The World of Organic Agriculture:

Regulations and Certification

Emerging Trends 2009

Beate Huber
## Organic Regulations by Continent (2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Countries with regulations</th>
<th>Countries per continent</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America and Carribean</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and Pacific</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td><strong>193</strong></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Countries Drafting Regulations

- Europe: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Ukraine
- Armenia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam
- America and Caribbean: Cuba, Nicaragua, St Lucia
- Africa: Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania
# Certification Bodies by Continent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and Carribean</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>481</strong></td>
<td><strong>468</strong></td>
<td><strong>395</strong></td>
<td><strong>419</strong></td>
<td><strong>385</strong></td>
<td><strong>364</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Organic Standard 08/08
Certification Bodies by Continent

Source: The Organic Standard 08/08
Trends in Regulations: Strong markets keep control on imports

- Direct approval of foreign certification bodies
  - US, Japan, EU (from 2011?), Canada (from 2009?)
- Trend to delegate surveillance of (foreign) certification bodies to accreditation bodies and to be flexible in recognition of accreditation bodies
  - EU: „recognition“ of IOAS
  - Canada: various recognition schemes
- No progress in bilateral agreements between countries
  - EU Third country list: 7 countries listed
  - No other bilateral agreements between countries
  - Canada is negotiating agreements with US and EU
Trends in Regulations: Alternative control schemes

Third party control with annual control visits is very expensive for smallholders

➢ Group certification with Internal Control Systems:
  ➢ Recognition in statements or guidance documents
  ➢ US: interim policy, new policy in preparation
  ➢ EU: covered in guidelines on import
Trends in Regulations: Alternative control schemes

› Participatory Guarantee Systems
  › Participatory Guarantee Systems are locally focused quality assurance systems.
  They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

› Legislation in
  › Bolivia,
  › Brazil,
  › Chile,
  › Costa Rica,
  › British Columbia

› Discussed in other countries,
  › e.g. India
Trends in Reguations:
Extension of scope

- Aquaculture
- Wine
- Yeast
- Petfood

- Extension to non-food only on private level
  - Standards on textile, fibre processing, cosmetics and social standards from private organizations
Harmonization

- International Task Force on Harmonization (FAO, IFOAM, UNCTAD)
  - Accepting diversity in organics by equivalency approach
    - no unified organic standard
    - Mutual and multilateral recognition on basis on equivalence assessment
  - Elaboration of Equitool
    - Procedure to assess equivalency among standards
  - Adoption of the International Requirement for organic certification bodies (IROCB)
    - Norm for organic certification bodies
    - Not yet applied by governments
Progress in Harmonization?

- No progress in mutual recognition of governmental systems
- Increase of national approval schemes (US, Japan, EU, Canada…)
- More flexibility for recognition of surveillance bodies (EU, Canada)
- Reference to Codex Alimentarius in EU Regulation
Increasing Diversity of Norms

Chinese Reg
GlobalGan
Canadian Reg
US NOP
EU Regulation
National Reg
ISO 22000
BRC

Certification Body