ORGANIC
PLANT PRODUCTION

Guidelines no. 24:
Plant Production & Organic Farming
Ecocert Organic Standard (EOS)
I. Rules for organic conversion

If you have not started the process of conversion yet:

- Get in touch with our Certification Department
- Fill out the Application Form and Unit Description
- Refer to Guidelines document.

Organic conversion should only be started once a monitoring contract has been put in place with the certification body.

If you have already started the process of conversion:

- Notify us of the conversion of a designated plot of land, filling out the Application Form and Unit Description. Conversion start date will match notification date.

Conversion Period:

Conversion of a designated plot of land starts when organic production standards are strictly met on the operational side and at the date of the notification to the certification body.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of crops</th>
<th>Conversion Period</th>
<th>Products may be sold as 'in-conversion'</th>
<th>Products may be sold as 'organic'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual &amp; semi-perennial</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>If harvest falls 12 months after conversion start date on a designated plot of land</td>
<td>If sowing falls 24 months after conversion start date on a designated plot of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>If harvest falls 12 months after conversion start date on a designated plot of land</td>
<td>If harvest falls 36 months after conversion start date on a designated plot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due of the conditions listed above, we strongly recommend that you start conversion:

- before sowing, for annual & semi-perennial types of crops
- before harvesting, for perennial types of crops.
Annual types of crops:

01/10/09 01/10/10 01/10/11

Conversion Year 1
Products may be sold as conventional

Conversion Year 2
Products may be sold as 'in-conversion'

ORGANIC FARMING
Products may be sold as 'organic'
If sowing after 01/10/2011

Conversion period: 24 months

Plot registered as 'in-conversion'

'Organic Farming' certification depends on sowing date. If sowing is done before 01/10/2011 then products may be sold as 'in organic conversion' even though it has been harvested after month 24.

Perennial Crops:

01/09/09 01/09/10 01/09/11 01/09/12

Conversion Year 1
Products may be sold as conventional

Conversion Year 2
Products may be sold as 'in-conversion'

Conversion Year 3
Products may be sold as 'in-conversion'

ORGANIC FARMING
Products may be sold as 'organic'

Conversion period: 36 months

Plot registered as 'in-conversion'

'Organic Farming' certification depends on crop year.
**Operation time prior to conversion:**

It may be possible to "reduce" the conversion period, when the following areas are included in the plot of land that must be converted:

⇒ natural meadow,
⇒ set-asides,
⇒ uncultivated land,
⇒ areas under fallow,
⇒ Runs
⇒ Abandoned crops or traditionally cultivated crops

There must be independent proof that only approved material (i.e. not listed in Annex I & II of EOS has been applied to the land during the 3 previous years of operation, in order to obtain instant Organic Farming certification.

You may be able to request the following:

- certificates delivered by the competent authorities, environmental agencies or third party organisations,
- financial audit over the previous year of operation,
- a soil test...

Moreover, the on-site inspection by the certification body is a mandatory stage. Prior to inspection, the land must be left untouched. Inspection may also be performed right after initial land cultivation providing that a strip of original land remains. Photographic evidence may also be considered.

**II. Organic wild collection**

The collection of wild plants and other vegetables can be considered as organic production if it complies with the following requirements:

⇒ if only approved material (i.e. not listed in Annex I & II of EOS) has been applied to the area during the 3 consecutive years prior to collection;
⇒ if collection does have any impact on the environment or on the preservation of the species in the collection area.

For further details, please refer to our "Organic Wild Collection, Guidelines no.25".
III. Inputs: origin and guarantees

A. Seeds and seedlings:

Only organically produced seed and propagating material must be used.

If organic seeds or vegetative propagating material are not commercially available, it may be possible to replace them with seeds or vegetative propagating material produced through conventional farming, providing specific requirements are met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Special authorisation granted for organic use of conventional seeds</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Potato Seeds and seedlings** | Seeds used for the production of annual and perennial crops: cereals, legumes, cotton, vegetables... | Granted by Ecocert SA                                                  | Non-organic potato seeds and seedlings may be used providing:
- there is a proof that the organic variety is not commercially available.
- they are non treated (except if prohibited for phytosanitary reason by the competent authorities).
Dispensation must be granted before purchase and before sowing. GM-free guarantee must be checked at supplier level. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Special authorisation granted for organic use of conventional seeds</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetative propagating material</td>
<td>Strawberry stems, transplanted tomatoes, young onion bulbs, artichoke stem, young fruit bushes, banana rhizome, pineapple shoots, vanilla cutting, sugar cane cutting, vine stock...</td>
<td>Granted by Ecocert SA</td>
<td>Non-organic vegetative propagating material may be used providing there is a proof that the organic variety is not commercially available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young plants</td>
<td>Young plants, seedlings, naked roots or with soil: vegetable &amp; rice young plant.</td>
<td>Not applicable. Cannot be granted.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B. Fertilizers and soil amendments:**

Hydroponics is prohibited (method of growing plants with their roots in nutrient solution or in an inert medium).

Soil fertility must be maintained according to requirements listed in Points A 3.2 and A 3.3 of EOS:

⇒ Organic cultivation techniques should contribute to maintaining and enhancing soil fertility

⇒ Multiannual crop rotation including legumes and other green manure crops

⇒ The application of organic material from organic production

Only "fertilizers and soil amendments" listed in Annex I of EOS may be used.
1. Use of livestock effluents:

**Limitation of Nitrogen release:** The total volume of effluent utilized over the farming land and facilities, whether in the context of "mixed or 100% organic farming", should not go over 170Kg nitrogen per year per ha. All effluents, whether raw or composted, produced on the farm or bought out, originating from organic or conventional farming, should be accounted taken into account.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Restrictions on use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manure (composting of animal excrements and vegetable material - litter-)</td>
<td>Factory farming origin prohibited: Mandatory composting if originating from intensive farming. Prohibited if originating from battery farming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid animal excrements</td>
<td>Factory farming origin prohibited: May be used after controlled fermentation process and/or proper dilution. Prohibited if originating from battery farming.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Organic material and soil amendments prohibited as fertilizers in organic farming:

⇒ Sewage sludge originating from wastewater treatment plant,
⇒ Sludge originating from the food and agriculture industry,
⇒ Household composting where domestic rubbish has not been sorted,
⇒ Any raw material containing GMO and derivatives
⇒ Burnt lime or lime; only ground limestone (calcium carbonate) or residual lime from sugar or salt manufacturing plants are allowed.

C. Phytopharmaceuticals:

According to points A 5.1, 5.3 and 5.4 of EOS, prevention of damage caused by pests, diseases and weeds shall rely primarily on the choice of species and varieties, crop rotation, cultivation techniques, thermal methods and biodynamic preparations.

In the case of threat to a crop, phytopharmaceuticals may be used if listed in Annex II of EOS.

In order to use these products, a marketing authorization must be granted.
### D. Vendor guarantee checklist before purchase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seeds (packed &amp; labelled)</th>
<th>Seeds (in bulk)</th>
<th>Seedlings &amp; young plants</th>
<th>Livestock effluents</th>
<th>Fertilizers &amp; soil amendments</th>
<th>Phytopharmaceuticals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guarantee stated on label, invoice and certificate if organic.</td>
<td>Guarantee stated on invoice and certificate if organic.</td>
<td>Organic guarantee stated on invoice and certificate.</td>
<td>Organic guarantee. If non-organic, guarantee: - not from factory farming - no added substances produced from or by GMO</td>
<td>&quot;May be used for Organic Farming according to EU regulation 834/2007&quot; statement on invoice or labels and/or check of conformity on product commercial factsheet + Marketing authorization + non GM attestation for organic matter and microorganisms</td>
<td>&quot;May be used for Organic Farming according to EU regulation 834/2007&quot; statement on invoice or labels and/or check of conformity on product commercial factsheet + &quot;open source&quot; ingredient list on product label or on factsheet + GMO-free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If non-organic, treatment-free guarantee (unless treated with an approved product listed in Annex II + GMO-free)</td>
<td>If non-organic, treatment-free guarantee (unless treated with an approved product listed in Annex II + GMO-free)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organic guarantees are stated on invoice and certificate if organic.
IV. Mixed Organic-Conventional Farming

As per point A 6.2 of EOS, a producer (i.e. one legal entity) farming a mix of organic and conventional annual crops should only produce plants of varieties, which may be easily differentiated. Moreover, organic and conventional facilities should be adequately separated with regards to inputs as well as products.

On a mixed organic-conventional farming basis, cultivating identical or not easily differentiated annual varieties during the same year may cause the whole of the production to be reclassified as conventional.

NB: If organic and non-organic production units are located in the same area, non-organic units and storage facilities for inputs (such as fertilizers, phytopharmaceuticals and seeds) also have to meet the same requirements: full unit description, full records of measures taken to ensure on-site separation and full audit trail records, provision of financial statements. (points A 1.5, 1.6 and 9.4 of EOS)

As per point A 6.4 of EOS, dispensations may be granted for farming identical or not easily differentiated varieties to mixed organic and conventional unit providing they meet the following requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions / Types</th>
<th>Agronomic research: Identical or not easily differentiated varieties</th>
<th>Production of seeds, vegetative propagation material and seedlings: Identical or not easily differentiated varieties</th>
<th>Grassland: Identical or not easily differentiated varieties</th>
<th>Perennial crops Identical or not easily differentiated varieties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drawing up a Conversion Plan (to be submitted each year for approval to Ecocert SA)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes. Deadline for conversion start date of the very last area of the designated plot is 5 years max.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Control measures to be approved by Ecocert SA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control measures to be approved by Ecocert SA</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementing adequate separation measures</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifying control bodies at least 48 hours before harvesting each crop</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifying control bodies as soon as harvest is over on quantities harvested on all units and on adequate separation implemented</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. Definitions

Farm:
Means all the production units as whole, operated as a single legal entity for agricultural production purpose.

Production Unit:
Means all the resources used to farm a designated production area, such as farming facilities, plots of land, grassland, open air areas, livestock facilities, moors, confinement zones & facilities used for farming algae and aquaculture, animal enclosure on land or on seabed, crop storage facilities, plant product, products derived from sea algae, animal products, raw materials and all other input used for operation.

Conversion:
Means the transition from non-organic to organic farming within a given period of time, during which the provisions concerning the organic production have been applied.
**Plant Production:**
Means production of agricultural crop products including harvesting of wild plant products for commercial purpose.

**Composting:**
Means a controlled process in which organic material, originating from plants or animals, decays through aerobic decomposition.

"Mixed" Farming:
Means plant production in compliance with the requirements of both organic and conventional farming. Cultivation of plants of identical varieties or which may be not easily differentiated by unexperimented eyes.

**VI. References and EU Regulations**

Ecocert Organic Standard

- A.1 - Information and visit conditions
- A.2 - Seed and planting material
- A.3 - Conversion rules
- A.3 + annexe I - Fertilisers and soil conditioners
- A.4 - Mushroom production
- A.5 + Annexe II - Measures to control pests, diseases and weed.
- A.6 - Precaution and separation measures farming
- A.7 - Precaution and separation measures transport
- A.8 - Precaution and separation measures storage
- A.9 - Accounts, traceability and documentation
- A.10 - Quality management
- A.11 - Labelling and invoicing

**These documents are available upon request to ECOCERT or may be downloaded from our website www.ecocert.com**