How to safeguard integrity within organic systems



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European Organic Certifier Council (EOCC)



How to prevent fraud?

- > Anti Fraud Initiative
 - > Rumours at BioFach 2007
 > May 07: Meetings in Bonn (BLE and CB's)
 > October 07: Workshop at FiBL in Frick
 60 participants certification bodies, trade, authorities



Organic Integrity

- > Non-compliance with the organic principles and standards
 - > Fraud (deliberate act which leads to a pecuniary advantage)
 - > Use of prohibited substances
 - > Commingling and labeling of convential products as organic
 - > Unintented irregularity, e.g.
 - > Not knowing the requirements
 - > Unintended commingling





What is needed?

- > Inspection and certification system is sufficiently regulated
- > Enforcement needs to be improved
 - > Implementation of requirements
 - > Supervision to provide equal playing field
- > Increase of effectiveness of inspection
 - > Inspection tools
 - > Risk orientation
- > Improvement of communication, transparency
 - > Trade certification bodies authorities





Effective Inspection and Certification

- > Exchange of information (e.g. suspicion or detection of fraud, switching CB's)
- > Risk oriented inspection schemes (type (announced/unannounced) and frequency of inspections
- > Cross-checks for verification of the product flow
- > Input-output calculations for risk products
- > Risk orientated residue testing by certification bodies
- > Electronic publication of certified operators as well as de-certified and suspended operations, e. g. <u>www.bioc.info</u>



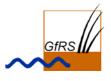


BioC: a common approach of competing organic certification bodies

	Verzeichnis d	er kontrollierten Ur	nternehmen de	s Ökologischen La	andbaus			
Suche Auswahl-Liste		Information	Kontrollstellen	Nutzung & Haftung	Impressur			
Name:	Börner-Eisenac	her GmbH						
I. Name, PLZ 2.	Auswahl 3. Erg	gebnis 4. Bestätigun	g					
Name.	Herr Eisenacher							
Adresse:	Robert-Bosch-Breite 5							
Ort:	37079 Göttingen							
Codenummer:	DE-039 Öko-Kontrollstelle							
Kontrollnummer	D-NI-039-2569-B							

Dieses Ergebnis bestätigt, dass das oben genannte Unternehmen von der Kontrollstelle <u>»GfRS</u> <u>GmbH«</u> (DE-039) in der Datenbank eingetragen wurde. Dies bietet keine ausreichende Gewähr, dass alle von ihm vermarkteten Produkte, aus ökologischer Erzeugung stammen. Achten Sie darauf, ob sich ein Bio-Hinweis und die Codenummer auf dem Etikett des fraglichen Produktes befinden.





BioC: Tracking of organic lots

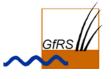
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	Status der Partie:	Ökologisch erzeugt nac	h EU-Bio-VO N		•		
	Abnehmer: Andreas Meyer						
		Abnehmerauswahl Andreas Meyer Franz Meyerhoff					
	+ Weitere Angaben	Partie registrieren					





Effective Surveillance

- > Equal playing field for CB's by assessing also effectiveness of control, e.g.
 - Analysis activities, e.g. crosschecks of product flow, Inputoutput calculations
 - > Communication among CB's
 - > Competency of personnel
 - > Publication of certified operators
- > Risk orientation in surveillance
- > Organic Rapid Alert System
- Guidelines for notification and following up suspicicion of fraud
- > Qualification of auditors
- > EU country reports on implementation



Quality Insurance by the operator

- > Obligation for a quality control system
- > Verification that suppliers know and implement the requirements of organic trade.
- > Selection of the CB (cheaper CBs are not always the best)
- > Organization in trade associations





New import scheme (I)

- > Consistent surveillance of European and non-European certification bodies
 - > supervision system run by institutions qualified and trained for the specific requirements of the EU regulation
 - > based on a common approach
- > Applications of certification bodies should contain:
 - > Geographical scope information
 - > Assessment reports including information on the latest office and witness audits in third countries including nonconformities found and corrective actions of the CB.
 - > Assessment of the standard applied in third countries: compliance versus equivalence.

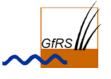






New import regulation (II)

- > Tools to assess compliance and equivalency of standards applied in third countries.
- > "Compliance" in third countries needs to be evaluated very carefully, not only equivalence
- > Publication of such assessments to increase transparency
- > Elimination respectively definition of suitable equivalent measures for requirements which cause unbearable burden to farmers in Third Countries





International Complaints Mechanism

- > One reference point to notify complaints
 - > Irregularities, failure of CB, suspicion, fraud...
- > Thorough investigation/follow up
- > Necessary are:
 - > Broad acceptance of the reference point
 - > Integrity
 - > Expertise (could be delegated)
 - > Sufficient financial capacities
 - > by or in close cooperation with authorities





Conclusions

- > No more rules, but
 - > Enforcement



- > Focus on implementatin instead of documentation
- > Transparency (e.g. flexibility rule, equivalency assessments)
- > Increase of effectiveness
 - > Provide incentives for detecting fraud
- > Risk orientation
 - > Not the 95 % compliant operators but the 5 % irregularities need to be targeted







Next steps

- > Code of conduct for certification bodies
 - Jochen Neuendorff (GfRS), Keith Ball (Soil Association/EOCC), Jan Wicher Krol (SKAL, EOCC) Rainer Bächi (IMO)
- > Code of conduct for trade
 - Toni Sellers (Tuchel&Sohn), Wim Rabbie (Tradin), Carol Heast, Bo van Elzakker (AgroEco)
- > Paper ,,what authorities and supervisory bodies can do"
 - Lianne Kersbergen (Ministry of Agr., NL), Beate Huber (FiBL)
- > Initiatives in other regions?
 - > Italy, Peru, US







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