



AID-FOR-TRADE: CASE STORY

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



Aid for Trade Case Story:
The East African Organic Products Standard



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Submission by the United Nations Environment Programme

Executive Summary

The East African Organic Products Standard was adopted in 2007 by the East African Community as the single, official standard for organic agriculture production in the region. The standard is a key output of the joint United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) “Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development” (UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF) initiative. The standard was the result of a multi-stakeholder process involving intensive consultations and participation by national governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions. Although authoritative evaluations are still outstanding, the standard has been pivotal in promoting organic agriculture production in the East African region and has influenced the development of other regional standards.

1. Issues Addressed

All five members of the East African Community (EAC) – Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda – are highly dependent on agriculture for national income and employment (see Table 1). As is the case with many other developing countries, agricultural development in the EAC region is a critical component in overall economic development. Raising farmers’ incomes can have significant secondary effects on other parts of the economy, including the demand for farm inputs, services, processing facilities, as well as non-farm goods also rise.

Table 1 - EAC countries’ agriculture share in GDP and employment

<i>Country</i>	<i>Percent of GDP generated from agricultural activities (2000)</i>	<i>Agricultural workers as a percentage of the total labour force (1990)</i>
Burundi	50.7	91.7
Kenya	19.9	79.5
Rwanda	43.7	91.7
Tanzania	45.1	84.4
Uganda	42.5	84.5

Source: World Resources Institute, EarthTrends (<http://earthtrends.wri.org>)

Beyond economic considerations, organic agriculture brings with it numerous other benefits for sustainable development. Environmental benefits from increased organic agricultural cultivation include lower energy consumption (20-56 per cent lower per unit produced¹), reduced greenhouse gas emissions (on average 64 per cent lower per hectare²), higher levels of biodiversity³, and increased soil fertility⁴ leading to the possibility of equivalent or higher yields⁵ compared to conventional farming.

¹ Mäder, P. et al., May 2002, 'Soil Fertility and Biodiversity in Organic Farming,' *Science* vol. 296, no. 5573, p. 1694 – 1697.

² Kuestermann, B. und Huelsbergen, K.-J., 2008, Emission of Climate-Relevant Gases in Organic and Conventional Cropping Systems. Cultivating the Future Based on Science: 2nd Conference of the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research ISOFAR, Modena, Italy, June 18-20, 2008.

³ Hole D.G. et al., March 2005, 'Does organic farming benefit biodiversity?' *Biological Conservation* vol. 122, is. 1, p. 113-130; Bengtsson, J., J.

Ahnström, & A.-C. Weibull, 2005, 'The effects of organic agriculture on biodiversity and abundance: a meta-analysis,' *Journal of Applied Ecology* vol. 42, p. 261-269; and Mäder, P., A. Fliessbach, D. Dubois, L. Gunst, F. Padruot & U. Niggli, 2002, 'Soil fertility and biodiversity in organic farming,' *Science* vol. 296, p. 1694 – 1697.

⁴ Mäder et al., op. cit.

Increased soil fertility can also help combat desertification by preventing erosion and land degradation.⁶ Besides environmental benefits, organic agriculture can increase food security resulting from higher productivity and therefore higher yields. Measured impacts are particularly strong in subsistence agricultural systems with yield increases of up to 180 per cent.⁷ Increased agricultural employment further leads to reduced rural-urban migration.⁸

The global market for organic food and drinks has grown by 335 per cent since 1999 to US\$50.9 billion in 2008.⁹ Moreover, Europe makes up more than half of the global market, and as the European economy recovers from the recent economic and financial crisis, the growth in the market for organic products is expected to increase further.¹⁰ In fact, 97 per cent of the sales revenue was generated in industrialized countries, demonstrating how organic agriculture can present a lucrative trade opportunity for developing countries.¹¹ With 80 per cent of organic producers – mostly small-scale farmers – based in developing countries, many such countries have proven the feasibility of making use of this opportunity.¹²

There are two kinds of organic farms in East Africa: certified organic farms producing for national and export markets, and informal organic farms producing for subsistence and local markets. Representative data related to the scale of both types of organic production has only started to be collected.¹³ For the most current reliable data on organic farming in the EAC, see Table 2. However, it can be said that the region's interest in organic agriculture did not start only with the development of the East African standard. In fact, the central problem the standard addressed was the proliferation of organic standards in East Africa, mirroring the development of organic standards at the global level.

When the joint UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF initiative was launched in 2005, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda had all developed different organic standards with the support of the local organic movements. At least five public, and several private and international standards for organic agriculture were being used in the region. This proliferation of standards posed significant problems for local organic farmers, as they had to meet different requirements to access regional or international markets and by choosing to focus on complying with one standard meant they risked being excluded from markets that demanded a different standard. Moreover, compliance costs were high and the standards were not well adapted to local agro-ecological conditions. Consequently this also posed problems for producers seeking to target the regional market.¹⁴ Thus the situation called for a harmonization of the multiple standards to advance the organic agriculture sector in East Africa.

⁵ Posner L. J. et al., 26 February 2008, 'Organic and conventional production systems in the Wisconsin integrated cropping systems trials: I. Productivity 1990–2002,' *Agronomy Journal* vol. 100, p. 253-260; Horrigan, L. et al., May 2002, 'How sustainable agriculture can address the environmental and human health harms of industrial agriculture,' *Environmental Health Perspectives* vol. 110; and Badgley C. et al., 2007, 'Organic agriculture and the global food supply,' *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* vol. 22, no. 2, p. 86–108.

⁶ Bouagnimbeck, H., 2010, 'Organic Farming in Africa', p. 104. in Willer, H. & L. Kilcher, (eds.), 2010, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2010*, FIBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL.

⁷ Scialabba, N. E.-H., 2007, 'Organic Agriculture and Food Security,' FAO.

⁸ UNEP, ILO, IOE, ITUC (2008): *Green Jobs: Towards decent work in a sustainable, low carbon world*, United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON): Nairobi.

⁹ Sahota, A., 2010, 'The Global Market for Organic Food & Drink,' p. 54, in H. Willer and L. Kilcher, (eds.), 2010, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2010*, FIBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Willer, H., 2010, 'The World of Organic Agriculture 2010: A Summary,' p. 20, in H. Willer and L. Kilcher, (eds.), 2010, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2010*, FIBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL.

¹² Willer, H., M. Rohwedder and E. Wynen, 2009, 'Organic Agriculture Worldwide: Current Statistics,' in H. Willer and L. Kilcher, (eds.), 2009, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2009*, FIBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL; Geneva: ITC.; and Sahota, A., 2009, 'The Global Market for Organic Food & Drink,' in H. Willer and L. Kilcher, (eds.), 2009, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2009*, FIBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL; Geneva: ITC.

¹³ For statistics on organic agriculture in Africa and elsewhere consult: H. Willer and L. Kilcher (eds.), 2010, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2010*, FIBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL.

¹⁴ UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, 2010, 'Organic Agriculture: Opportunities for Promoting Trade, Protecting the Environment and Reducing Poverty – Case Studies from East Africa'.

Table 2 - Organically managed agricultural land and producers by EAC country, 2008

<i>Country</i>	<i>Organic agricultural land [ha]</i>	<i>Share of total agricultural land</i>	<i>Producers</i>
Burundi	3,508	0.15 %	n/a
Kenya	5,159	0.02 %	2,021
Rwanda (2007)	13,356	0.69 %	2,565
Tanzania	72,188	0.21 %	85,366
Uganda	212,304	1.66 %	180,746

Source: H. Willer and L. Kilcher (eds.), 2010, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2010*, FiBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL.

2. Objectives Pursued

The UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF launched the development of the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS) to harmonize the existing organic standards into a single regional East African standard.¹⁵ The EAOPS explicitly refers to its objective of creating “a single organic standard for organic agriculture production under East African conditions” (please see Annex 1 for the full text of the standard). The EAOPS was developed to increase production in organic agriculture products in the EAC and trade in those products in regional and global markets. A single standard is viewed as a way to reduce the high standardization and certification costs resulting from the proliferation of standards. The EAOPS was further seen as a way to enhance regional coordination. Establishing a regional standard was also deemed to increase the likelihood of success in negotiations with the European Union and other major markets for equivalence or mutual recognition of standards, thereby improving market access for East African organic agricultural products.

As for the Aid for Trade context, it was expected that the EAOPS, and organic agriculture in general, would contribute to furthering broader agriculture, environment and development goals in the EAC. For example, the respective Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers of Burundi,¹⁶ Kenya,¹⁷ Rwanda,¹⁸ Tanzania¹⁹ and Uganda²⁰ drafted prior to the development of the EAOPS stress the importance of the agricultural sector for development and call for the diversification of export or agricultural production. The strategy papers also note the challenges associated with environmental degradation and low-value agricultural production, which organic agriculture could help address.

3. Design and Implementation

The development of the EAOPS took place in 2005 and 2006 and was characterized by a widely participatory review process including extensive public consultations involving a range of stakeholders. The process was facilitated by the partnership between the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the participating governments, private sector bodies and non-profit organic networks – namely the national organic movements: the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU), the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), and the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN). Burundi and Rwanda joined the EAC in 2007; however, the two countries were already involved in the development of the EAOPS from the beginning in 2005.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ International Monetary Fund, 2004, 'Burundi: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper'.

¹⁷ International Monetary Fund, 2005, 'Kenya: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper'.

¹⁸ Government of Rwanda, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, 2002, 'Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper'.

¹⁹ International Monetary Fund, 2006, 'United Republic of Tanzania: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper'.

²⁰ International Monetary Fund, 2005, 'Uganda: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper'.

The process, which is also illustrated in Annex 2, began with a comparison of existing national standards and an evaluation of the similarities and differences among them. A regional public-private sector working group – the Regional Standards Technical Working Group (RSTWG) – was then established. Members of the RSTWG included representatives from the national standards bureaus, national organic movements, the organic certifying bodies of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, and the East African Business Council (EABC).

The RSTWG drew on the following sources in the development of the standard:

- existing private and public standards in East Africa;
- Codex Alimentarius Guidelines for Organic Production and Processing (CAC/GL 32);
- IFOAM Basic Standards;
- intensive consultations in the three countries at the national level;
- intensive consultations at the regional level; and
- the results of field tests of the second draft of the EAOPS.

In the two years of the EAOPS development, six RSTWG meetings, two regional workshops, and two national consultations in each of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were held. The draft EAOPS went through three revisions by a number of stakeholders. Over 1,000 individuals were directly involved in this process. Direct consultations and personal meetings with representatives of the ministries of agriculture, the national bureaus of standards, and the EAC were also held. The process was complemented by field testing of the newly developed standard and e-mail consultations.

In April 2007, the EAC Council adopted the EAOPS as an official standard (EAS 456). The EAOPS became the official standard in the EAC and any existing public national standards were required to be withdrawn.

The EAOPS label is shown in Figure 1. “Kilimohai” is the Swahili word for “living agriculture”.



Figure 1 - East African Organic Label

The implementation of the EAOPS is carried out by various private certification companies and export outlets. These entities work with both smallholders and large-scale agricultural producers. Kenya has 27 domestic certification companies, including nine that cater to smallholders, and five international certification bodies. Tanzania hosts six foreign certification companies plus a domestic certification association. In Uganda, there are five international certification bodies and five domestic organic entities involved in certification.²¹ The differences in certification structures among the countries stem from the size of markets and the cost of operations.

²¹ UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, op. cit.

4. Problems Encountered

During the implementation of the EAOPS, there was some resistance by one of the national standards bodies to the private sector-led initiative. There was also some scepticism from the private sector towards government involvement and regarding the extent to which the EAC was the best framework for the standard's governance. Some private sector stakeholders also feared that the governments would have too much control and would not facilitate sufficiently the implementation of the EAOPS. However, all stakeholders ultimately agreed that government involvement gave the standard the necessary credibility.

Although the EAOPS represents an important step for organic sector development, the overall framework for this will need further strengthening. Considerable efforts will be needed to increase the still low consumer awareness of organic goods. There is also a continuing need to facilitate the EAOPS certification process.

5. Factors for Success

The successful development of the EAOPS benefited from a process that was highly inclusive. Although the initiative was funded by international partners, it was led by national-level non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, and included extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders. Moreover, the governments of the EAC countries acted mainly as additional stakeholders – not as regulators – and played a critical role by giving credibility to the process and raising public acceptance of the standard.

The shared public-private ownership was another key to success. While the EAC held public ownership of the standard, the national organic agriculture movements held private ownership of the label. This power-sharing was employed to further protect the participatory and inclusive atmosphere that was integral to the process.

It was of critical importance that the scope and role of the standard were consulted and agreed on early in the process. The broad cooperation was further facilitated by the fact that the standard was a voluntary standard not linked to compulsory certification.

It was also crucial that the process could build on governance structures that were already in place and draw on the existing knowledge and skills of the local stakeholders and the previous experience of the EAC with joint standardization.²² The process was also able to build on the experience of many stakeholders in organic standards and certification due to the previous development of national standards. This meant that the actors already had knowledge and skills in formulating standards and how to best suit them to local conditions. This was further enhanced by the participation of experts from the national standards bureaus. The know-how of, and coordination by, the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and partner organizations were also central to the success of the process.

Another factor for success was the development-oriented nature of the process. The standard and the label were mainly seen as market development activities for furthering the organic sector. It was understood that the purpose of the EAOPS was to increase organic agriculture production and exports, thereby improving the trade balance of EAC countries.

²² IFOAM, 2008, 'Development of a Regional Organic Agriculture Standard in East Africa 2005-2007'.

6. Results Achieved

With its successful adoption in 2007 (see Figure 2), the EAOPS became the second regional organic standard worldwide, the first being the European Union Organic Standard.²³ Moreover, the EAOPS is the first standard to have been developed through a collaborative process involving the public, private and non-profit sectors. This helped to ensure that the standard was adapted to the specific conditions in the EAC region.

The EAOPS covers plant production, animal husbandry, bee-keeping, wild collection, processing, and the labelling of products. It also covers aspects of documentation and transparency; contamination; genetically modified organisms; social justice (such as child labour issues); adherence to relevant legislation; and knowledge about organic production. The Annexes to the standard include the lists of substances which may or may not be used in organic agricultural production.

In the EAC countries, the standard has contributed to establishing organic agriculture as a trade and environment priority. Subsequent to the adoption of the EAOPS, governments have set up support structures for organic production. For example, Uganda published its Draft Organic Agriculture Policy in 2009²⁴, and in 2010, Kenya created a dedicated desk for organic agriculture in its Ministry of Agriculture.



Figure 2 - The prime minister of Tanzania, Honourable Edward N. Lowassa, officially launches the EAOPS at the East African Organic Conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in June 2007

Nevertheless, as the EAOPS is not yet fully reflected in the national laws on organic agriculture of all EAC members, it is possible that the objectives of the standard could be undermined if one of the member countries introduces genetically modified crops or pesticides, which are advocated by certain actors in conventional agriculture and several governmental ministries.²⁵

The EAOPS was adopted in 2007, and as such no comprehensive assessments of its impact have yet been developed. However, statistics from 2008 show that the organic agriculture sector in several EAC countries is strong relative to many other African countries. The large EAC members – Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya – were the first, second and third, respectively, in Africa in terms of the number of organic farms.²⁶

The UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and its partner organizations have recognized the need for a follow-up project to assess the overall impact of the EAOPS on the EAC countries as well as the impacts on exports to the EU and other foreign markets. The partner organizations are currently working to secure funding for carrying out the assessment.

²³ Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91.

²⁴ UNEP, 2010, Green Economy – Developing Country Success Stories, ‘Organic Agriculture in Uganda’.

²⁵ Kledal, P.R., and Kwai, N., 2010, ‘Organic Food and Farming in Tanzania,’ p. 112, in H. Willer and L. Kilcher, (eds.), 2010, *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2010*, FIBL-IFOAM Report, Bonn: IFOAM; Frick: FiBL.

²⁶ IFOAM, 2009, Key statistics on Organic Agriculture in Africa, p. 2.

7. Lessons Learned

The development of the EAOPS was successful due to government facilitation (not control), and a process characterized by inclusion (not exclusion), resulting in a high level of stakeholder buy-in. The extensive consultations drew on local capacity and benefited from technical advice from the national standards bureaus as well as from international and regional organizations and foreign individual experts.²⁷

Moreover, existing local capacity and experience with local standards development minimized the need to build local capacity before starting a regional standards process. This also made the process quicker and less costly. The local knowledge ensured that the standard would be best adapted to local conditions.

Also, early agreement that the EAOPS would be mainly developed for the local and regional markets relieved concerns over bias in favour of export market standards.

8. Conclusion (applicability to other programs)

The success of the EAOPS has extended beyond Africa. In 2008, the Pacific Organic Standard was adopted by 10 Pacific Island countries and territories, Australia and New Zealand, and became the third regional organic standard after the EU's and the EAOPS.²⁸ The framework for the Pacific process and its output are similar to the EAC's. The Pacific standard was developed with the aim to increase organic production and exports and counter standards proliferation. The development process was led by a public-private Regional Organic Task Force with representatives of national organic movements, government bodies, organic businesses and regional NGOs. There was also an intensive regional consultation process, which enabled the standard to be adapted to the local conditions of Oceania while conforming to existing international standards. The participating stakeholders gained ownership of the regional standard, and the standard was also expected to facilitate negotiations for export market development.²⁹

In the EAC itself, the stakeholders and governments may in the future decide to regulate further the organic agriculture market. Further regulation could be undertaken to bring additional product areas within the standard's scope or to improve compatibility with foreign standards, for example through seeking equivalence or mutual recognition in order to improve market access.

Overall, the development and adoption of the EAOPS has provided a solid foundation for the future development of organic markets locally, regionally and beyond. The EAOPS has also given the organic sector in East Africa a common platform to participate in international negotiations.³⁰

²⁷ IFOAM, 2008, op. cit.

²⁸ Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), 2008, 'Pacific Organic Standard,' p. vi-vii, Noumea: SPC.

²⁹ Ibid.

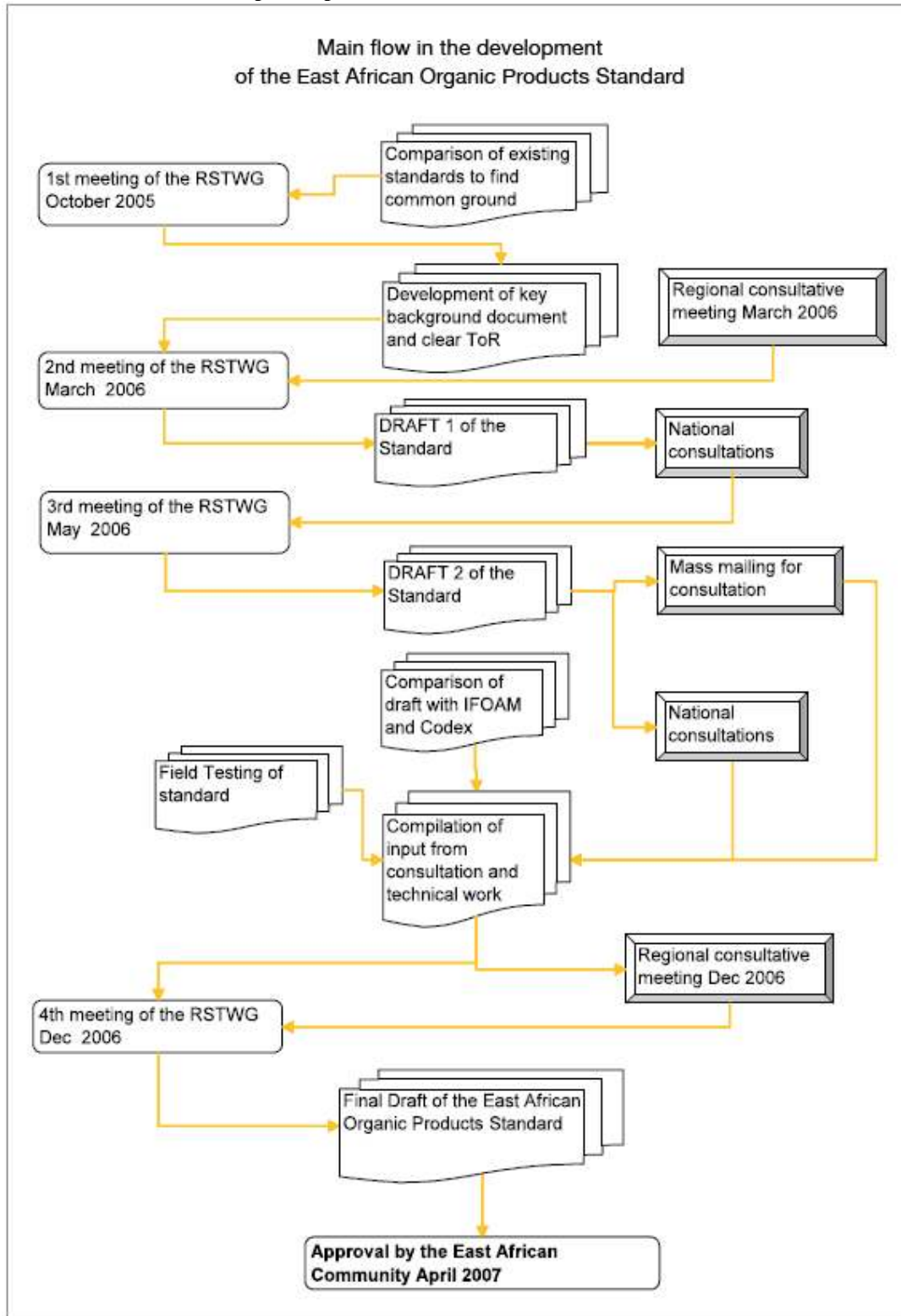
³⁰ IFOAM, 2008, op. cit.

Annexes

Annex 1 – The East African Organic Products Standard (EAS 456:2007. ICS 67.020)

[see attachment entitled “Annex 1 - EAOPS full text.pdf”]

Annex 2 – EAOPS development process



Abbreviations:

RSTWG: Regional Standards Technical Working Group

IFOAM: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

East African Organic Products Standard



Naturally Nurtured

East Africa currently leads the continent in production and exports of certified organic products. Domestic markets are also growing rapidly, in part through the efforts of the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), the Tanzanian Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) and the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU). Organic agriculture offers a range of economic, environmental, health, social and cultural benefits.

At the beginning of 2005, there were five public or private standards for organic agricultural production in East Africa. Stakeholders were concerned that this multitude of standards could eventually become a technical barrier to trade within the region and place unneeded restrictions on regional collaboration. There was general consensus that the time was ripe for the development of a common East African organic products standard (EAOPS).

The EAOPS has been developed through an intensive, inclusive and transparent regional consultation process. Feedback from national consultations, field testing and technical comparisons with international organic standards were fed into the work of the Regional Standard Technical Working Group (RSTWG), the body tasked with writing the standard's text. The RSTWG is a unique regional public-private sector partnership, whose members comprise representatives of the national standards bodies, national organic movements and organic certifying bodies of Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, and the East African Business Council. The RSTWG completed its work in four meetings between October 2005 and December 2006. The EAOPS was adopted by the East African Community in April 2007 and thereby became an official standard for Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Its official name is EAS 456:2007, East African organic products standard (EAOPS)

The EAOPS is the second regional organic standard in the world after the European Union's and the first ever to have been developed in cooperation between the organic movements and the national standards bodies. The EAOPS is expected to boost organic trade and market development in the region, raise awareness about organic agriculture among farmers and consumers, and create a unified negotiating position that should help East African organic farmers win access to export markets and influence international organic standard setting processes.

Producers that follow the East African organic products standard and that are certified by recognized systems can get the right to use the East African Organic Mark as depicted on the front cover.

Within this cover the complete EAS 456:2007, East African organic products standard is presented.



EAS 456:2007
ICS 67.020

EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

East African organic products standard

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAS 456:2007

Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in East Africa. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers which are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

In order to achieve this objective, the Partner States in the Community through their National Bureaux of Standards, have established an East African Standards Committee.

The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the private sectors and consumer organizations. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the procedures of the Community.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

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Introduction

The history, culture and community values of East Africans are embedded in agriculture. It is the most important source of livelihoods for millions of East Africans. The sustainable management of the agriculture production process is therefore crucial if livelihoods are to be sustained.

Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system, which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including bio-diversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It seeks to minimise the use of external inputs, avoiding the use of synthetic drugs, fertilizers and pesticides and aims at optimising the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, plants, animals and people. It builds on East Africa's rich heritage of indigenous knowledge combined with modern science, technologies and practices.

The aims of organic agriculture are summarised in the four principles of health, ecology, fairness and care which inspire the worldwide organic movement. See Annex A.

The East African organic products standard has been written for organic production in East Africa and has been adapted to conditions in East Africa. The purpose is to have a single organic standard for organic agriculture production under East African conditions.

This East African organic products standard has been based on organic standards currently in place in the region as well as the IFOAM Basic Standards and the Codex Alimentarius guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods.

The East African organic products standard can be used for self-assessment by producers, declarations of conformity in the marketplace, certification by certification bodies in the region, or other kinds of verification. If the standard is used for the purposes of third-party certification, inspection and certification should be carried out in accordance to international norms, such as ISO Guide 65 or the IFOAM Accreditation Criteria. If adherence to the standard is verified through other mechanisms, those mechanisms shall adhere to the principles of competency, integrity and transparency.

The standard is intended for the development of organic production and trade in the East African region. The standards can be a platform for a common label for organic products in East Africa and for developing consumer trust. The standard also formulates standpoints which can be used in international negotiations on standards. Further, it can be a basis for equivalence agreements with other countries and regions.

The East African organic products standard has been written in a way to make it easy for the reader and user to access and understand. Because of the need for organic agriculture to be adapted to local conditions, the standard is not overly prescriptive. The standard covers plant production, animal husbandry, bee-keeping, wild production and processing, and products therefrom, regardless of their final use. In the future, other areas will be incorporated as the need arises.

Because organic agriculture is dynamic, and new knowledge is continuously being generated, this standard will be revised regularly to incorporate new knowledge. The revisions will involve consultations with the stakeholders.

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East African organic products standard

1 Scope

This East African Standard provides requirements for organic production. It covers plant production, animal husbandry, bee-keeping, the collection of wild products, and the processing and labelling of the products therefrom. It does not cover procedures for verification such as inspection or certification of products.

2 Normative references

This East African Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this East African Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

CAC/GL 32, *Codex Alimentarius — Guidelines for the production, processing, labelling, and marketing of organically produced foods*

IFOAM *Basic Standards for Organic Production and Processing. Version 2005.*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply:

3.1

biodiversity

the variety of life: it includes genetic diversity (i.e., diversity within and among species), species diversity (i.e., the number and variety of species), and ecosystem diversity (total number of ecosystem types)

3.2

breeding

selection of plants or animals to reproduce or to further develop desired characteristics in succeeding generations

3.3

buffer zone

a clearly defined and identifiable boundary area bordering an organic production site and adjacent areas that is established to avoid contact with substances which shall not be used according to this standard

3.4

child

a person under the specified age in the respective national legislations. In cases involving employment in hazardous sectors, *child* denotes a person under the age of 18 years

3.5

child labour

any employment that interferes with the legal rights of a child and culturally appropriate educational needs

3.6

contamination

EAS 456:2007

pollution of organic product or land or contact with any material that would render the product unsuitable for organic production or as an organic product

3.7

conventional

any material, production, or processing practice that is not organic or organic “in-conversion”

3.8

conversion period

the time between the start of organic management and the time when crops and animal products qualify as organic

3.9

crop rotation

the practice of alternating the species or families of annual and/or biennial crops grown in a certain field in a pattern or sequence so as to break weed, pest and disease cycles and to maintain or improve soil fertility and the content of organic matter

3.10

food additive

any substance not normally consumed as a food by itself and not normally used as a typical ingredient of the food, whether or not it has nutritive value, the intentional addition of which to food for a technological (including organoleptic) purpose in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food results, or may be reasonably expected to result, (directly or indirectly) in it or its by-products becoming a component of or otherwise affecting the characteristics of such foods. The term does not include contaminants, or substances added to food for maintaining or improving nutritional qualities, or sodium chloride

3.11

food fortification

the addition of one or more essential nutrients to a food, whether or not it is normally contained in the food, for the purpose of preventing or correcting a demonstrated deficiency of one or more nutrients in the population or specific population groups

3.12

genetic engineering

a set of techniques from molecular biology (such as recombinant DNA) by which the genetic material of plants, animals, microorganisms, cells and other biological units are altered in ways or with results that could not be obtained by methods of natural mating and reproduction or natural recombination. Techniques of genetic modification include, but are not limited to, recombinant DNA, cell fusion, micro and macro injection, encapsulation, gene deletion and doubling. Genetically engineered organisms do not include organisms resulting from techniques such as conjugation, transduction and natural hybridization

3.13

genetically modified organism (GMO)

a plant, animal or microbe that has been transformed by genetic engineering

3.14

green manure

a crop that is incorporated into the soil for the purpose of soil improvement and which may include spontaneous crops, plants or weeds

3.15

habitat

the area over which a plant or animal species naturally exists; the area where a species occurs. It is also used to indicate types of habitat, e.g., seashore, riverbank, woodland, and grassland

3.16

ingredient

any substance, including a food additive, used in the manufacture or preparation of food and non-food products and present in the final product (although possibly in a modified form)

3.17

ionizing radiation

processing of food products by gamma rays, X-rays or accelerated electrons capable of altering a food's molecular structure for the purpose of controlling microbial contaminants, pathogens, parasites and pests in food, preserving food or inhibiting physiological processes such as sprouting or ripening

3.18

label

any written, printed or graphic representation that is present on a product, accompanies the product or is displayed near the product

3.19

operator

an individual or organization responsible for ensuring that the production system and the products meet this standard

3.20

organic

refers to the farming system and products described in this standard. Organic does not refer to organic chemistry

3.21

organic agriculture

a farming system in compliance with this standard

3.22

organic product

a product which has been produced, processed and handled in compliance with this standard

3.23

organic seed and planting material

seed and planting material that is produced by organic agriculture

3.24

parallel production

any production in which the same unit is growing, breeding, handling or processing the same products in both an organic and a non-organic system. A situation with organic and in-conversion production of the same product is also parallel production

3.25

processing aid

any substance (not including apparatuses or utensils) not consumed as a food itself and which is used in the processing of raw materials, foods, or ingredients to fulfil a certain technical purpose during treatment or processing and which may result in the presence of residues or derivatives in the final product

3.26

propagation

the reproduction of plants sexually (i.e., seed) or asexually (i.e., cuttings, root division)

3.27

shall

a required state or action

3.29

should

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a recommended, desirable or expected state or action

3.30 synthetic

manufactured by chemical and industrial processes. Includes products not found in nature or simulation of products from natural sources (but not extracted from natural raw materials)

3.31 synthetic pesticide

synthetic product intended to prevent, eliminate or control a pest

3.32 traceability

the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution

3.33 in-conversion

a crop which is grown both as organic and non-organic (conventional or in-conversion) on the same farm

4 General requirements for organic production

4.1 General

The requirements of this clause shall apply to all categories of organic production and to all operators.

4.2 Documentation and transparency

4.2.1 The operator shall maintain records of the production, appropriate for the scale of production and the ability of the operator.

4.2.2 The operator shall give interested parties relevant information about the production.

4.2.3 The operator shall maintain a system for traceability of organic products.

4.3 Contamination

4.3.1 The operator shall avoid using chemical products that may endanger human health or the environment. Where there are products that are considered to be less harmful, they shall be used.

4.3.2 The operator shall take relevant precautionary measures to avoid the contamination of organic sites and products. Where there is a reasonable suspicion of substantial contamination by, for example, soil, water, air, inputs or ingredients, appropriate actions shall be taken.

Litter and production waste, both on farms and in processing, shall be handled in such a way that they do not contaminate the organic products or the environment.

Chemical products shall be properly labelled and safely stored.

4.3.3 Contamination of organic products that results from circumstances beyond the control of the operator may alter the organic status of the operation, the product or both.

4.4 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

4.4.1 Genetically modified organisms or their derivatives shall not be used or introduced through negligence or oversight. This includes animals, seed, propagation material, farm inputs such as fertilizers, soil conditioners and crop-protection materials.

4.4.2 Ingredients, additives or processing aids derived from GMOs shall not be used in organic processing.

4.4.3 Inputs, processing aids, and ingredients shall be traced back one step in the biological chain from which they are produced to verify that they are not derived from GMOs.

4.4.4 Genetically modified organisms shall not be used in the conventional production on farms that are not fully converted to organic production.

4.5 Social justice

4.5.1 Employees and workers shall be guaranteed basic human rights and fair working conditions in accordance with national and international conventions and laws.

4.5.2 The operator shall not use forced or involuntary labour.

4.5.3 Employees, casual workers and contractors of organic operations shall have the freedom to associate, the right to organize, and the right to bargain collectively.

4.5.4 Employees shall have equal opportunities and equal wages when performing the same level of work, regardless of colour, creed, ethnicity or gender.

4.5.5 The operator shall not hire child labour. Children may work on their family's farm or a neighbouring farm provided that such work is not dangerous to their health and safety and does not jeopardize their educational, moral, social and physical development. Such work shall be supervised by adults and authorized by a legal guardian.

4.5.6 The operator shall provide adequate health and safety measures for employees, casual workers and contractors.

4.5.7 An operator employing five or more permanent workers shall have a documented policy covering the aspects of 4.5.

4.6 Adherence to relevant legislation

The operator shall act in accordance with relevant legislation.

4.7 Knowledge about organic production

The operator shall ensure that all persons involved in organic production have adequate knowledge of organic production and the relevant parts of this standard.

5 Crop production

5.1 Conversion period and requirements

5.1.1 The conversion period for land shall be a minimum of one year of management according to this standard. If land that has been in fallow for at least one year is brought into production, no conversion period shall apply for that land.

5.1.2 The conversion period may be extended depending on past land use (for example, heavy use of pesticides with a risk of contamination of products and the nature of contaminants).

5.2 Farm conversion and parallel production

5.2.1 If the whole farm is not converted, the organic, in-conversion and conventional parts of the farm shall be clearly and continuously separated.

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5.2.2 Land converted to organic production shall not be alternated (switched back and forth) between organic and conventional production.

5.2.3 A crop which is grown both as organic and non-organic (conventional or in-conversion) on the same farm shall not be sold as organic unless the production is managed in a way that allows clear and continuous separation of the organic and non-organic production (e.g., the varieties for the organic and non-organic crop differ in such a way that they can easily be distinguished from each other).

5.3 Biodiversity

5.3.1 The operator shall demonstrate care for biodiversity throughout the farm holding.

5.3.2 Culturally or legally protected primary ecosystems, such as primary forests and wetlands, shall not be cleared or drained for the purpose of establishing production according to this standard.

5.3.3 To the extent possible and appropriate to the crop and the conditions, trees shall be present in the fields.

NOTE Older, fruiting trees are especially important to insects and birds.

5.3.4 Natural boundaries such as hedges, paths and ditches should be encouraged.

NOTE Hedges, paths and ditches act as important wildlife corridors through agricultural land, help to maintain a diverse ecology, and provide a habitat for many beneficial animals and insects and shelter for livestock.

5.4 Farming system diversity

5.4.1 Diversity in plant production, organic matter, soil fertility, microbial activity and soil and plant health shall be stimulated by crop rotation, intercropping, agro-forestry and other appropriate measures.

For annual crops, crop rotation shall be practised.

For perennial crops, other plants shall be intercropped. For perennial crops that are grown as monocultures where intercropping is not possible (e.g., sugarcane and tea), other means to secure diversity shall be applied to the growing system.

5.4.2 The operator is encouraged to use and preserve indigenous breeds, varieties and species of plants and animals.

5.5 Soil and water conservation, including erosion control

5.5.1 Soil conservation shall be an integral part of the organic farming system. In order to prevent erosion by wind and water, the operator shall take measures appropriate to the specific local conditions of climate, soil, slope and land use. Examples are the use of windbreaks, soil cover, cover crops, minimum tillage, fallowing (with vegetation cover), mulching, terraces and contour planting.

5.5.2 Relevant measures shall be taken to prevent or remedy the salinisation of soil and water.

5.5.3 Burning of vegetation shall be restricted and controlled to protect organic matter and biodiversity.

5.5.4 The operator shall not deplete or excessively exploit water resources and shall seek to conserve water resources and quality. Where necessary, the operator shall collect or harvest rainwater.

5.6 Soil fertility management

5.6.1 Appropriate use and recycling of nutrients, an appropriate crop rotation, and efforts to minimise nutrient losses shall be implemented by the operator.

5.6.2 Material of microbial, plant or animal origin shall form the basis of the soil fertility programme.

Fertilizers of mineral origin shall be applied in the form which they are naturally composed and extracted. They shall not be rendered more soluble by chemical treatment, other than the addition of water. Mineral fertilizers may only be used for long-term fertility needs along with other techniques such as organic-matter additions, green manures, crop rotations and nitrogen fixation by plants.

5.6.3 Fertilizers and soil conditioners approved for use in organic agriculture according to the IFOAM Basic Standards or CAC GL32 may be used.

Fertilizers and soil conditioners of natural origin may be used unless listed in Annex C.

Fertilizers and soil conditioners of synthetic origin may be used if listed in Annex B.

5.7 Pest, disease and weed management

5.7.1 Physical, cultural and biological methods for pest, disease and weed management, including the application of heat, may be used.

5.7.2 Inputs for pest, disease, weed or growth management approved for use in organic agriculture according to the IFOAM Basic Standards and CAC/GL 32 may be used.

Active ingredients of natural origin in inputs for pest, disease, weed or growth management may be used unless listed in Annex C.

Active ingredients of synthetic origin may be used if listed in Annex B.

5.7.3 Non-active ingredients, such as carriers and wetting agents, shall not be carcinogens, teratogens, mutagens or neurotoxins.

5.8 Seeds, seedlings, and planting materials

5.8.1 Seeds, seedlings and planting materials from organic production shall be used. If organic seeds, seedlings and planting materials are not commercially available, then conventional, chemically untreated seed, seedlings and planting material may be used.

Only if these are not commercially available may chemically treated seeds, seedlings and planting materials be used. The operator shall demonstrate the apparent need for such use.

All use of chemically treated seeds, seedlings and planting materials shall be documented.

5.9 Mushroom production

5.9.1 The culture substrate for mushrooms shall be constituted of organic ingredients such as organic grain, seed-cakes and straw.

Where organic substrates are not commercially available in sufficient quality and quantity, ingredients from conventional production or of natural origin which do not pose a risk of contamination may be used.

5.9.2 Inputs used in mushroom production shall be in accordance with 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8.

5.10 Contamination

5.10.1 Where there is an apparent and substantial risk of contamination from adjacent farms, the operator shall implement measures, including barriers and buffer zones, to avoid or limit the contamination.

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5.10.2 Machines, equipment and tools (e.g., seed drills, fertilizer spreaders and spraying equipment) used in non-organic production shall be cleaned before they are used in organic production.

5.10.3 Treatment of animals against ticks and other ectoparasites shall be administered in such a way that the risk of the contamination of crop land is minimised.

5.11 Draught animals

Draught animals, when used in organic plant production, shall be treated according to the animal management standards (6.3). Working conditions for draught animals shall not be adverse to the health and development of the animal.

6 Animal husbandry

6.1 Conversion and brought-in animals

6.1.1 The animal husbandry and individual animals brought into a herd shall undergo a conversion period according to the following:

Type of production	Species	Length of conversion period
Meat production	cows	12 months
	poultry	45 days
	sheep, goats, pigs	3 months
	rabbits	45 days
Dairy production	all species	3 months
Eggs	all species	45 days

6.1.2 Animals shall be raised organically from birth. Where organic livestock is not available, conventional animals may be brought in, according to the following maximum age limits:

- 2-day-old chicks for meat production;
- 18-week-old hens for egg production;
- 2 weeks old for any other poultry;
- 3 months old for piglets;
- 3 months old for calves;
- 3 months for goats and sheep.

Older animals may be brought in for breeding only.

6.2 Parallel production

Products from the same type of animal and the same type of production which are both organic and non-organic (conventional or in-conversion) on the same farm shall not be sold as organic unless the production is done in a way that allows for the clear and continuous separation of the organic and non-organic productions.

6.3 Animal management

6.3.1 Animals shall be kept in accordance with good animal-husbandry practices.

Animals shall have access to sufficient fresh air, water and feed.

Animals shall have access to protection from direct sunlight, excessive noise, heat, rain, mud and wind to reduce stress and ensure their well-being.

Animals shall not be mistreated or beaten.

6.3.2 Animals shall have the living conditions and be managed according to their natural behavioural needs. For example:

- Pigs shall be provided with material to root.
- Goats shall have the possibility of climbing.
- Chickens shall have the possibility of scratching and of taking regular dust baths.

Animals shall have the living conditions and be managed in a way that prevents abnormal behaviour, injury and disease.

6.3.3 Animals shall have sufficient space for free movement, according to their natural behaviour.

6.3.4 Housing conditions shall ensure sufficient lying and resting areas that correspond to the natural needs of the animals. Animals shall have a dry resting area whenever possible. They shall also be provided with natural bedding where appropriate.

6.3.5 Pens and holding areas shall be cleaned regularly.

6.3.6 Tethering may be practised, provided it does not affect the well-being of the animal. The animal shall have access to adequate feed, shade and water. The method of tethering shall enable the animal to freely move within the grazing area without getting entangled or choked. The tethering shall not cause wounds or otherwise physically harm animals.

6.3.7 Animals shall have the opportunity to feed according to their natural behaviour, e.g., grazing. However, where the bringing of fodder is a more sustainable way to use land resources than grazing, animals may be fed with brought fodder, provided that the animals have access to an outdoor run on a regular basis.

6.3.8 Grazing management shall not degrade soil, pasture and water resources.

6.4 Breeding

6.4.1 Artificial insemination may be practised.

6.4.2 Embryo-transfer techniques and cloning shall not be used.

6.5 Mutilations

Mutilations may not be practised, except in the following cases:

- castration
- ringing
- dehorning (only of young animals)

Mutilations shall be done in such a way that the suffering of the animal is minimised. Anaesthetics shall be used where appropriate.

6.6 Animal feeds

6.6.1 Animals shall be fed 100 % organic feedstuff. Where the quantity or quality of commercially available organic feed is inadequate, the daily maximum percentage of non-organic feed shall be

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40 %, calculated on a dry-matter basis.

6.6.2 All animals shall have access to fresh fodder. Ruminants shall get fresh fodder daily through grazing or feeding. Where such fodder is not available, preserved fodder may be used.

6.6.3 To ensure a connection between plant production and animal husbandry, at least 60 % of feed shall come from the farm itself or be produced in cooperation with other organic farms.

6.6.4 The following products shall not be included in the feed:

- meat, bone and other abattoir waste products to ruminants
- chicken manure or other animal manure to ruminants
- Feeds subjected to solvent extraction (e.g., hexane) or the addition of other chemical agents
- amino-acid isolates
- urea and other synthetic nitrogen compounds
- synthetic growth promoters or stimulants
- antibiotics
- synthetic appetizers
- artificial colouring agents
- genetically engineered organisms or products thereof

6.6.5 Feed preservatives may not be used except for

- plant-based products,
- by-products from the food industry (e.g., molasses),
- bacteria, fungi and enzymes,

6.6.6 Animals may be fed vitamins, trace elements and supplements from natural sources. Synthetic vitamins, minerals and supplements may be used where natural sources are lacking in quantity or quality.

6.6.7 Young stock from mammals shall be raised on maternal milk or organic whole milk from their own species. Young animals shall be allowed to suckle.

Where organic whole milk is not available, conventional whole milk shall be used. Milk replacements may be used only in emergencies and shall not contain ingredients mentioned in 6.6.4.

Animals shall be weaned only after a minimum time that takes into account the natural behaviour and physical needs of the animal.

6.7 Parasite and disease management

6.7.1 Disease prevention in organic livestock production shall be based on the following:

- the choice of appropriate breeds or strains of animals;
- the application of animal-husbandry practices appropriate to each species, encouraging strong resistance to disease and the prevention of infections;
- the use of good quality organic feed, regular exercise, and access to pasture or runs in the open air;
- an appropriate density of livestock.

6.7.2 If an animal becomes sick or injured despite preventative measures, it shall be treated promptly and adequately. As a first option, phytotherapeutic and other alternative treatments shall be used where they are proven to be effective in curing sickness or healing an injury.

An operator may use synthetic veterinary drugs, antibiotics or synthetic pesticides only if preventive and alternative practices are unlikely to be effective in curing sickness or healing an injury.

The operator shall not withhold medication from sick or injured animals, even if the use of such medication would cause the animal to lose its organic status.

6.7.3 Treatments with synthetic pesticides or veterinary drugs against parasites shall be based on knowledge of the parasites and the chemical treatment used. All treatments with synthetic pesticides or veterinary drugs against parasites shall be documented.

6.7.4 Withholding periods after treating animals with synthetic veterinary drugs, antibiotics or synthetic pesticides shall not be less than double the period required by legislation or a minimum of 48 hours, whichever is longer.

6.7.5 Vaccinations may only be used when:

- an endemic disease is known or is expected to be a problem in the region of the farm; and where this disease cannot be controlled by other management techniques; or
- vaccination is legally required.

6.7.6 Hormonal treatment may be used only for therapeutic reasons and under veterinary supervision.

6.7.7 Synthetic growth promoters or substances used for the purpose of stimulating production shall not be used.

6.8 Transport and slaughter

Handling, including transport and slaughter, shall be carried out calmly and gently and involve the minimum of physical and mental strain or stress for the animal.

The animals shall be provided with conditions that minimise stress and other adverse effects of

- hunger and thirst,
- extreme temperatures or relative humidity,
- mixing different groups, sexes, age, and health status.

7 Bee-keeping

7.1 Conversion and brought-in bees and swarms

7.1.1 Bee colonies may be converted to organic production. The conversion period for a colony is one honey harvest cycle.

7.1.2 If the wax has been contaminated with pesticides it shall be replaced by organic wax at the start of the conversion period.

7.1.3 Introduced bees shall come from organic production units where available or otherwise from traditional bee-keeping.

Swarms from other areas can be used without a conversion time if there is no risk of contamination.

7.2 Location and construction

7.2.1 Hives shall be situated in organically managed fields and/or wild natural areas. Hives shall be placed in an area with sufficient forage, access to water, honeydew, nectar and pollen.

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7.2.2 Organic wax shall be used for starter combs. Where organic wax is not available, conventional wax may be used. The conventional wax shall not be contaminated with synthetic pesticides.

7.2.3 Hives shall consist of materials presenting no risk of toxic effects to the bees or the bee products.

7.3 Feed

7.3.1 The honeydew, nectar and pollen shall mainly come from plants that are either wild or that fulfil organic crop requirements.

7.3.2 Supplementary feeding of colonies can be undertaken to overcome temporary feed shortages due to climatic or other exceptional circumstances. In such cases, organically produced honey or sugars shall be used, where available.

7.4 Husbandry

7.4.1 The health of bee colonies shall be maintained by good management practices, with emphasis on disease prevention through breed selection and hive management. This includes:

- the use of breeds that adapt well to local conditions;
- renewal of queen bees, where necessary;
- regular cleaning and disinfecting of equipment;
- regular renewal of beeswax;
- availability in hives of sufficient pollen and honey;
- placing of hives so that the temperature is favourable to the bees;
- inspection of hives to detect any anomalies;
- disinfection, isolation or destruction of contaminated hives and materials.

7.4.2 For pest and disease control, the following may be used:

- lactic, oxalic, acetic acid;
- sulphur;
- natural etheric oils (e.g., menthol, eucalyptol, camphor, thymon, lemongrass oil);
- *Bacillus thuringiensis*;
- steam and direct flame;
- glycerol;
- phytotherapeutic treatment;
- wood ash.

Should these processes and substances fail, synthetic veterinary drugs, antibiotics or synthetic pesticides may be used. If they are used, the colony shall undergo a new conversion.

Used engine oil shall not be used for pest control.

7.5 Harvest

7.5.1 At the harvest, colonies shall be left with reserves of honey, brood and pollen sufficient for the survival of the colony.

7.5.2 Synthetic repellents shall not be used during the harvest of bee products. Smoking shall be kept to a minimum. Smoking materials shall be of natural origin.

8 Wild collection

8.1 Wild harvested organic products shall originate from a stable and sustainable growing environment. The harvest shall not be at a rate that exceeds the sustainable yield of the species or the ecosystem, and it shall not threaten the existence of plant, fungal, or animal species, including those not directly exploited.

8.2 The operator shall harvest products only from a clearly defined area where synthetic pesticides and other substances not allowed by this standard have not been applied for at least three years before harvest. The harvest area shall be at an appropriate distance from conventional farms and sources of contamination.

9 Handling, storage and processing

9.1 Separation

9.1.1 The integrity of organic products shall be maintained throughout the phases of post-harvest handling, storage, processing and transport.

9.1.2 All organic products shall be clearly identified as organic. Throughout the entire process of storage and transportation, the products shall be stored and transported in a way that prevents their contact or mixing with non-organic products.

9.2 Ingredients

9.2.1 All ingredients used in organic products shall be organically produced where commercially available in sufficient quality and quantity.

NOTE The labelling requirements in Clause 10 apply.

Water and edible salt may be used as ingredients in the production of organic products and are not included in the percentage calculations of organic ingredients.

9.3 Technologies

9.3.1 Technologies used to process and preserve organic products shall be biological, physical or mechanical. Ionizing radiation shall not be used.

9.3.2 Only water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen may be used as solvents for extraction.

9.3.3 Equipment shall not contain substances that may negatively affect the product.

9.3.4 Controlled atmosphere may be used for storage.

9.4 Additives and processing aids

9.4.1 Preparations of enzymes and micro-organisms (with the exception of genetically engineered micro-organisms and their derivatives) may be used in food processing.

9.4.2 Synthetic substances (including nature-identical colourings, flavourings, and taste-enhancing) shall not be used.

9.4.3 Food additives and processing aids in accordance with IFOAM Basic Standards or CAC/GL 32 may be used. Annex D contains the food additives and processing additives that were accepted at the time of publication of this standard. If the substances listed in Annex D can be found in nature, natural sources are preferred. Substances of organic origin are preferred.

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9.5 Food fortification

Synthetically produced minerals (including trace substances), vitamins, amino acids and other nitrogen compounds may be used for food fortification purposes only where legally required or in cases in which dietary or nutritional deficiency can be demonstrated.

9.6 Packaging materials

9.6.1 Packaging materials shall not contaminate the organic product.

9.6.2 Organic products shall not be packaged in materials that have been used for or treated with chemical fertilizers or pesticides or other substances that may compromise the organic integrity of the product.

9.6.3 Environmentally adapted packaging shall be preferred. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other chlorine-based plastics shall be avoided if possible.

9.7 Hygiene and pest management

9.7.1 Pest-management measures shall be established and maintained to ensure that areas used for the storing, handling and processing of organic products are effectively protected against pests.

9.7.2 Management of pests shall be achieved mainly by means of scrupulous hygiene, cleaning and sanitation.

9.7.3 To manage pests, the following methods may be used:

- preventive methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat, and access to facilities
- mechanical, physical and biological methods
- substances listed in Annex B

9.7.4 If the methods listed above are unsuccessful, conventional pest control (e.g., fumigations) may be used, with maximum care, under the following conditions:

- Ethylene oxide, methyl bromide, aluminium phosphide or ionizing radiation may not be used.
- Organic products shall be moved out of the treated area.
- The operator shall take precautions to prevent contamination and include measures to decontaminate the equipment or facilities.
- The treatment shall be carried out under the supervision of a qualified person or organization.
- Records of date, substance and area treated shall be kept of all pest-control and fumigation measures taken.

10 Labelling

10.1 A raw or processed product labelled as “organic” shall contain, by weight, excluding water and edible salt, no less than 95 % organic ingredients. The remaining ingredients may include non-organic ingredients fulfilling the relevant parts of this standard.

10.2 A product labelled as “made with organic ingredient(s)” shall contain, by weight, excluding water and edible salt, at least 70 % organic ingredients. The remaining ingredients may include non-organic ingredients fulfilling the relevant parts of this standard.

10.3 For a product in which less than 70 % of the ingredients are organic, the word *organic* may be stated in the ingredient panel or in conjunction with the organic ingredient.

10.4 All ingredients of a multi-ingredient product shall be listed on the product label in order of their weight percentage. It shall be apparent which ingredients are of organic origin and which are not. All

additives shall be listed with their full name. Where herbs and/or spices constitute less than 2 % of the total weight of the product, they may be listed as “spices” or “herbs” without stating the percentage.

10.5 The name and contact address of the responsible operator shall appear on the labelling for products in their final consumer packaging.

10.6 Labelling shall follow the applicable legislation.

10.7 A statement that the product is “produced according to the East Africa Organic Standard” may be made on the labels.

Annex A (informative)

IFOAM principles of organic agriculture

A.1 Preamble

These Principles are the roots from which organic agriculture grows and develops. They express the contribution that organic agriculture can make to the world and a vision to improve all agriculture in a global context.

Agriculture is one of humankind’s most basic activities because all people need to nourish themselves daily. History, culture and community values are embedded in agriculture. The Principles apply to agriculture in the broadest sense, including the way people tend soils, water, plants and animals in order to produce, prepare and distribute food and other goods. They concern the way people interact with living landscapes, relate to one another and shape the legacy of future generations.

The Principles of Organic Agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity. They guide IFOAMs development of positions, programs and standards. Furthermore, they are presented with a vision of their world-wide adoption.

Organic agriculture is based on:

- The Principle of Health
- The Principle of Ecology
- The Principle of Fairness
- The Principle of Care

Each principle is articulated through a statement followed by an explanation. The principles are to be used as a whole. They are composed as ethical principles to inspire action.

A.2 The principle of health

Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

This principle points out that the health of individuals and communities cannot be separated from the health of ecosystems — healthy soils produce healthy crops that foster the health of animals and people.

Health is the wholeness and integrity of living systems. It is not simply the absence of illness, but the maintenance of physical, mental, social and ecological well-being. Immunity, resilience and regeneration are key characteristics of health.

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The role of organic agriculture, whether in farming, processing, distribution, or consumption, is to sustain and enhance the health of ecosystems and organisms from the smallest in the soil to human beings. In particular, organic agriculture is intended to produce high quality, nutritious food that contributes to preventive health care and well-being. In view of this it should avoid the use of fertilizers, pesticides, animal drugs and food additives that may have adverse health effects.

A.3 The principle of ecology

Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

This principle roots organic agriculture within living ecological systems. It states that production is to be based on ecological processes, and recycling. Nourishment and well-being are achieved through the ecology of the specific production environment. For example, in the case of crops this is the living soil; for animals it is the farm ecosystem; for fish and marine organisms, the aquatic environment.

Organic farming, pastoral and wild harvest systems should fit the cycles and ecological balances in nature. These cycles are universal but their operation is site-specific. Organic management must be adapted to local conditions, ecology, culture and scale. Inputs should be reduced by reuse, recycling and efficient management of materials and energy in order to maintain and improve environmental quality and conserve resources.

Organic agriculture should attain ecological balance through the design of farming systems, establishment of habitats and maintenance of genetic and agricultural diversity. Those who produce, process, trade, or consume organic products should protect and benefit the common environment including landscapes, climate, habitats, biodiversity, air and water.

A.4 The principle of fairness

Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

Fairness is characterized by equity, respect, justice and stewardship of the shared world, both among people and in their relations to other living beings.

This principle emphasizes that those involved in organic agriculture should conduct human relationships in a manner that ensures fairness at all levels and to all parties – farmers, workers, processors, distributors, traders and consumers. Organic agriculture should provide everyone involved with a good quality of life, and contribute to food sovereignty and reduction of poverty. It aims to produce a sufficient supply of good quality food and other products.

This principle insists that animals should be provided with the conditions and opportunities of life that accord with their physiology, natural behaviour and well-being.

Natural and environmental resources that are used for production and consumption should be managed in a way that is socially and ecologically just and should be held in trust for future generations. Fairness requires systems of production, distribution and trade that are open and equitable and account for real environmental and social costs.

A.5 The principle of care

Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Organic agriculture is a living and dynamic system that responds to internal and external demands and conditions. Practitioners of organic agriculture can enhance efficiency and increase productivity, but this should not be at the risk of jeopardizing health and well-being. Consequently, new technologies need to be assessed and existing methods reviewed. Given the incomplete understanding of ecosystems and agriculture, care must be taken.

This principle states that precaution and responsibility are the key concerns in management, development and technology choices in organic agriculture. Science is necessary to ensure that organic agriculture is healthy, safe and ecologically sound.

However, scientific knowledge alone is not sufficient. Practical experience, accumulated wisdom and traditional and indigenous knowledge offer valid solutions, tested by time. Organic agriculture should prevent significant risks by adopting appropriate technologies and rejecting unpredictable ones, such as genetic engineering. Decisions should reflect the values and needs of all who might be affected, through transparent and participatory processes.

Annex B (informative)

List of substances which may be used in organic plant production

[Clause 5.6, 5.7 and 9.7]

The list is indicative, i.e., there may be other substances that may be used in organic production according to this standard as long as they follow the criteria in the IFOAM Basic Standards or CAC/GL 32.

Table B.1 — Fertilizers and soil conditioners

Description, compositional requirements of substance	Conditions for use
i) Plant and animal origin	
Farmyard manure, slurry, and urine	
Guano	
Source-separated human excrement from separated sources which are monitored for contamination	Not to be directly applied on edible parts. Not to be applied later than six weeks before harvest.
Vermicastings	
Blood meal, meat meal, bone, bone meal	
Hoof and horn meal, feather meal, fish and fish products, wool, fur, hair, dairy products	
Biodegradable processing by-products, plant or animal origin (e.g., by-products of food, feed, oilseed, brewery, distillery or textile processing)	
Crop and vegetable residues, mulch, green manure, cover crops (leguminous crops such as lablab and mucona), straw	
Wood, bark, sawdust, wood shavings, wood ash, wood charcoal	
Seaweed and seaweed products	
Peat (prohibited for soil conditioning)	Excluding synthetic additives; only for inclusion in potting mixes
Plant preparations and extracts	
Compost made from ingredients listed in this annex, spent mushroom waste, humus from worms and insects, urban composts from separated sources which are monitored for contamination	
ii) Mineral origin	
Basic slag	
Calcareous and magnesium amendments	
Limestone, gypsum, marl, maerl, chalk, sugar beet lime, calcium chloride	
Magnesium rock, kieserite and Epsom salt (magnesium sulphate)	

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Description, compositional requirements of substance	Conditions for use
Mineral potassium (e.g., sulphate of potash, muriate of potash, kainite, sylvanite, patentkali)	Shall be obtained by physical procedures but not enriched by chemical processes
Natural phosphates	
Pulverized rock, stone meal	
Clay (e.g., bentonite, perlite, vermiculite, zeolite)	
Sodium chloride	
Trace elements, micronutrients	
Sulphur	

Description, compositional requirements of substance	Conditions for use
iii) Microbiological	
Biodegradable processing by-products of microbial origin (e.g., by-products of brewery or distillery processing)	
Microbiological preparations based on naturally occurring organisms	
iv) Others	
Biodynamic preparations	
Calcium lignosulfonate	

Table B.2 — Crop protectants and growth regulators

Description, Compositional Requirements of Substance	Conditions for use
i) Plant and animal origin	
Algal preparations	
Animal preparations and oils	
Beeswax	
Chitin nematicides (natural origin)	
Coffee grounds	
Corn gluten meal (weed control)	
Dairy products (e.g., milk, casein)	
Gelatine	
Lecithin	
Natural acids (e.g., vinegar)	
Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	
Plant oils (e.g., castor oil)	
Plant preparations and plant teas (e.g., chilli, tithonia (Africa sunflower), <i>Tagetes sp.</i> , Mexican marigold)	
Plant-based repellents	
Propolis	
Pyrethrum (<i>Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium</i>)	The synergist piperonyl butoxide shall not be used.
Quassia (<i>Quassia amara</i>)	
Rotenone (<i>Derris elliptica</i> , <i>Lonchocarpus spp.</i> , <i>Thephrosia spp.</i>)	Studies show a link between rotenone and Parkinson's disease; therefore, any use should be limited and include precautionary measures.
Ryania (<i>Ryania speciosa</i>)	
Sabadilla	
Seaweed, seaweed meal, and seaweed extracts	
Tobacco tea (pure nicotine shall not be used)	
ii) Mineral Origin	
Chloride of lime	

Description, Compositional Requirements of Substance	Conditions for use
Clay (e.g., bentonite, perlite, vermiculite, zeolite)	
Copper salts (e.g., sulphate, hydroxide, oxychloride, octanoate)	Max 8 kg/ha per year (on a rolling average basis)
Diatomaceous earth	
Light mineral oils (paraffin)	
Lime sulphur (Calcium polysulfide)	
Potassium bicarbonate	
Potassium permanganate	
Quicklime	
Silicates (e.g., sodium silicates, quartz)	
Sodium bicarbonate	
Sulphur	
iii) Micro-organisms	
Fungal preparations	
Bacterial preparations (e.g., <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>)	
Release of parasites, predators, and sterilized insects	
Viral preparations (e.g., granulosis virus)	
iv) Others	
Biodynamic preparations	
Calcium hydroxide	
Carbon dioxide	
Ethyl alcohol	
Homeopathic and ayurvedic preparations	
Iron phosphates (for use as molluscicide)	
Sea salt and saltwater	
Soda	
Soft soap	
Sulphur dioxide	
v) Traps, barriers, repellents	
Physical methods (e.g., chromatic traps, mechanical traps)	
Mulches, nets	
Pheromones (in traps and dispensers only)	

Annex C
(informative)

List of natural substances which may not be used in organic plant production

This list, which is normative, contains natural substances which may not be used in organic production according to this standard.

Description, compositional requirements of substance	Comments
Nicotine (pure)	Tobacco tea is allowed; however; safety measures shall be taken to reduce skin contact
Chilean nitrate	Chilean nitrate (sodium nitrate) may not be used on certified organic farms because it contains sodium which could build up and be harmful to the crop

Annex D
(informative)

List of additives and processing aids for organic food processing

Reference clause 9.4

The list is indicative, i.e. there may be other substances that may be used in organic production according to this standard as long as they follow the criteria in the IFOAM Basic Standards or CAC/GL 32.

International Numbering System (INS)	Product	Additive	Processing aid	Limitation/note
INS 153	Wood ash	X		Traditional cheeses
INS 170	Calcium carbonate	X	X	
INS 181	Tannin		X	Only for wine
INS 184	Tannic acid		X	Filtration aid for wine
INS 220	Sulphur dioxide	X		Only for wine
INS 224	Potassium metabisulphite	X		Only for wine
INS 270	Lactic acid	X	X	
INS 290	Carbon dioxide	X	X	
INS 296	L-malic acid	X	X	
INS 300	Ascorbic acid	X		
INS 306	Tocopherols, mixed natural concentrates	X		
INS 322	Lecithin	X	X	
INS 330	Citric acid	X	X	
INS 331	Sodium citrates	X		
INS 332	Potassium citrates	X		
INS 333	Calcium citrates	X		
INS 334	Tartaric acid and salts	X	X	Only for wine
INS 335	Sodium tartrate	X	X	
INS 336	Potassium tartrate	X	X	
INS 341	Mono calcium phosphate	X		Only for "raising flour"
INS 342	Ammonium phosphate	X		Restricted to 0.3 gm/L in wine
INS 400	Alginic acid	X		
INS 401	Sodium alginate	X		
INS 402	Potassium alginate	X		
INS 406	Agar	X		
INS 407	Carrageenan	X		
INS 410	Locust bean gum	X		

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International Numbering System (INS)	Product	Additive	Processing aid	Limitation/note
INS 412	Guar gum	X		
INS 413	Tragacanth gum	X		
INS 414	Arabic gum	X		Only for milk products, fat products, confectionary, sweets, eggs
INS 415	Xanthan gum	X		Only fat, fruit and vegetable products and cakes and biscuits
INS 416	Karaya gum	X		
INS 440	Pectin	X		Unmodified
INS 500	Sodium carbonates	X	X	
INS 501	Potassium carbonates	X	X	
INS 503	Ammonium carbonates	X		Only for cereal products, confectionery, cakes and biscuits
INS 504	Magnesium carbonates	X		
INS 508	Potassium chloride	X		
INS 509	Calcium chloride	X	X	
INS 511	Magnesium chloride	X	X	Only for soybean products
INS 513	Sulphuric acid		X	pH adjustment of water during sugar processing
INS 516	Calcium sulphate	X		For soybean products, confectionery and in bakers' yeast
INS 517	Ammonium sulphate	X		Only for wine, restricted to 0.3 mg/l
INS 524	Sodium hydroxide	X	X	For sugar processing and for the surface treatment of traditional bakery products
INS 525	Potassium hydroxide		X	pH adjustment for sugar processing
INS 526	Calcium hydroxide	X	X	Food additive for maize and tortilla flour; processing aid for sugar
INS 551	Silicon dioxide (amorphous)		X	For wine, fruit and vegetable processing
INS 553	Talc		X	
INS 901	Beeswax		X	
INS 903	Carnauba wax		X	
INS 938	Argon	X		
INS 941	Nitrogen	X	X	
INS 948	Oxygen	X	X	
	Activated carbon		X	
	Bentonite		X	Only for fruit and vegetable products
	Casein		X	Only for wine
	Diatomaceous earth		X	Only for sweeteners and wine
	Egg-white albumen		X	Only for wine
	Ethanol		X	
	Gelatine		X	Only for wine, fruit, and vegetables

International Numbering System (INS)	Product	Additive	Processing aid	Limitation/note
	Hazelnut shells		X	
	Isinglass		X	Only for wine
	Kaolin		X	
	Perlite		X	
	Preparations of bark		X	
	Vegetable oil		X	Greasing or releasing agent
	Water		X	