



Global Organic Market Access
a project of FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD

Invitation to submit a Tender for a Study and Recommendations for Developing Regional Organic Standards in Asia

Qualified consultants are invited to submit proposals for a study and recommendations as described in the Terms of Reference below.

Project Timeline (2010)

Deadline for Proposals: 22 August

Decision and Contract: 30 August

Draft for Review: 1 November

GOMA's review and comment: 12 November

Final Draft: 20 November

Fees

Project Fee will be based on the budget (including # of days and daily rate) submitted in the successful proposal and shall not exceed €7000 (includes consultant's VAT where applicable e.g. in Germany). Fees shall be paid upon acceptance of final draft of the study.

Contract and Accountability

The contract for this project will be with IFOAM, which administers the GOMA project on behalf of the GOMA Partners. The consultant will be accountable to the GOMA Project Manager.

Elements of the Proposal

- Consultant's reflections on the project
- Consultant's qualifications for the project (including descriptions of work on similar projects)
- Proposal for the structure and function (including internal timeline) of the project.
- Project Budget

Factors in Decision on the Consultant

- Quality of the proposal with respect to the project aims and required outputs
- Experience and qualifications of consultant relative to the project
- Cost to the GOMA project
- An established network with key organic stakeholders (government and private) in the relevant regions of Asia will be considered a "plus".

Submission of Proposal

- Proposals should be submitted electronically to GOMA Project Manager, Diane Bowen, d.bowen@ifiam.org. All proposals will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt.

Terms of Reference

Study and Recommendations for Developing Regional Organic Standards in Asia

Background

GOMA is facilitating key stakeholders in Asia to develop a plan for harmonization and equivalence for organic agriculture in Asia¹. At a workshop in May, 2010 in Shanghai, these stakeholders decided to develop a regional organic standard and asked GOMA for assistance. GOMA agreed to prepare a technical study for the work. It is envisioned that the Asia regional standard will function as a basis for equivalence among standards in the region, and could be adopted as a local standard where none currently exist. Reference documents cited elsewhere in this ToR contain additional background for the project.

Aim of the Study

Preparation of the regional standard should be based on common objectives for organic standards in the region and a comparative understanding of the public and private organic standards currently in effect in the region.

The technical study will facilitate the development of common objectives in the regional and a collective understanding of standards in the region. This understanding should not rely on the detailed level of standards, but rather, it should be based on how the standards fulfill common objectives of standards for organic production and processing systems.

Additionally there should be an understanding of the comparative scope of the current standards e.g. wild collection, beekeeping, aquaculture.

The study should involve the key stakeholders in the region (identified by GOMA) in identifying objectives for organic production and processing and in contributing information about their national and private standards, especially as they relate to objectives.

GOMA has drafted an annex of international common objectives and related requirements for organic standards, which is currently a draft Annex to the EquiTool. The Annex is based on ITF studies; also, on work done by IFOAM for its Organic Guarantee System, and furthermore with reference to principles for organic production and processing in EC 834/2007. GOMA will consult and further develop this Annex in a timeframe that is parallel to the timeframe for this study. The process for this Asia Regional Standards study will be part of the consultation on the development of the EquiTool Annex.

Specifications/Outputs of the Study

Framework

The study will use the EquiTool Annex on Common Objectives and Related Requirements for Organic Standards as a reference for Asian stakeholders to develop and agree on main objectives and related basic requirements for their region.

The study will analyze alignment of the standards with the objectives and related requirements in the EquiTool Annex. Notable departures in how the objectives are addressed should be highlighted. The study should then summarize this information in a comparative format.

¹ For this purpose, limited to East, South-East and South Asia

The study should also identify, analyze and highlight additional main objectives and main requirements beyond the scope of the current EquiTool Annex.

Asia Stakeholders should be engaged in providing input for this analysis.

Scope of Standards

Standards to be analyzed (depending on the cooperation of the governments) include the following:

Government Standards:

- China
- Taiwan Province of China
- Japan
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Philippines
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Vietnam
- Laos
- India
- Nepal

Representative Private Standards

- JONA - Japan
- ACT Thailand
- OCCP – Philippines
- COAA - Cambodia

Standards that are not available in an English translation will not be included in the technical analysis. GOMA may add or subtract a limited number of these standards at the time of commissioning this project.

Participative Process

The key stakeholders should be invited to participate in the process by contributing their standards, feedback on objectives for standards, and technical information on the relationship between their standards and objectives for standards. The GOMA Project Manager can assist in engaging participation from the key stakeholders in the study.

Feedback to GOMA on the EquiTool Annex

The response of the stakeholders on the EquiTool Annex on Objectives and Related Requirements for Organic Standards and recommendations for enhancing it will be reported to GOMA.

Recommendations for Regional Standards Development

The study should recommend a way forward for drafting a regional standard, based on the findings of the study.

Summary of the Outputs Expected

1. Recommendation for Common Objectives and Related Requirements for the Asia Regional Standard, based on Asia stakeholder input.

2. Comparative Analysis of current organic standards in Asia, with reference to EquiTool objectives. Analysis of the scope of these standards should be included or appear in a separate analysis.
3. Feedback to GOMA on the Draft EquiTool Annex on objectives and related requirements , based on input from Asia stakeholders.
4. Process recommendations for the further development of the Asia Regional Standard.

Reference Material for the Study

- *Scoping Study for Equivalence and Harmonization of Organic Standards and Technical Regulations in the Asia Region*

- *Report of the Workshop on Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia.*

Both available at <http://www.goma-organic.org/regional-projects/asia>

- *EquiTool (Guide for Assessing the Equivalence of Organic Standards and Technical Regulations*

Available at www.goma-organic.org/tools

- *Draft EquiTool Annex on Common Objectives and Related Requirements for Organic Standards (replaces current Annex Two in EquiTool)*

Annexed to this Terms of Reference

Timeline

The Study should commence by 1 September, 2010 and a first draft should be submitted by 1 November. The complete and final study must be submitted to GOMA by 20 November, 2010. GOMA may request submission of intermediate results. The timeline is critical for preparation of the meeting of the GOMA Asia Regional Working Group on or about 10 December, 2010.

ANNEX: **DRAFT ONE Common Objectives and Related Requirements for Organic Standards)**

This Annex supports the use of common objectives in the assessment and determination of equivalence of organic standards. This approach is explained in EquiTool Section 3.3. The Annex may also be used as a basis for standards development.

The DRAFT Annex was originally based on ITF studies on common objectives and additionally on work prepared by IFOAM for its international Organic Guarantee System and the principles laid out in the EU organic regulation, EC 834/2007. The Annex will be internationally consulted prior to its finalization.

The Annex will also be available in an Excel format to allow for an easier overview and practical use.

Main Objectives	Detailed objectives and general requirements to address them
<p>1. Employ long-term, ecological, systems-based organic management.</p>	<p>1.1 General Farming Management Systems:</p> <p>1.1.1 ensure the long-term management and resilience of an organic farm holding by respecting, maintaining, improving and completing ecological cycles and the quality of ecosystems and the landscape;</p> <p>1.1.2 Attain ecological balance through the design of locally adapted farming systems;</p> <p>1.1.3 do not rely upon switching between organic and conventional management.</p> <p>1.2 Crop Production Management Systems:</p> <p>1.2.1 are based on conserving or improving soil structure, organic matter, soil fertility and biodiversity;</p> <p>1.2.2 include a diverse crop rotation as an integral part of the management system of the holding. For perennial crops this includes cover crops (green manures) and/or other plant-based ground cover. For annual crops this includes minimum crop rotation practices, cover crops (green manures) or other diverse plant production with comparable achievements;</p> <p>1.2.3 promote and sustains the health of crops while maintaining productivity and the integrity of the agro-ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is accomplished through interrelated positive processes and mechanisms for the management of pests, diseases, and weeds. These include but are not limited to site and crop adapted fertility management and soil cultivation, choice of appropriate varieties, enhancement of functional biodiversity; and in case additional measures are required, restricted use of crop protectants and growth regulators. <p>1.2.4 Excluded systems: Hydroponic production.</p> <p>1.3 Animal Production Management Systems:</p> <p>1.3.1 are based on the harmonious relationship between land, plants and animals;</p> <p>1.3.2 assure the health of animals and meet their physiological needs;</p> <p>1.3.3 treat animals respectfully and support their natural and social behavior and welfare;</p> <p>1.3.4 preserve the agroecosystem and surrounding environment.</p> <p>1.4 Beekeeping Management Systems:</p> <p>1.4.1 maintain bee colonies as an integral part of the ecosystem and support their natural cycles.</p> <p>1.5 Aquaculture Management Systems:</p> <p>1.5.1 maintain well-being of the farmed species, the biodiversity of natural aquatic ecosystems, the health of the aquatic environment, and the quality of</p>

	<p>surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.</p> <p>1.6 Wild Collection Management Systems:</p> <p>1.6.1 do not exceed sustainable yield of the local ecosystem, nor threaten the existence of plant, fungal or animal species, including those not directly exploited.</p> <p>1.6.2 collect products only from within the boundaries of the clearly defined wild collection area.</p> <p>1.7 Processing Management Systems:</p> <p>1.7.1 maintain organic integrity of processed products, contribute to health and well-being of humans and animals (in the case of animal feed), produce high-quality products and protect the environment.</p> <p>1.8 Transition/Conversion Requirements for Organic Production Management Systems:</p> <p>1.8.1 clearly identify when organic practices begin and how long they are applied before the operation and products can be considered organic, taking into consideration the balance of the ecosystem and the skills of the operator. This may include specific conditions for simultaneous transition/conversion of land and animals and is no less than twelve months for the system.</p> <p>1.8.2 for crops, establish a suitable period of organic management prior to the organic status of a crop, during which contaminants are reduced, and healthy soils and sustainable ecosystems are being established, and which is no less than twelve months.</p> <p>1.8.3 raise animals organically from birth or hatching, or when this is not possible from early ages subject to a minimum transition/conversion requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines for minimum transition/conversion requirements: dairy – 90 days. eggs and poultry meat – 42 days; other meat – 12 months; aquatic animals – two thirds lifespan or 12 months, whichever is shorter; bee colonies – time needed for wax replacement with minimum twelve months.
<p>2. Assure long-term, biologically-based soil fertility</p>	<p>2.1 Soil Fertility Management:</p> <p>2.1.1 nourishes plants primarily through the soil ecosystem, and achieves nutrient balance.</p> <p>2.1.2 enhances the soil-ecosystem and achieves nutrient balance primarily by incorporating manures and other biodegradable inputs, and/ or by nitrogen fixation from plants.</p> <p>2.1.3 employs measures to recycle organic materials within the production system.</p> <p>2.1.4 uses naturally occurring mineral fertilizers only as a supplement to biologically-based fertility methods.</p> <p>2.1.5 excludes or restricts certain practices that may be inconsistent with organic management objectives including:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ use of sodium nitrate ▪ land preparation by burning ▪ use of human excrement on crops for human consumption
<p>3. Avoid/minimize synthetic inputs at all stages of the organic product chain and exposure of people and the environment to persistent, potentially harmful chemicals.</p>	<p>3.1 Crop Production:</p> <p>3.1.1 uses only crop production inputs, including fertility substances and active substances for pest/disease/growth management, that are on the Indicative lists of substances for organic production and processing in international organic standards, or they comply with the criteria for these lists, or they are otherwise explicitly approved in these standards.</p> <p>3.1.2 Co-formulants (e.g. inerts and synergists) in formulated farm input products are not carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens or neurotoxins.</p> <p>3.1.3 Excludes any use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and superphosphates.</p> <p>3.2 Animal Production</p> <p>3.2.1 excludes synthetic feed rations: amino acids, nitrogen compounds (e.g. urea), growth promoters, stimulants appetizers, preservatives and coloring agents .</p> <p>3.2.2 vitamins, trace elements and supplements provided to animals are from natural sources unless they are not available in sufficient quantity and/ or quality.</p> <p>3.2.3 excludes from the system all prophylactic use of synthetic allopathic veterinary drugs.</p> <p>3.2.4 use of antibiotic and other allopathic veterinary drugs for animals is strictly limited to the treatment of illness and injuries under the supervision of qualified personnel, and subject to defined withdrawal periods that are not less than double that required by legislation.</p> <p>3.2.5 in aquaculture, all use of allopathic veterinary medication for invertebrates is excluded from the system.</p> <p>3.3 Processing</p> <p>3.3.1 Processing methods other than biological, mechanical or physical techniques are restricted.</p> <p>3.3.2 Any additives, processing aids or other substances that are used and modify organic products are on the indicative lists of international organic standards, or comply with the criteria for these lists, or are otherwise explicitly allowed in these standards.</p> <p>3.3.3 Solvents used for extraction are restricted and are on the indicative lists of international organic standards, or comply with the criteria for these lists.</p> <p>3.3.4 Disinfecting and sanitizing substances that may come in contact with organic products are restricted to water and substances on the indicative lists of international standards or comply with the criteria for these lists.</p> <p>3.4. Contamination</p>

	<p>3.4.1 Precautionary measures are taken to avoid contamination.</p> <p>3.4.2 Where there is reasonable suspicion of contamination, an investigation is made, the source of the contamination sought and measures are taken to address the problem.</p>
<p>4. Minimize pollution and degradation of the production/processing unit and surrounding environment from production/processing activities.</p>	<p>4.1 General</p> <p>4.1.1 risks of environmental pollution are identified and minimized.</p> <p>4.1.2 organic systems employ measures to reduce, reuse, and/ or recycle residual materials.</p> <p>4.2 Farm Production and Beekeeping</p> <p>4.2.1 Biodiversity is maintained or enhanced on the farm holding, in crop and non-crop habitats.</p> <p>4.2.2 Measures are employed to prevent land degradation, such as erosion and salinization.</p> <p>4.3.4 Pollution of the environment by fertility inputs and practices is prevented.</p> <p>4.2.3 Management systems ensure that water resources are used sustainably</p> <p>4.2.4 Measures are employed to prevent pollution, and otherwise preserve water quality.</p> <p>4.2.5 Any actions that negatively impact high conservation value areas are excluded from organic systems.</p> <p>4.2.6 Use of synthetic coverings and mulches is restricted.</p> <p>4.3.7 Stocking density management in animal production ensures sustainable land and water use.</p> <p>4.3.8 Animal production systems use breeds suited to the region and the production method.</p> <p>5.5.1 Bee races are adapted to the local environment and conditions.</p> <p>4.3 Aquaculture</p> <p>4.3.2 Aquatic plants are managed in a manner that avoids any degradation of the production area or the surrounding ecosystem.</p> <p>4.3.2 measures are taken to prevent introduced or the cultivated stocks from escaping into the ecosystem.</p> <p>4.3.3 non--organic aquatic animal protein and oil may only be used if they derive from wild marine products harvested from verifiable sustainable sources or from by-products from fishery for human consumption</p> <p>4.3.4 The release of nutrients and waste into the aquatic ecosystem is minimized.</p> <p>4.3.5 production units are designed and managed to maintain water quality.</p>

	<p>4.4 Wild Collection</p> <p>4.4.1 Excludes from the system collection of any protected or endangered species.</p>
<p>5. Exclude certain unproven, unnatural and harmful technologies from the system.</p>	<p>5.1 Genetically Modified Organisms</p> <p>Organic production and processing management systems:</p> <p>5.1.2 preserve the genetic integrity of varieties and traditional ecotypes;</p> <p>5.1.3 exclude deliberate use or negligent introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMO) or their derivatives, except vaccines, in all stages of organic production and processing.</p> <p>5.2 Ionizing radiation</p> <p>Organic management systems:</p> <p>5.2.3 exclude use of ionizing radiation.</p> <p>5.3 Breeding Techniques:</p> <p>5.3.1 use only breeding techniques consistent with organic production methods are used. This includes artificial insemination. 5.2.4-5 Hormonal induction of ovulation and birth, and embryo transfer techniques and cloning are excluded from the system.</p> <p>5.3.2 In aquaculture, exclude from the system any use of artificially polyploid organisms or artificially produced monosex stock and synthetic hormones to artificially stimulate reproduction.</p>
<p>6. Avoid pollution from surrounding environment</p>	<p>6.1 Wild collection</p> <p>6.1.1 Wild collection areas are not compromised by treatment or environmental pollution.</p> <p>6.2 Beekeeping</p> <p>6.2.1 In beekeeping systems, hive placement minimizes the risk of contamination.</p> <p>6.3 Aquaculture</p> <p>6.3.1 In aquaculture, the production units have an appropriate distance from contamination sources and conventional aquaculture.</p>
<p>7. Treat animals responsibly</p>	<p>7.1 Living conditions</p> <p>7.1.1 Living conditions (including housing) provided to the animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • afford them comfort and safety • allow them to exhibit natural behavior • give them freedom of movement • allow access, whenever weather allows, to open air, exercise areas and/ or, pasture, which include shade.

	<p>7.1.2 Confinement of calves for veal production and of any animals in cages is excluded from the system.</p> <p>7.2 Physical Alterations</p> <p>7.2.2 Physical alterations are generally excluded from the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In beekeeping this includes clipping the wings of queen bees. ▪ Standards may allow specific exemptions when good management practices are insufficient to ensure the health and welfare of the animal and/ or operator or when it is specifically required for meat quality. Physical alternations performed under exceptions employ measures to minimize suffering. <p>7.3 Breeds and Breeding</p> <p>7.3 1 Animal production systems use breeds that reproduce successfully under natural conditions and without routine human involvement.</p> <p>7.4 Transport and Slaughter, and Honey Harvest</p> <p>7.4.1 Animal stress and suffering is avoided during the movement, handling and slaughter of animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ use of any injurious devices e.g. electric prods, and tranquilizers and stimulants is excluded from the system. <p>7.4.3 Aquatic vertebrates are stunned before slaughter.</p> <p>7.4.4 deliberate killing of bees during honey harvesting is excluded from the system.</p>
<p>8. Promote the natural health of animals</p>	<p>8.1 Nutrition</p> <p>8.1.1 Organic livestock systems provide animals with a diet that consists of high quality and nutritious organic feed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any use of non-organic feed is specified, is strictly limited to non-accessibility of organic feed and time limited. <p>8.1.2 Nutrition practices are consistent with the animals' natural needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Included are feed rations that meet the nutritional and dietary requirements of the species e.g. access to roughage for ruminants. ▪ Excluded are feeding slaughter products of the same species to all animals, any slaughter waste to ruminants, and all types of excrements. ▪ There is a weaning period for young animals, which is based on the natural behavior of the species. <p><i>Beekeeping:</i></p> <p>8.1.3 In beekeeping, supplementary feed is organic and is restricted to colony welfare.</p> <p>8.1.4 Harvesting methods ensure that there are sufficient food reserves left behind for the survival of the colony during the dormancy period.</p>

	<p><i>Aquaculture</i></p> <p>8.1.5 In aquaculture, Aquatic animals are fed predominantly organic feed. The use of non-organic feed is specified; it is strictly limited to non-accessibility of organic feed and time limited.</p> <p>8.2 Health Care</p> <p>8.2.1 Health care practices follow the principle of positive health; the graduated approach of prevention, including appropriate vaccinations, then natural medicines and treatment, and finally if unavoidable, treatment with allopathic drugs. Where veterinary medicinal products are administered, conversion requirements apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See section 3.2 3-3.2.5 for related information <p>8.2.2 Medical treatment considered necessary for the welfare of an animal is never withheld in order to maintain the organic status of the animal. Animals are not allowed to suffer for lack of treatment.</p> <p><i>Beekeeping:</i></p> <p>8.2.3 The health and welfare of bee colonies is primarily achieved through good management and hygienic practices.</p> <p>8.2.4 When preventative health measures fail, veterinary medicinal products may be used provided that preference is first given to phyto-therapeutic and homeopathic treatments, and then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lactic, formic, oxalic, acetic acid • sulfur • natural essential oils. <p>8.2.5 Methods permitted for hive and honey comb disinfection are restricted to steam, direct flame , caustic soda and Bacillus thuringiensis.</p> <p><i>Aquaculture</i></p> <p>8.2.6 Health is promoted and disease controlled through preventive, system-based methods. Objectives and requirements for livestock that are relevant to aquatic organisms are included in the management system.</p> <p>8.2.7 Stocking densities do not compromise the animals' welfare.</p> <p>8.2.8 Production units are designed and managed to maintain the health and natural behavior of the stock.</p>
<p>9. Maintain Organic integrity throughout the supply chain.</p>	<p>9.1 Production</p> <p><i>Seeds and Seedlings</i></p> <p>9.1.1 Organic practices are implemented along the entire production chain from propagation to final product including the production of seed and propagation materials wherever possible.</p> <p>9.1.2 Seed and plant propagation material is of organic quality unless such seed and material is unavailable.</p>

9.1.3 All substances used for treatment of all seed material are on the Indicative List of Substances for Organic Production and Processing in international organic standards or comply with the Criteria for these lists, unless treatment with other substances is legally required or unless seed not treated with these other substances is regionally unavailable. Exemptions are limited in time.

9.1.4 Seedlings are of organic quality.

Parallel and Split Production

9.1.5 The integrity of the organic farm unit is not compromised by the management of the non-organic operation.

9.1.6 The non-organic and organic parts and products of holdings with split or parallel production are completely and clearly separated, e.g. physical barriers, management practices, storage of inputs and products.

Animal Production

9.1.7 The organic integrity of animals is maintained during movement, handling and slaughter.

9.1.8 In aquaculture, all components of agricultural origin are organic.

9.2 Processing and Handling

9.2.1 Organic products are processed separately in time and/or place from non-organic products.

9.2.2 Measures are taken to prevent co-mingling of organic products with non-organic products in processing, packaging, storage and transport.

9.2.3 Organic processed products are made from organic ingredients except for when they are not available. Use of non-organic ingredients is time-limited.

- Use of the same ingredient in organic and non-organic quality is excluded from the system.

9.2.4 Use of any substance primarily to correct losses of properties during processing except where required by law or strongly recommended by authorities is excluded from the system

9.2.5 Filtration techniques used in organic processing do not chemically react with or modify the product at the molecular level.

9.2.6 Management systems for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, machinery and processing facilities are in place and they prevent contamination of organic product

9.2.7 During processing and handling organic products are protected from pests and diseases without compromising the organic integrity of the product.

9.2.8 Pests are managed according to a hierarchy of practices starting with

	<p>prevention, and then physical, mechanical, biological methods and substances on Lists international organic standards or that comply with the Criteria for these lists.</p> <p>9.2.9 Packaging and storage/transportation containers do not contaminate the organic product they contain.</p>
<p>10. Provide organic identity in the supply chain.</p>	<p><i>Labeling</i></p> <p>10.1 Labeling clearly identifies organic products and provides relevant information for consumers to make informed, conscious choices and to avoid misleading them</p> <p>10.1.2 Products labeled as “organic” or “in-conversion”, or an equivalent term (e.g. biologic or ecological), comply with the applicable organic standards.</p> <p>10.1.3 Full disclosure of ingredients is provided, including whether or not they are organic.</p> <p>10.1.4 Labels identify the person or company legally responsible for the product and the body that assures conformity to the applicable organic standard</p> <p>10.1.5 Processed products labeled as “organic” contain at least 95% organic ingredients (by weight).</p> <p>10.1.6 Labels for in-conversion products or similar terms are clearly distinguishable from labels for organic products.</p>