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Module-3

National Standards for Organic Production



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CROP PRODUCTION



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1. Choice of Crops and Varieties

- When organic seed and plant materials are available, they shall be used. The certification programme shall set time limits for the requirement of certified organic seed and other plant material.
- When certified organic seed and plant materials are not available, chemically untreated conventional materials shall be used.
- The use of genetically engineered seeds, pollen, transgene plants or plant material is not allowed.



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2. Duration of Conversion Period

- Plant products produced can be certified organic when the national standards requirements have been met during a conversion period of at least two years before sowing or in the case of perennial crops other than grassland, at least three years (thirty-six months) before the first harvest of products.
- The conversion period can be extended by the certification programme depending on, e.g., past use of the land and environmental conditions.
- The certification programme may allow plant products to be sold as "produce of organic agriculture in process of conversion" or a similar description during the conversion period of the farm.



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3. Diversity in Crop Production

- Where appropriate, the certification programme shall require that sufficient diversity is obtained in time or place in a manner that takes into account pressure from insects, weeds, diseases and other pests, while maintaining or increasing soil, organic matter, fertility, microbial activity and general soil health.
- For non perennial crops, this is normally, but not exclusively, achieved by means of crop rotation



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4. Fertilisation Policy Standards

- Biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin shall form the basis of the fertilisation programme.
- The certification programme shall set limitations to the total amount of biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin brought onto the farm unit, taking into account local conditions and the specific nature of the crops.
- The certification programme shall set standards which prevent animal runs from becoming over-manured where there is a risk of pollution.
- Manures containing human excreta (faeces and urine) shall not be used.



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- Mineral fertilisers shall only be used in a supplementary role to carbon based materials. Permission for use shall only be given when other fertility management practices have been optimised.
- Mineral fertilisers shall be applied in their natural composition and shall not be rendered more soluble by chemical treatment. The certification programme may grant exceptions which shall be well justified.
- The certification programme shall lay down restrictions for the use of inputs such as mineral potassium, magnesium fertilisers, trace elements, manures and fertilisers with a relatively high heavy metal content and/or other unwanted substances.



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5. Pest, Disease and Weed Management including Growth Regulators Standards

- Products used for pest, disease and weed management, prepared at the farm from local plants, animals and micro-organisms, are allowed. If the ecosystem or the quality of organic products is likely to be jeopardised, the Procedure to Evaluate Additional Inputs to Organic Agriculture (Appendix 3) and other relevant criteria shall be used to judge if the product is acceptable. Thermic weed control and physical methods for pest, disease and weed management are permitted.

3.2.5.3. Thermic sterilisation of soils to combat pests and diseases is restricted to circumstances where a proper rotation or renewal of soil cannot take place. Permission may be given by the certification programme only on a case by case basis.



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- All equipments from conventional farming systems shall be properly cleaned and free from residues before being used on organically managed areas.
- The use of synthetic herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other pesticides is prohibited.
- The use of synthetic growth regulators and synthetic dyes are prohibited.
- The use of genetically engineered organisms or products are prohibited



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6. Contamination Control Standards

- In case of reasonable suspicion of contamination, the certification programme shall make sure that an analysis of the relevant products to detect the possible sources of pollution (soil and water), shall take place to determine the level of contamination.
- For protected structure coverings, plastic mulches, fleeces, insect netting and silage rapping, only products based on polyethylene and polypropylene or other polycarbonates are allowed. These shall be removed from the soil after use and shall not be burnt on the farmland. The use of polychloride based products are prohibited.



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7. Soil and Water Conservation Standards

- Clearing of land through the means of burning organic matter, e.g. slash-and burn, straw burning shall be restricted to the minimum.
- The clearing of primary forest is prohibited.
- Relevant measures shall be taken to prevent erosion.
- Excessive exploitation and depletion of water resources shall not be allowed.
- The certification programme shall require appropriate stocking rates which do not lead to land degradation and pollution of ground and surface water.
- Relevant measures shall be taken to prevent salination of soil and water.



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- ## 8. Collection of Non Cultivated Material of Plant Origin and Honey
- Wild harvested products shall only be certified organic if derived from a stable and sustainable growing environment. Harvesting or gathering the product shall not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem, or threaten the existence of plant or animal species.
 - Products can only be certified organic if derived from a clearly defined collecting area, which is not exposed to prohibited substances, and which is subject to inspection.
 - The collection area shall be at an appropriate distance from conventional farming, pollution and contamination.
 - The operator managing the harvesting or gathering of the products shall be clearly identified and be familiar with the collecting area in question.