

Proposal 20: Improving organic smallholders' access to local, regional and global markets

Submitting MGs / CSOs	IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements)
Country of Implementation	Global, with a focus on developing countries
Agro-ecological context	Various
Duration and Total Budget	4 years, 352.000 euros

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- NGOs
- Farmers
- Business & Industry
- Consumers

Success indicators:

- PGS are in place in at least 8 countries.
- PGS concepts are developed and used.
- 3 successful cases of local/ regional market development exist at the end of the project.
- ICS materials include social aspects and are updated and developed through a participatory process

Partners to be engaged:

Organic certification bodies worldwide, HIVOS, Biodiversity Fund, smallholder producer associations, IOAS (International Organic Accreditation Service).

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Enhanced capacity of smallholder farmer groups in developing countries to access international markets for organic products and reduced cost of organic certification for smallholder through widest adoption of Internal Control Systems are expected to lead to poverty reduction (MDG 1) through increased income from organic farming and to wider adoption of ecologically sound agricultural systems (MDG 7).

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

- Capacity and knowledge building on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for local marketing of sustainable and organic produce to foster the development of locally tailored marketing tools based on direct consumers-producers relationships.
- Further develop training materials on Internal Control Systems for smallholder collective certification in developing countries in order to empower smallholders and enable them to access global certified organic markets.
- Integrate social aspects (fair conditions of employment) into organic agriculture guidelines for standards and into training materials for smallholders groups.
- The approach used encompasses: collection and publication of cases studies, support to M&E efforts of targeted pilot projects, experience sharing through the organization of regional and international workshops and the development of networking tools (e.g. internet platform) and training materials among others.

Building upon Experience

IFOAM is a grassroots and democratic organization that currently unites 750 member organizations in 108 countries. The organization has more than 30 years of experience in federating the organic movement worldwide and contributing to the development of sound sustainable agricultural systems based on the principles of organic agriculture. Since 2000, IFOAM has been running the IFOAM-Growing Organic Programme which focuses on the development of organic agriculture in developing countries.

Major Group Inputs

The project combines inputs from several MGs: IFOAM develops training materials and facilitates farmer organizations' interaction for the development of concept documents and recommendations. Farmer organizations participate in the identification of good practices and lessons learned. Private certification bodies contribute to the implementation of IFOAM recommendations and to providing feedback e.g. on training materials.