ORGANIC CERTIFICATION =

approval of compliance with regulations for

- production
- processing
- products
- labelling
- trade
- import
- social standards (by associations)

by accredited private certification agencies under official state control

Issue of certificate
ORGANIC NORMS AND GUIDELINES


USA  National Organic Programme

JAPAN  Japanese Agricultural Standard

„Third countries“

Switzerland, Israel, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica,

India, Tunisia, NewZeeland

with organic regulations accepted as being equivalent to the EU-norms

Private association standards
CERTIFICATION BASICS

- formal requirements
  registration by authorities
  contract with agency
  detailed unit description
  conversion plan

- verification of compliance
  audit: inspection and control of compliance
  with guidelines / regulations
  strict separation from conventional

- issue of certificate
  license to use organic designation
CRITICAL POINTS OF CERTIFICATION

• 30 different standards
• interpretation of standards / consensus with authorities
• client – agent relationship / economic interests
• communication deficiencies
• incomplete surveillance
• risk assessment of processors, traders, exporters

The Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) Project is the continuation of the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF), both jointly led by FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD
OVERALL UNSATISFACTORY ASPECTS
facts and conditions constraining organic production

- suitability of regulations
- limited harmonisation of guidelines among countries
- standards not applicable everywhere
- political reasons for trade barriers
- „Third Countries“ slowness of adaptation process
- meeting requirements of group certification
- cost reasons / extra costs for foreign inspectors
- economic risks in case of re-certification denial
- market access
TRACEABILITY

• official registration as certified enterprise
  - verifiable by inquiry, database
• labelled on retail product:
  DE-123 – ÖKO / BIO / ORGANIC
  producer / trader, country of origin, shelf life
• designation of lot origin on bulk container
  (see overleaf)
• delivery notes / receipts / invoices of / for
  - wholesale trader
  - import agent
  - export agent
  - producer: documentation of place/date/quantity of
    collection / cooperative facilities / honey accounts
  - retain samples for analysis in quest

• Collective lots must be indentifiable (protocol)
Correct labelling of organic honey (bulk quantities)

Producer (Name/Code)  Franz Maller 11.5.03
Collecting point        Co-op Betal
Client (if applicable)  Meier, Cestadt
Harvest year            2005
Honey type              Polyflora
Net weight              297 kg
Certified by            DE 123 ÖKO
Container/drum no.      2 / 12
Lot-No.                 FMA 05 2

BIO / ECO / ORGANIC
HONEY ACCOUNT

**IN**

- date of entry
  + qty. in stock (inventory)
  + harvest / purchases

**OUT**

- date of entry
  - qty.: sales / feeding / processing / losses / own consumption

specify:
- honey type
- no. of colonies
- origin own / other
- lot-no

= difference in stock
Group certification for smallholders

- complete compliance with regulations by single producer
- reduced certification costs
- shared investment in common facilities and equipment – strengthening social structures
- access to attractive markets

- applicable in case of smallholder producer groups
- formal individual contracts between producer and cooperative
- annual control by internal control system (ICS)
- annual control of $\sqrt{n + 1}$ beekeepers by external inspector ($n = \text{total number of producers}$)
- routine analysis to verify observance of guidelines

List of countries eligible for group certification:
Sketch for sampling honey and wax for sampling purpose e.g. Co-operative of 9 producers in 3 villages

The internal inspector takes two samples from each beekeeper; one for analysis, the other for reference/cross-checking, which remains with the producer or control body. A sample lot comprising several barrels should come from at least 10% of the containers. From each group the samples are homogenized. From the resulting collective lots one sample for analysis and one for reference is taken by the external inspector. Collective lots are again homogenized. One sample is sent to the laboratory, the reference sample remains with the certifying agency.

Collecting point
Sampling plan and documentation
Deposit of reference samples
(9 x from producers, 3 + 1 X from collective lots)

Clear labelling of collective lots, entry in sampling plan!!
Storage of reference samples: cool, dark, airtight
EU IMPORT REGULATIONS

• Honey quality must comply with

- national decrees on honey
- general food standards (hygiene)
- Codex Alimentarius
- EU decree on honey quality

  setting parameters and technical standards

- EU organic legislation (guidelines)
National residue monitoring schemes

must be implemented, maintained and annually re-certified as a requirement by the EU commission to ensure non-contamination with substances not allowed in foodstuff (applies to all foodstuff of animal origin).

Accredited and certified national laboratories test for residues of antibiotics, fluvalinates, other synthetic varroacides, agricultural pesticides in case of suspect, GMO contamination.

Ref.: Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
### HONEY EXPORTING COUNTRIES (into EU)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Vietnam</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
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<td>Argentina</td>
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Organic regulations in these countries are not accepted as being equivalent to EU-guidelines. To import a bee product as organic into the EU, certification must be executed by an EU-accredited control body.
MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO GO ORGANIC

- weak infrastructure in the producing country
- lack of knowledge and understanding
- lack of access to production means
- unfavourable conditions of natural resources e.g. risk of contamination by GMO / pesticides
- competitiveness
- costs
GMO cultivation 2009: 134 million hectares

GMO crops: soy bean, cotton, corn, canola, poplar, papaya, sugar beet, tomato, paprika, roses
WWWs:

- apiservices.com
- apimondia2003.com
- beesfordevelopment.org
- fibl.org
- kohala.net/bees
- ibra.org.uk
- apis.admin.ch
- apitherapy.de
- ifoam.org
- icimod.org
- bee-hexagon.net
- oecd.org/dataoecd/32/40/43540882.pdf
(countries eligible for group certification)
Give bees a chance ... go organic