FAO in Organic Agriculture

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Introduction

What is Organic Agriculture ?

CODEX Definition

1. What Organic Farmers do not
2. What positive things organic farmers do instead
3. Holistic view of the FARM

Synonyms or not??

Problems understanding the organic / Alternative market

1. Proliferation of Certificates
2. Statistics not always reliable
3. Equivalency of certificates
4. Confused consumers

Organic Agriculture & FAO

History

- 1997 IFOAM obtains liaison status
- 1999 COAG recommends cross sectoral programme
- 1999 Codex commission endorses guidelines on organic agriculture
- PAIA/ORGA MTP (2002-2007)

Organic Agriculture & FAO

Activities

- Norms & standards
- Markets
- Environment
- Production
- Food security

Norms & Standards

- Codex Alimentarius
- IFOAM standards
- National standards
- Non-standard organic agriculture (??)
- Private standards

Codex Alimentarius

Objectives:

- Protect the health of the consumers
- Ensure fair competitions of OA producers

Codex Alimentarius

Aims

1. Protect Consumers against Fraud
2. Protect producers against misrepresentation
3. Ensure adherence of production, storage,preparation, identification, certification & Labeling with guidelines

Codex Alimentarius

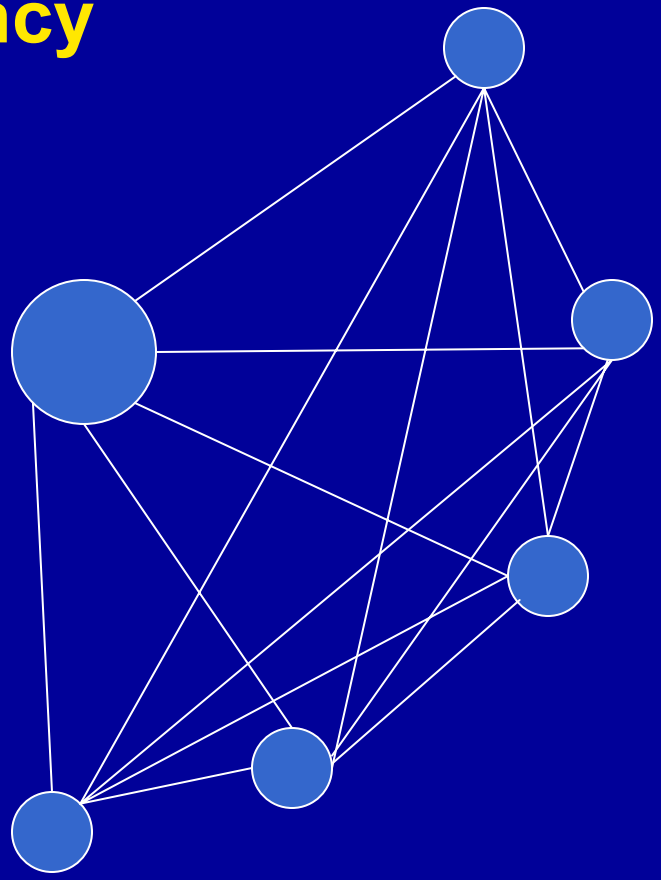
4. Harmonize provisions for production, storage, preparation, identification, certification & Labeling
5. Provide international guidelines for food control systems
6. Maintain & Enhance organic agricultural systems for preservation (?)

Equivalency of Certificates

Bilateral Equivalency

Country

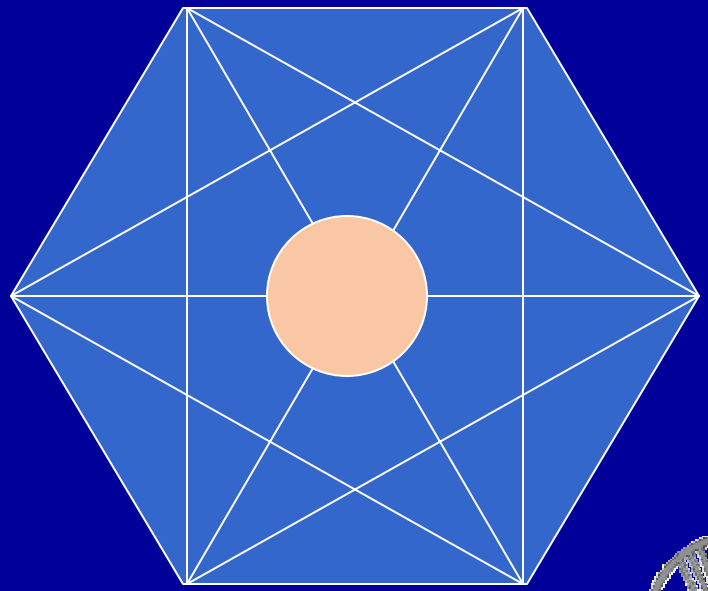
Agreement on Equivalency of Certificate



Equivalency of Certificates contd.

INTERNATIONAL Accreditation:

- **IDEAL MODEL:**
  One RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL standard



Cost of certification

Sources of costs

- Field boundaries
- Conversion period
- New techniques
- International / national certification costs

How does FAO help

- Provides commodity and market studies
- Provides technical and policy studies and field projects
- It provides a forum to discuss issues surrounding technical and policy issues (production, certification, marketing)

Marketing Aspects

What are the problems?

- Harmonization + Equivalency of certificates on national and international level.
- Cost of certification for farmers, particularly small farmers

FAO's role in Networking

- Differentiation of Organic statistics
- Dissemination of Information
- Information For a
- Support to Networks

Environmental Impact

Environment Sustainability

- Most information available
  - for temperate climate
- Valid in low-potential area (tropic)?
  - Not know, under study.
- Organic Agriculture, Environment and Food Security (2002)

Bio-diversity

Technical Practices

- Soil fertility
- Plant protection
- Quality seed
- Horticulture production
- Post-harvest techniques
- Capacity building

Soil fertility

- Soil organic matter – a key for productivity
  - Nutrient source
  - Improved soil property
  - Resilience against drought, diseases
  - Sustainability

Soil fertility

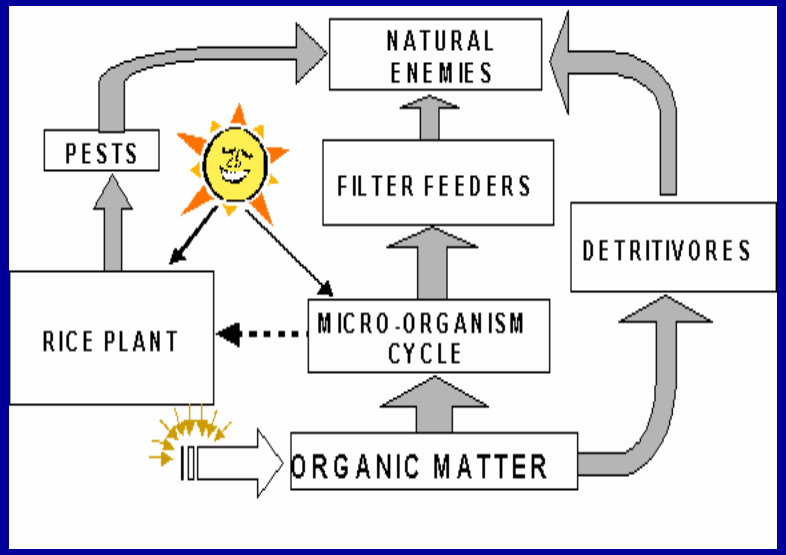
- Composting, MULCHING
- Bio-fertilizer production
- Integrated FARMING SYSTEMS (PLANT-ANIMAL ASSOCIATIONS)
- LOW TILLAGE
- ROTATIONS

Crop protection

- Synthesized pesticides

- IPM
  - Biological control
  - Less pesticides

- OPM
  - PREVENTION STRATEGIES
  - Biological control
  - Low / non toxic pest management products



Crop protection

- Regional IPM projects (12 countries in Asia)
  http://www.communityipm.org/countries.htm

IPM NOT EQUAL TO OPM!

- Publication including OPM products

Quality Seeds

- Availability
- Targeted efforts for:
  - Collection
  - Breeding
  - Exchange

  of appropriate genetic resources (LOCALLY ADAPTED, OPEN-POLLINATED, GMO-FREE)
- Organic Seeds Conference
  - July 2004
  - FAO, IFOAM, ISF

Horticulture production

- Increased income generation
- Technical information needed

Horticulture production

- Expert group
  - Collaboration with Tropical Fruit Network
  - For successful organic horticulture system in developing countries
- Publication (coming soon)
  - General framework for tropical fruits production
  - Guidelines for organic pineapple, citrus and mango production

Post-harvest

- Storage, processing and packing
- Maintain / increase product value
- Reduce loss
- As important as production

Post-harvest

- Medical, aromatic and natural dye plants (south Asia)
- Coffee (southeast Asia)
- Analysis of new market opportunities (coming soon)
- Guidelines on Handling and Processing Organic Fruits and Vegetables in Developing Countries
  - Collaboration with the New Zealand Institute for Crop and Food Research)

Capacity building

- insufficiency of formal and informal training
  - organic farming: diverse and site-specific

Capacity building

- FAO contribution to graduate and post-graduate trainings in organic agriculture (several universities in Italy)
- Training manual on organic agriculture in Latin America and Caribbean (with Cuba)

Summary

- Market aspects – OK
- Current status of organic agriculture sector – OK
- Organic standards – OK
- Harmonization and equivalency issue – OK (take time)
- Statistics on organic agriculture – OK (take time)
- Technologies for competitive organic production in developing countries
- Linkage between organic agriculture, rural development, and food security (poverty reduction)