of EU-Regul. 1235/2008 of Annex IV of BCS as CB for the purpose of equivalency

Third country	Code number	Category of products					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
Albania	AL-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Algeria	DZ-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Angola	AO-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Armenia	AM-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Azerbaijan	AZ-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Belarus	BY-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Bolivia	BO-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Botswana	BW-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Brazil	BR-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Burma/Myanmar	MM-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Cambodia	KH-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Chad	TD-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Chile	CL-BIO-141	x	x	x	x	—	x
China	CN-BIO-141	x	x	x	x	x	—
Colombia	CO-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	—	—
Costa Rica	CR-BIO-141	—	—	x	—	—	—
Côte d'Ivoire	CI-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Cuba	CU-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	—	—
Dominican Republic	DO-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Ecuador	EC-BIO-141	x	x	x	x	x	—
Egypt	EG-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
El Salvador	SV-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Ethiopia	ET-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—



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Georgia	GE-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Ghana	GH-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Guatemala	GT-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Haiti	HT-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Honduras	HN-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Hong Kong	HK-BIO-141	x	—	—	—	—	—
Indonesia	ID-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Iran	IR-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	—	—
Japan	JP-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Kenya	KE-BIO-141	—	—	—	x	—	—
Kosovo	XK-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Kyrgyzstan	KG-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Laos	LA-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Lesotho	LS-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MK-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Malawi	MW-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Mexico	MX-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Moldova	MD-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Montenegro	ME-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Mozambique	MZ-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Namibia	NA-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Nicaragua	NI-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Oman	OM-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Panama	PA-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Paraguay	PY-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Peru	PE-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Philippines	PH-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Russia	RU-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
Saudi Arabia	SA-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Senegal	SN-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Serbia	RS-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
South Africa	ZA-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
South Korea	KR-BIO-141	x	—	x	x	x	—
Sri Lanka	LK-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Sudan	SD-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Swaziland	SZ-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
French Polynesia	PF-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Taiwan	TW-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Tanzania	TZ-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Thailand	TH-BIO-141	x	—	x	x	x	—
Turkey	TR-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Uganda	UG-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Ukraine	UA-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	x	—
United Arab Emirates	AE-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—
Uruguay	UY-BIO-141	x	x	—	x	x	—
Venezuela	VE-BIO-141	x	—	—	x	—	—



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Market Presence

In 1992, **BCS OEKO-GARANTIE GmbH** became the first German certification body registered under the Organic Regulation of the European Union (EEC 2092/91). Since that time, BCS OEKO-GARANTIE has become very well established in the European market and has gained a strong international presence.

According to a rough estimate, BCS is involved in the certification of approx. 35% of all organic products in Germany. BCS certifies about 450,000 operators in about 70 countries worldwide.

BCS OEKO-GARANTIE maintains offices / local representation in:

Latin America: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dom. Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay

Europe: Germany and Spain, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey

Asia: China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Philippines and Thailand

Africa: Ethiopia, South Africa, Tunisia

Our Clients

Our client base encompasses all sectors of the organic industry, including farmers, processors, (re-)packers, importers, exporters and warehousing companies.

Our services are also frequently requested by other well-established certifying agencies that seek to complement their range of product offerings.

BCS Services

Certification

BCS OEKO GARANTIE is accredited for the following organic certification standards:

- EC 834/2007 and 889/2008 (EU Organic Regulation), 710/2009 (EU-Aquaculture)
- JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard of Organic Agricultural Products)
- KOC (Korean Organic Certification)
- NOP (National Organic Program, USA)
- Ley 20.089 DS17 (Chile Organic Standard)
- FairTSA, GOTS (Textiles)
- OSKSA (Organic Standard Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- SPP (Símbolo Pequeños Productores)

In addition BCS certifies according to ecological and social certification standards:

- GLOBALG.A.P. (Good Agricultural Practice)
- UTZ CERTIFIED (Certified Responsible Coffee)

➤ Bird Friendly (Coffee Certification)

Thanks to an efficient cooperation with our partner INTERTEK, the 'one stop shopping' has become reality for our clients: we also offer jointly various certifications such as TNC, HACCP, IFS, ISO 9000, ISO 22000 etc.

Inspections

Besides the above mentioned standards **BCS OEKO-GARANTIE** also cooperates with and conducts inspections for the following organizations according to their private or national standards: Bioland / Demeter / Gäa / Naturland (Germany), Bio Suisse (Switzerland), Austria Bio Garantie (Austria) and others

Support of Exports into the EU

Our name - well-recognized in the EU - builds confidence in the brands and products certified by us and is helpful in the import process.

Customized Services

BCS OEKO-GARANTIE offers control and evaluation of guidelines, contracts (incl. specifications) and licensing payments for associations and other brand owners.

The BCS Philosophy

BCS OEKO-GARANTIE - celebrating its 20st Anniversary in 2010 - is one of the pioneers of the organic movement in Europe. The motivation of BCS is to provide clarity and transparency for the consumer.

Control is a need for the protection of serious producers and providers and trusting consumers and thus for the credibility of the organic production in general.

BCS OEKO-GARANTIE is committed to support the growing organic marketplace by maintaining the consumers' confidence in the conformity with the organic guidelines along the complete supply chain from producer to the consumer.

Contact Us

Please contact our office by phone or email as listed in the BCS Contact List 'BCS worldwide', or through the central office listed below. We will customize our services to meet your company's specific needs.

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EU Regulation 834/2007



NOP (USA)



JAS (Japan)



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KOC



OSKSA



GOTS



UTZ CERTIFIED



SPP

(Symbol Small Producers)



Inspections on behalf of

Demeter
BIOSUISSE



Bioland
Naturland

