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Center for Smart Agriculture

Organic Certification and Inspection Systems



*National Programme for
Organic Production*

**Module 5: National Standards for Organic
Production**

Session 5 : Breeding, Nutrition, Transport



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Breeds and Breeding

The certification programme shall ensure that breeding systems are based on breeds that can both copulate and give birth naturally.

Artificial insemination is allowed.

Embryo transfer techniques are not allowed in organic agriculture.

Hormonal heat treatment and induced birth are not allowed

The use of genetically engineered species or breeds are not allowed.



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Mutilations

Mutilations are not allowed. The certification programme shall allow the following exceptions:

- ❖ Castrations
- ❖ Tail docking of lambs
- ❖ Dehorning
- ❖ Ringing
- ❖ Mulesing



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Animal Nutrition

The certification programme shall draw up standards for feed and feed ingredients.

The prevailing part (at least more than 50%) of the feed shall come from the farm unit itself or shall be produced in co-operation with other organic farms in the region

For the calculation purpose only, feed produced on the farm unit during the first year of organic management, may be classed as organic.



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The following products shall not be included nor added to the feed given to farm animals:

- ❖ Synthetic growth promoters or stimulants
- ❖ Synthetic appetisers
- ❖ Preservatives, except when used as a processing aid
- ❖ Artificial colouring agents
- ❖ Urea
- ❖ Farm animal by-products (e.g. abattoir waste) to ruminants



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- ❖ Droppings, dung or other manure (all types of excreata) even if technologically processed
- ❖ Feed subjected to solvent (e.g. hexane), extraction (soya and rape seed meal) or the addition of other chemical agents
- ❖ Pure amino acids
- ❖ Genetically engineered organisms or products thereof This covers both organic and conventional feeding stuffs.



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Vitamins, trace elements and supplements shall be used from natural origin when available in appropriate quantity and quality

All ruminants shall have daily access to roughage.

The following fodder preservatives shall be used:

- ❖ Bacteria, fungi and enzymes
- ❖ By-products of food industry (e.g. molasses)
- ❖ Plant based products



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Veterinary Medicine

The use of conventional veterinary medicines are allowed when no other justifiable alternative is available

Where conventional veterinary medicines are used, the withholding period shall be at least double the legal period.

Vaccinations shall be used only when diseases are known or expected to be a problem in the region of the farm



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Use of the following substances is prohibited :

- ❖ Synthetic growth promoters
- ❖ Substances of synthetic origin for production, stimulation or suppression of natural growth
- ❖ Hormones for heat induction and heat synchronisation unless used for an individual animal against reproductive disorders, justified by veterinary indications



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Transport and Slaughter

Throughout the different steps of the process there shall be a person responsible for the well-being of the animal.

Handling during transport and slaughter shall be calm and gentle. The use of electric sticks and such instruments are prohibited.

No chemical synthesized tranquillizers or stimulants shall be given prior to or during transport.



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The certification programme shall set slaughter and transportation standards that will take into consideration:

- ❖ Stress caused to the animal and person in charge
- ❖ Fitness of the animal
- ❖ Loading and unloading
- ❖ Mixing different groups of animals or animals of different sex
- ❖ Quality and suitability of mode of transport and handling equipment
- ❖ Temperatures and relative humidity
- ❖ Hunger and thirst
- ❖ Specific needs. of each animal



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