

Developing National Standards

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Agenda for the day

- Introduction round
- Language/translation
- Appoint rapporteur/presentator
- Timing/schedule
- Introduction of experiences
- Introduction by facilitator
- Identification of main issues to discuss
- Discussion per issue
- Summaries of discussions
- Presentation in plenary

Why national standard ?

- Provides legitimacy to organic movement
- Is educational exercise
 - So that all involved develop common understanding
- Is consensus building exercise
 - So that parties learn to co-operate
 - Learn to distribute roles and responsibilities
 - Continue to move together
- Is it a means or an end?

Why a national standard ?

- Choice:
 - a standard of the movement private)
 - a regulation (public)
- Grassroots movement, bottom up approach
- Are governments interested ?
- Are governments capable ?
 - Have to think long term (10 years)
 - Should fit in ‘national programme’

A national programme

- Identification of actors
- Division of roles and responsibilities
- Consensus building
- Development of national standards
- Promotion of production
- Provision of ToT/extension packages

National programme continue

- Marketing (export & domestic)
- Developing inspection/certification capacity
- Research, education
- Institutionalisation
- Regulation made & implemented
- IFOAM accreditation
- Third country list

National standard set by who ...

- A multidisciplinary committee
 - primary sector
 - processors, businesses
 - NGOs
 - science, extension bodies
 - government (if becomes public)
- Majority must be and remain from the organic sector itself

National standard approved by ...

- Organic sector itself (private)
when public:
 - Standards Board
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Consumer Affairs
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- Only make it public when your
future participation in revision is
guaranteed

Elements of standard

- General aims/objectives
- Principles
- Recommendations
- Minimum requirements
 - Think of verifiable indicators
 - Think of inspection methodology

ToC standard

- Scope & revision
- Objectives
- Plant production
- Animal production
- Processing
- Approved inputs
 - How it is inspected & certified is important

Regional specifics

- Take into consideration:
 - Climatical
 - Ecological
 - Cultural/traditional
 - Stage of development
- Exchange within region
 - Regional standard ?

Be aware

- It is not an end, it is a means
- Making standards is one thing, implementing or enforcing them is another
- Standards change all the time
- Be part of revision
- There are many other things to do as well
- Is it the top priority?