THE ORGANIC STANDARD

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Organic Assignments

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Organic transparency

Have the Italians figured it out? A look at the FederBio approach

Having been hit by a number of organic food scandals, the Italian organic industry found itself in a come-to-Jesus moment, where it had to decide how it was going to maintain its reputation and ultimately, consumer confidence, after a significant amount of conventional grain had been fraudulently sold as organic.

FederBio, the Italian Federation of Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture, is an umbrella organisation whose members represent 95% of Italian organic operators. With such a high percentage of the market involved in one organisation, the development of a mandatory transparency system became possible. The organic industry in Italy knew it needed a system in place to deter fraud and to take concrete actions to fight against fraudsters.

The FederBio approach is a direct response to the types of fraud that were discovered in Italy.

Fraudsters found holes in the system. A paper-based certificate system meant that fraudsters could easily counterfeit certificates and pass them off as valid certificates. Within the annual programmes of production, yields were overstated, and the verification of these amounts by certifiers on a regular basis was difficult. These weaknesses created the perfect storm for fraudsters to magically turn conventionally grown grain into organically grown grain. What was lacking was a centralised repository of data with which to verify market transactions, meaning that both certification and transaction data would be made available in an electronic format. There was a lack of data sharing; however, by creating the FederBio Integrity Platform, they were able to fill in the gaps.

FEDERBIO
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA E BIODINAMICA

So how does the platform cover up these holes? One, it draws on a central database of all Italian organic certification data, DATA BIO, which allows for the verification of this data in real time and the quick identification of counterfeit certificates. Two, real-time transactional data is also included, calculated on a mass-balance approach, and allows for the verification of yield data entered into the database as part of the programmes of production.

Yet how exactly did they get the certification data on to the platform?

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What´s in TOS 164

Dear readers

This TOS issue brings news about important issues that are currently taking place, such as the latest developments regarding organic transparency and the FederBio approach, written by Will Meister from Organic Services. The article explains in detail how the FederBio Integrity Platform functions and its efforts in achieving greater transparency in the supply chain of organic products.

Continuing with organic standards and regulations, there are two interesting articles on this issue. The first one is related to the new amendments to the EU Regulation addressed by the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/673 amending Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008 published on 29 April this year.

The article illustrates the different changes that operators need to undertake in their quality and production systems, as well as for the control bodies in charge of the conformity assessment. Changes concern mainly amendments in some of the annexes of the implementing regulation, and also some decisions regarding exceptional rules and dates. It also brings news of an issue that had been under discussion since the inclusion of aquaculture and seaweed production in the Regulation: the inclusion of micro-seaweeds, as a food product, not only as feed for aquaculture.

It is interesting to see the publication of changes to the Regulation, because there have been no changes recently - nothing significant since 2014 - except the changes to the imports regarding approved CBs and approved countries. The changes were maybe due to the supposedly imminent publication of a completely new regulation, but after strong opposition and demand for further discussion from a great part of the organic sector in Europe, the new regulation continues to be discussed and its publication delayed. However, it seems that lately the trilogue involved in these discussions (the EU Presidency, the EU Commission and the EU Council) are making progress, but time passes and the regulation has to continue being adapted to the evolution of the sector.

The second article on standards deals with a sector which has grown considerably in recent years and deserves our attention: organic and natural cosmetics. In many respects, this industry is very different to the food sector and is at the same stage now, with the proliferation of private standards and strong competition between them, and also with the weakness in the market regarding the protection of 'organic' and 'natural' terms, that the food sector was at in previous decades. It is the first article of a tour around the diverse cosmetics seals which started with the Cosmos and NATRUE standards.

Continuing with standards, this issue also addresses the implementation of the ECEAT organic eco-tourism certification in Spain. The eco-tourism sector continues to grow and the impact of it on ecosystems depends on how it is managed. The president of the Foundation Ecoagroturismo, Severino Garcia, who is in charge of the implementation of the ECEAT standard in Spain, explains the quality system established to control the fulfilment of ECEAT standards. The criteria of this standard are focused on the sustainability of rural tourism, the re-evaluation of local products and resources, the conservation of natural resources, and the promotion of a sustainable and responsible tourism.

We hope that you enjoy this TOS issue.

With kind regards,

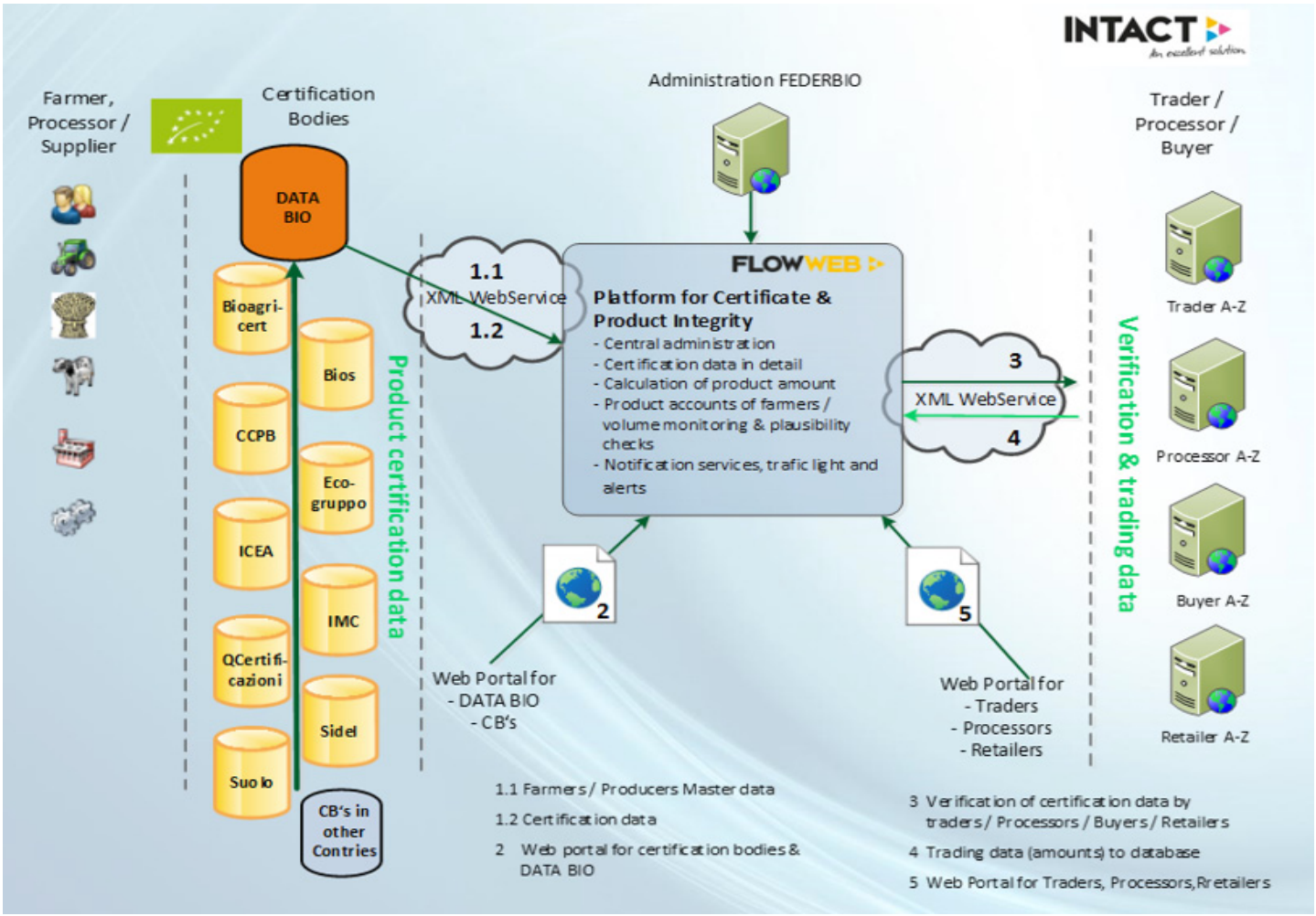
Jesús Concepción &
Nuria Alonso

Continued from page 1

In Italy, the Ministry of Agriculture was not in the position to undertake such an effort, so this left ACCREDIA, the sole national accreditation body in Italy, to bring about the participation of Italian certifiers in the platform. Nearly all Italian certification bodies provide their data to the FederBio Integrity Platform via DATA BIO, ACCREDIA's database of Italian organic operators. The data in DATA BIO comes directly from the certifiers themselves and currently includes 95% of all producers. Unique to the Italian approach is the level of detail it encompasses. Certifiers report field size and product details, referring to the level of effort that the Italian organic industry has made to implement the EU's Organic Regulations.

Similarly, how did they get the transaction data on to the platform? Before this question is asked, however, another question poses itself: what is an Italian supermarket to do if the organic products it's selling aren't actually organic? As the point of contact to consumers and the terminus in the supply chain, supermarkets play an important role in directing supply chains to meet their own and consumers' demands as well as shouldering the burden of removing the fraudulent products from their shelves. In response to the scandal, the largest organic supermarket chain in Italy, NaturaSi, and major Italian supermarket retailers Coop Italia and Conad, requested that their suppliers be part of the FederBio Integrity Platform as a requirement to keep their products on supermarket shelves.

They did this with the notion in mind that if you have nothing to hide, then why wouldn't you want to be part of the transparency system



FIP System: This picture illustrates how the FederBio Integrity Platform functions.

– it's an opportunity to weed out the fraudsters. The supermarkets' suppliers (processors and traders) provide their data to the platform via interfaces from their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

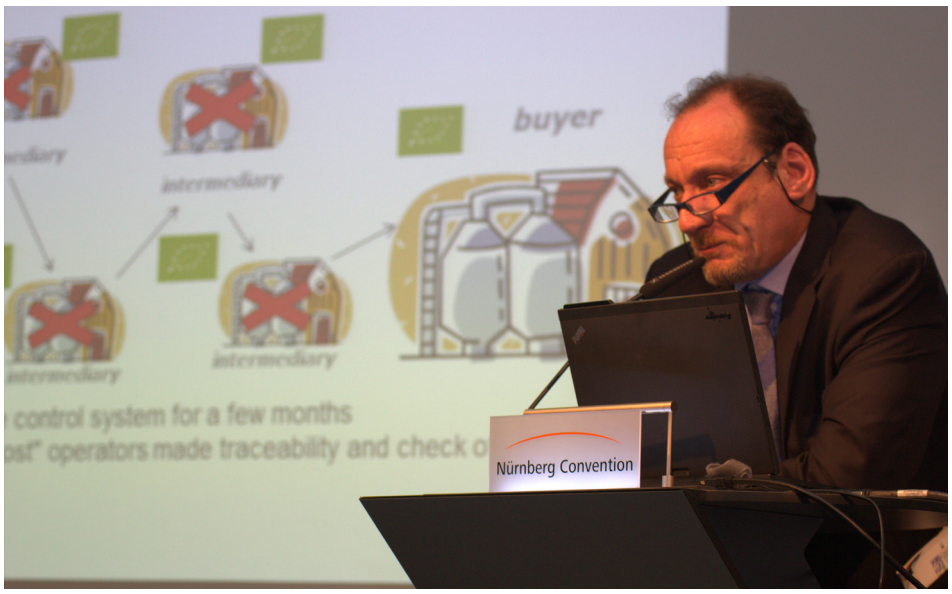
So, where does the FederBio Integrity Platform actually come from? The system that was developed is based on Intact's IT solutions for supply chain integrity. Intact's solutions provide whole-chain product traceability combined with real-time certification data.

And what does the platform actually show? The platform gives its users both the certification and transaction data needed to identify risks in the organic grain supply chain, while restricting access to their own data to ensure the confidentiality of proprietary business information. Based on a traffic light system, transactions are monitored for irregularities. The traffic light system is broken down into certification status and integrity status. This is where the merging of the different data providers comes into play.

Certification data from the certification bodies, both at the operator level and product level, are illustrated via the traffic light system as well as the quantities of goods traded along the supply chain, based on the yield amounts in annual programmes of production. These amounts are monitored throughout the supply chain using a mass- balance approach calculated per trader in real time, which comes from the traders' ERP systems.

The platform is also able to notify users of potential risks. It is designed for use by the organic grain industry, but also serves as a blueprint for use by other food supply chains.

So how does the platform sustain itself? Through a combination of fixed and variable fees, the platform generates funds to ensure its sustainability. The benefits which the platform provides to both certifiers and operators means that they share the cost burden of maintaining the system. Certifiers are currently covering the fixed costs for the platform, which vary by participant type from a couple of hundred to over a thousand euros per year.



Mr. Roberto Pinton explaining the Integrity Platform functions.

Operators are responsible for covering the platform's variable costs, which are priced at € 0.16 per tonne of grain. The platform still functions on a voluntary basis and currently includes an increasing number of operators and over 300,000 tonnes of grain; however, participation will become mandatory beginning in 2017, which will mean that over 1 million tonnes of grain will be monitored on the platform.

Through the co-operative efforts of key players in the Italian organic industry, FederBio was able to achieve the unachievable; however, implementing a paradigm shift is no easy feat. The FederBio Integrity Platform has faced its own set of challenges. Despite these challenges, the FederBio Integrity Platform will continue its mission to bring greater transparency to the Italian organic market. FederBio's history also shows, however, that it knows that combining efforts across the industry is what eventually brings change and results, which is why FederBio has partnered with Check Organic to tackle these issues at the global level with all data for imported products provided through Check Organic. ■

Will Meister,
Business development and project management,
Organic Services,
w.meister@organic-services.

The platform is also able to notify users of potential risks. ■

A tour around the diverse world of cosmetic seals
(1st part)

A harmonised definition for natural and organic cosmetics does not exist so far. Generally speaking, there are no official regulations to cover this sector. One exception found when writing this article is California, which states in its law that "Cosmetics sold as organic cannot be labelled or advertised in a way that would lead consumers to believe they are certified organic or in compliance with NOP requirements, unless they are certified under the NOP regulations". (www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/fdbof.aspx) At the same time, the natural and organic cosmetic market has developed much later than the organic food market, but has grown very strongly in recent years all around the world.

The circumstances described above have led to a proliferation of certified private standards and also to an even bigger proliferation of cosmetic brands and products that display different organic and/or natural claims in their labels without being certified, and in many cases contain ingredients that are normally not permitted by the natural cosmetic standards. One example that can be found in the market nowadays is a product called 'Bio-Oil', whose main ingredient is paraffin, a petroleum product.

Fortunately, at least in the EU, since the implementation of the cosmetic Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009, which came into force in 2013, it is obligatory to include the full list of ingredients on the labels of all cosmetic products. Therefore, those well-informed consumers

can make their purchasing choice by reading the ingredients on the label. However, the situation is very confusing for most consumers, as it is not so easy to read the names of most of the cosmetic ingredients and know what they are. According to a survey published by Suzie Trigg a lawyer from the American law firm Haynes & Boone, 78% of consumers believed that 'natural' claims for personal care products are regulated and 83% of consumers thought that there should be one meaning for natural.

Those consumers who are concerned about health and environmental issues but are not experts in cosmetics, can just trust the label seals that represent the certification of the cosmetic products they find on the market. Yet this is not an easy job either - there are many different seals and, apart from some basic criteria followed by all of them (such as minimising the processing, not using GMOs, etc.), different seals represent different standards. In addition, there are differences in the way the minimum percentage of organic and natural content is calculated and the criteria used to set this.

Another difficulty in cosmetics is distinguishing clearly between the terms 'natural' and 'organic'. It is easier for consumers to understand the concept 'organic' when related to agriculture production, but not so easy for cosmetics, even for those involved in the cosmetic sector: manufacturers, traders, staff at beauty salons, etc. This occurs maybe because the cosmetic sector is further away from the soil than the food sector; except for those cosmetic operators who grow their

Another difficulty in cosmetics is distinguishing clearly between the terms 'natural' and 'organic'.

own plants and/or make their own hydrolates, oleates or other raw materials, manufacturers never see a lavender plant but just a container that looks the same whether the lavender oil is organic or conventional. For their part, consumers only see a finished product, where a suggestive packaging showing a beautiful lavender field can convince them that the whole field is there, inside the soap or the cream they are buying.

What organic means and how to meet the criteria so that an ingredient or a finished product can be considered organic, is something that the certification bodies have to explain all the time to their cosmetic operators and these operators have to explain to their clients.

Most of the standards for natural cosmetics include the category 'natural' and the category 'organic'; some of them also contain the category 'natural with certain % of organic content'. Usually, the requirements to be fulfilled and the permitted and prohibited ingredients are similar for all the categories; the main differences are the percentage of organic-certified content that the agricultural ingredients of the cosmetic product contain, and the percentage established for the different categories and how to calculate this.

Some of the main standards for cosmetics that can be found nowadays worldwide will be covered in a series of articles published by TOS, starting with this one.

Natural and organic cosmetic seals:

Cosmos

This is a standard devised by five European organisations (BDIH, Cosmebio, Ecocert Greenlife, ICEA and Soil Association) with the idea of developing a harmonised standard. The Standard came into force in 2010 and is owned by COSMOS-standard AISBL, a not-for-profit, international association. Cosmos is expanding around the world; in fact nowadays there are three certification bodies from outside Europe who are approved to certify according to Cosmos: ETKO from Turkey, ACO from Australia and Control Union Korea.

From 1st January 2017, new applicants will be allowed to apply for Cosmos only. However, the respective private standards of the founders will continue to exist for operators certified before the end of 2016, if they prefer to continue using the old standards instead of changing to Cosmos.

There is no common Cosmos seal: the symbols of the five founder organisations are used, combined with the word Cosmos and in two different categories: Natural or Organic.

Categories

Cosmos Organic

At least 95% of physically processed agro-ingredients must be organic; the remaining 5%, comprising non-organic physically processed agro-ingredients, is restricted. The standard lists the ingredients that must be organic (because it is considered that they are available in sufficient quality and quantity). At least 20% of the total product must be organic.

From 1st January 2017, new applicants will be allowed to apply for Cosmos only.

Cosmos Natural

These are products with no organic content or with less than the 95% of the physically processed agro-ingredients that are required to be organic.

For both categories:

- Petrochemical moieties must not exceed a total of 2% of the total finished product; and
- It is obligatory that the percentage of natural content is stated on the label.

Cosmos also applies to ingredients to be used in the cosmetic industry, in two categories: for ingredients with organic content, labelled as Cosmos Certified and for ingredients with no organic content, known as 'Approved Raw Materials'.

What is organic?

In every case, to be considered organic, all ingredients must be certified, but the different standards define what can be considered organic according to their own criteria. For Cosmos, organic ingredients must be "certified in accordance with Regulation No. (EC) 834/2007 or an equivalent national or international standard by a duly constituted certification body or authority". This means that ingredients certified to cosmetics standards other than Cosmos are not recognised as organic.

For further information see: https://cosmos-standard.org/

NATRUE

Launched in 2008, NATRUE AISBL is a European non-profit association and its standard is backed by some of the leading brands of natural cosmetics.

NATRUE also certifies ingredients for cosmetics. There is a list of certified raw materials available on the NATRUE website. The raw materials may contain water, natural ingredients (organic or not), derived-natural (organic or not) and/or nature-identical, according to NATRUE criteria.

For finished cosmetic products, there are three categories:

Organic cosmetics: At least 95 % of the natural substances of plant and animal origin and of derived natural substances in the product must be certified organic.

Natural cosmetics with an organic portion: At least 70% of the natural substances of plant and animal origin and of derived natural substances in the product must be certified organic.

Natural cosmetics: products with no organic content or with less than 70 %.

There is a minimum percentage of natural substances and a maximum content of derived natural substances established by the NATRUE Criteria in Table 1, but it varies depending

Table 1. Same criteria for maximum and minimum quantities for different product categories

	Minimum content of natural substances	Maximum content of derived natural substances
Oil or water free organic product	90%	10%
Oil or water free organic product with an organic content	90%	10%
Oil or water free organic natural product	90%	10%

Table 2. Different criteria for maximum and minimum quantities depending on the product category

	Minimum content of natural substances	Maximum content of derived natural substances
Oil or water free organic product	20%	15%
Oil or water free organic product with an organic content	15%	15%
Oil or water free organic natural product	10%	45%

on the category and also on the type of cosmetic product (such as oils and other water-free products, soaps, perfumes, creams, deodorants, etc.). See example in tables 1 and 2.

What is organic?

NATRUE says something quite similar to Cosmos, but using different words: "Organic certified natural substances and derived natural substances must come from controlled organic farming and/or wild collection, certified by a duly recognised certification body or authority to an organic standard or regulation approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards, or to this Standard", which in practice also excludes ingredients certified to other cosmetic standards.,

There is only one version of the NATRUE logo, which is used for all the categories and by all the NATRUE-certified operators, regardless of the approved certification body that certifies them.

NATRUE conditions for the use of the seal:

- Operators using the NATRUE seal, besides being certified by an approved certification body, must sign a contract with NATRUE and pay a fee for the use of the seal.
- To bear the NATRUE seal in finished cosmetic products, it is necessary to certify at least the 75% of products of the same brand.

NATRUE holds some recognition agreements with other standards and organisations worldwide, which makes possible its expansion outside Europe.

- Agreement with IBD (Brazil): Under the agreement, all natural and organic cosmetic products certified to the NATRUE label (raw materials, formulas and finished products) may automatically receive the 'IBD natural ingredients seal'. Conversely, IBD has aligned its criteria to that of the NATRUE label for those products intended to be exported. IBD operators must adjust their line to these criteria, and then the NATRUE label is awarded to IBD-certified natural and organic cosmetic products.
- Agreement with NSF International (USA): Under the agreement, companies certified to NSF/ANSI 305 in the USA can simultaneously garner NATRUE certification in the EU. Vice versa, European and other companies certified under the NATRUE label also qualify for certification under the NSF/ANSI 305 standard for products in the category 'natural with more than a 70% organic content'. From February 2011, NSF International developed the new natural personal care standard utilising a consensus-based process.
- At one point, there were also negotiations with the USA trade organisation The Natural Products Association (NPA) to get a similar agreement like the one with NSF, this time for the category of natural cosmetics. However, it seems that the agreement was never reached and there has been no further news of it since 2010. ■

Cosmos certified product. www.franciesdelmontseny.com

For further information see: www.natrue.org

In the coming TOS issues, we will continue the tour around the natural and organic cosmetics standards and the seals that represent them.

Nuria Alonso
assignments@organicstandard.com

There is only one version of the NATRUE logo, which is used for all the categories. ■

New amendments to the EU Regulation mainly concern inputs and exceptional rules

Amendments to the EU Regulation have not been relevant lately; nothing in 2015 or in the first months of 2016, apart from the usual changes to the names and scope of CBs and approved countries for imports into the EU. Now however, the EU Commission has announced quite a major review of the Regulation 889/2008, concerning mainly some of its annexes.

The new Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/673 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 was published on 29 April 2016. Annexes have mainly been restructured, simplified and in some cases additions were made. In general, there has been a harmonisation of additives with horizontal legislation. For example, the additives' ID, number of additives, names, functioning groups and classification are the same as those in the general legislation for all feed additives.

The Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/673, proposed by the Commission and approved by the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production (RCOP), covers the following aspects:

Micro-algae

- Inclusion of micro-algae within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. The new amendments clarify that the term 'seaweed' includes multi-cellular marine algae, phytoplankton and micro-algae.

  Micro-algae were already included in the scope of the Regulation when intended to be used as feed for aquaculture animals; now they will be included for further use as food.

  This provision will apply from 7 May 2017.

Aquaculture

- The use of non-organic juveniles: In TOS issue 160, we published an article regarding the intention by the EU Commission to prolong the use of non-organic juveniles and bivalve shellfish seed in organic aquaculture. This has now been confirmed by this regulation, which extended the period to use 50% non-organic juveniles in organic aquaculture for one year, from December 2015 to 31 December 2016.

Wine production

- Oenological practices: The

Now the term 'seaweed' includes multi-cellular marine algae, phytoplankton and micro-algae.

news shorts…

INTEGRITY: The USA Database

The USA's Organic Integrity Database, INTEGRITY, is now fully operative. The NOP used to publish a list of certified operations once per year, but this new database has the advantage that organic certifiers can add new operations and report changes to existing operations at any time of the year. Therefore, the information provided by the database is much more accurate and up to date than with the former annual revision system.

The Organic Integrity Database can be found at: http://apps.ams.usda.gov/integrity

deadline for reviewing and re-evaluating some oenological practices and treatments has been postponed to 2018, three years more from the previous deadline of August 2015.

Livestock

- It was already established in the regulation that "competent

news shorts…

The 4th World Symposium on Organic Beekeeping

The 4th World Symposium on Organic Beekeeping will take place in Santiago del Estero, Argentina, from 6-10 September 2016. The Symposium is organised by the Working Cooperative, COOPSOL, and The International Federation of Beekeeping Associations, APIMONDIA. The main goal is to establish the organic beekeeping production system as an important strategy for sustainable development, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean region. ■

Table 1. Substances of plant or animal origin (highlighted in yellow the additions or changes)

Name	Description, compositional requirement, condition for use
Azadirachtin extracted from Azadirachta indica (Neem tree)	~~Insecticide~~
Basic substances	Only those basic substances within the meaning of Article 23(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council(1) that are covered by the definition of 'foodstuff' in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council(2) and have plant or animal origin. Substances not to be used as herbicides, but only for the control of pests and diseases.
Beeswax	Only as pruning agent/wound protectant
Hydrolysed proteins excluding gelatine.	Attractant, only in authorised applications in combination with other appropriate products of this list
~~Lecithin~~	~~Fungicide~~
Laminarin	Elicitor of crop's self defence mechanisms Kelp shall be either grown organically in accordance with Article 6d or harvested in a sustainable way in accordance with Article 6c.
Pheromones	Attractant; sexual behavior disrupter; only in traps and dispensers.
Plant oils (e.g. mint oil, pine oil, caraway oil).	~~Insecticide, acaricide, fungicide and sprout inhibitor.~~ All uses authorised, except herbicide.
Pyrethrins extracted from Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium	~~Insecticide~~
Pyrethroids (only deltamethrin or lambdacyhalothrin)	Insecticide Only in traps with specific attractants; only against Bactrocera oleae and Ceratitis capitata Wied.
Quassia extracted from Quassia amara	Only as insecticide, repellent
Repellents by smell of animals or plan origin/ sheep fat	Repellent Only on non-edible parts of the crop and where crop material is not ingested by sheep or goats Products as specified in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 (number 249)

authorities have the possibility to authorise exceptions from the production rules for animals on a temporary basis...in particular in case of high mortality, caused by health or catastrophic circumstances";
now it has been clarified that the replacement of livestock brought in these circumstances is subject to the respective conversion periods for non-organic animals.

ANNEX II: Pesticides

The plant protection product list referred to in Article 5(1) has been restructured and updated (please find below in the table the new text highlighted in yellow and the deleted text struck through). Some inputs have been added and a few have been deleted or modified in some way, but changes are not so significant this time because several substances had already been deleted from this Annex by Regulation 354/2014, of April 2014, in compliance with horizontal legislation for pest control substances.

Those deleted in 2014 were: gelatine, rotenone extracted from Derris spp. and Lonchocarpus spp. and Terphrosia spp., diammonium phosphate, copper octanoate, potassium aluminium (aluminium sulphate, kalinite), mineral oils and potassium permanganate.

Now, the most significant change to come into line with horizontal legislation is the lack of specification for the use of certain inputs, because their use is no longer specified unless stricter restrictions are required for use in organic production.

The classification of permitted substances has been simplified. Now, they are listed in three different categories only - plant or animal origin, micro-organisms, and substances produced by micro-organisms and other substances

Table 2. Micro-organisms and substances produced by micro-organisms

Name	Description, compositional requirement, condition for use
Micro-organisms	Not from GMO origin
Spinosad	~~Insecticide~~ ~~Only where measures are taken to minimise the risk to key parasitoids and to minimise the risk of development of~~ ~~Resistance.~~

Table 3. Substances other than those mentioned in Sections 1 and 2

Name	Description, compositional requirement, condition for use
Aluminium silicate (Kaolin)	~~Repellent~~
Calcium hydroxide	When used as fungicide, only in fruit trees, including nurseries, to control Nectria galligena.
Carbon dioxide	
Copper compounds in the form of: copper hydroxide, copper oxychloride, copper oxide, bordeaux mixture, and tribasic copper sulphate	Fungicide Up to 6 kg copper per ha per year. For perennial crops, by way of derogation from the first paragraph, Member States may provide that the 6 kg copper limit can be exceeded in a given year provided that the average quantity actually used over a five-year period consisting of that year and of the four preceding years does not exceed 6 kg. Risk mitigation measures shall be taken to protect water and non-target organisms such as buffer zones. Products as specified in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 (number 277)
Ethylene	~~Degreening bananas, kiwis and kakis; Degreening of citrus fruit only as part of a strategy for the prevention of fruit fly damage in citrus; Flower induction of pineapple; sprouting inhibition in potatoes and onions~~
Fatty acids ~~potassium salt (soft soap)~~	All uses authorised, except herbicide (it used to state: '~~Insecticide~~')
Ferric phosphate (iron (III) orthophosphate)	Preparations to be surface-spread between cultivated plants.' (it used to state: 'Molluscicide')
Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth)	

instead of the seven different categories of this Annex before the amendment.

ANNEX VI

Feed additives used in animal nutrition referred to in Article 22(g), Article 24(2) and Article 25m(2) have been completely restructured and updated in line with horizontal legislation on feed additives.

The system is simplified so that the ID number of the additives and the classification of the different substances is made in the same way as in the general legislation.

The substances are currently classified in the following groups:

Lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide)	~~Fungicide, insecticide, acaricide~~
Paraffin oil	~~Insecticide, acaricide~~ ~~Products as specified in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 (numbers 294 and 295)~~
Potassium hydrogen carbonate (aka potassium bicarbonate)	~~Fungicide~~
Quartz sand	~~Repellent~~
Sulphur	~~Fungicide, acaricide~~

1. Technological additives
- a) Preservatives
- b) Antioxidants
- c) Emulsifiers, stabilisers, thickeners and gelling agents
- d) Binders and anti-caking agents
- e) Silage additives

2. Sensory additives (flavouring compounds)

3. Nutritional additives
- a) Vitamins, pro-vitamins and chemically well-defined substances having similar effects
- b) Compounds of trace elements

4. Zootechnical additives (enzymes and micro-organisms)

Some changes have been implemented from the previous list: some additives have been removed or their names and classification have been specified. This includes 'tocopherol-rich extracts of natural origin' which is now listed in the category of 'antioxidants' as '1b306(i) tocopherol extracts from vegetable oils' and '1b306(ii) tocopherol extracts from vegetable oils (delta rich)'; the former 'E2 iodine', a trace element, has now been classified as 3b201: potassium iodide, 3b202: calcium iodate, anhydrous and 3b203: coated granulated calcium iodate anhydrous; and the previous'E3 cobalt', another trace element now also includes 3b301: cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate, 3b302: cobalt (II) carbonate; 3b303 cobalt carbonate hydroxide (2:3)monohydrate, 3b304: coated granulated cobalt(II) carbonate and 3b305 cobalt (II) sulphate heptahydrate.

Some new additives have been added, including selenised yeast, dicopper chloride trihydroxide (TBCC) and zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate (TBZC)

Certain products and substances been reviewed and amended to be in line with horizontal legislation. ■

news shorts…

Green Week

Green Week 2016, the forum for debating and discussing European environment policy, is taking place from 30 May to 3 June. It will focus on the theme "Investing for a greener future". "Investing is about more than money" is the idea - it is necessary to think about investing in sustainable development for future generations; through innovation for greener cities, sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and investing in the preservation of the oceans among other measures and initiatives. ■

ANNEX VIII – Food additives and processing aids:
'Certain products and substances for use in the production of processed organic food referred to in Article 27(1)(a) and Article 27 bis, (a)' has been reviewed and amended to be in line with horizontal legislation. Changes which concern both sections of this Annex - Section A: Food Additives, Section B: Processing Aids and Section C: Processing Aids for the Production of Yeasts - will apply from 7 November 2016.

Several of the substances already listed in this Annex remain on the list but the conditions of use have changed.

This is in the case of:

- Lecithin, which must be organic from 1 January 2019.
- Beeswax and carnauba wax must be organic; both to be used 'as a glazing agent for confectionery only' when included in Section A: Additives. Both waxes are included in category B too, as a 'releasing agent'.
- Vegetable oils (in Sections B and C) and potato starch used as processing aids for the production of yeast (Section C), must be organic.
- New substances added include gellan gum (E418) and Erythritol (E968) in Section A; and in Section B, acetic acid/ vinegar, thiamine hydrochloride, diammonium phosphate, sodium carbonate and wood fibre.

With the last amendments, the additives and processing aids that must be organic are rosemary extract (E 392), plus those substances mentioned above. ■

More information:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/673 at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0673&from=EN

Nuria Alonso & Jesus Concepcion
news@organicstandard.com

Organic eco-tourism certification: The ECEAT quality label in Spain

The development of the eco-tourism sector continues to grow worldwide. These systems can cause negative or minimal impacts on ecosystems depending on how they are managed. One way to minimise the environmental impact and maximise the benefits is the organic or sustainable certification of facilities dedicated to this purpose, especially when tourism activity is carried out in vulnerable or protected areas.

The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) defines eco-tourism as being "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves the interpretation and education of both staff and guests".

However, there are some difficulties in the implementation of such programmes such as:

- Different tour operators use different standards to evaluate rural hotels
- Certified rural hotels are not available in most of the regions
- Tour operators are not aware / informed of available certified rural hotels
- Consumers' awareness and demand is still low regarding this certification.

One of the initiatives aimed at the sustainability of agro-tourism is the European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism (ECEAT), a network of small-scale accommodation and tourist services all over Europe, founded in 1992 as a non-profit organisation. Its objective is to provide sustainable quality of tourist services and contribute to local communities' development and protection of the environment.

In Spain, ECEAT has been developed through the project Ceres-Ecotur, an initiative of the Ecoagroturismo Foundation Ecotur. The Foundation Ecotur was created in 2005 as a result of long years of collaboration between Spanish associations and individual initiatives related to rural tourism, ethnography and environmental protection.

Its objectives are to consolidate the previous commitments of the founding institutions, in particular the collaborations with international entities related to sustainable/organic agro-tourism, and the development and promotion of sustainable/organic standards in Spain.

Rural Hotel Posada del Valle, in Arriondas, Asturias, Spain.

The Foundation integrates different associations related to rural tourism, agro-tourism, ethnography and the environment such as:

- Association of Agritourism "Holiday on the Farm -Accueil Paysan" (Spain);
- Association of Rural Tourism

In Spain, the certificacion ECEAT has been developed through the project Ceres-Ecotur.

news shorts…

The 2016 Sustainable Foods Summit in Europe

The Sustainable Foods Summit will take place in Amsterdam from 9–10 June 2016. The aim of the 2016 event is to explore new horizons for eco-labels and sustainability in the food industry. The Forum will discuss key industry issues such as the sustainability of Organic, Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance, UTZ Certified, and other certification schemes; the methods for measuring sustainability performance, etc. Other questions that will be addressed at the Forum are: the implications of COP21 on the European food industry, the developments that are occurring in sustainable seafood and livestock production, the reduction of food losses by food companies and retailers, and responsible consumption by consumers. Sustainable ingredients, food waste and marketing developments will be featured in the European edition of the Sustainable Foods Summit and as such the summit will have four main sessions - Session One: Sustainability Initiatives, Session Two: Advances in Sustainable Ingredients, Session Three: Marketing Developments and Session Four: Food Losses & Waste. ■

The Rural Eco-tourism Centre La Quintana de la Foncalada, in Asturias, Spain.

Sidra (Asturias);
- Association CA L'Asturcón (Asturias).
- and more than 80 initiatives of rural tourism, agro-tourism and eco-tourism in 16 individual regions.

Currently,42 rural accommodation types and three companies, whose activities are related to nature preservation, hold the ECEAT certification, which means that their quality systems meet the criteria of ECEAT standards. The standards assess sustainability, the level of environmental commitment, and socio-cultural and economic factors, based on four criteria: sustainable agriculture, nature protection, management of natural resources and cultural heritage.

The objectives of the ECEAT quality label are:

1. Raising awareness for those involved in rural tourism of the need to incorporate sustainability criteria into their activities.
2. The re-evaluation of local products and resources.
3. The creation of a favourable state of conservation of natural resources and consumer awareness towards sustainability.
4. The creation of synergies between systems and initiatives in line with sustainable tourism models.

To learn more about ECEAT and certification in Spain, TOS interviewed Severino García, President of Foundation Eco-agroturismo. Mr García is an expert in agro-tourism and sustainable tourism - he studied French Philology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland and he is Managing Director of the Rural Eco-tourism Centre La Quintana de la Foncalada, a pioneering initiative of rural tourism

The standard criteria are: sustainability, nature protection, management of natural resources and cultural heritage. ■

in Asturias. He is also Manager of the Ecomuseum Ca l'Asturcón, situated in Argüeru, Asturias. The centre promotes traditional rural activities of the region of Asturias, its indigenous livestock breeds and craft activities.

TOS: What has been the role of the foundation regarding the ECEAT certification?

SG: The Ecoagroturismo Foundation has been a member of ECEAT-International since 2005. The principal objective was to acquire a point of reference and the tools to unify rural tourism and agro-tourism into a model of sustainable and responsible tourism, as well as making the sector and consumers aware of responsible consumption. For this purpose, the project Ceres Ecotur (www.ecotur.es) was created.

In 2008, the Ceres Ecotur project adopted the ECEAT quality system, establishing a self-assessment online system (www.ceres-ecotur.com) to facilitate the self-evaluation of accommodation types applying for the ECEAT label and the ECEAT membership network. The system includes an on-site inspection which has not yet been implemented by ECEAT for other members of the network.

The consolidation project has coincided with a period of crisis in which Spain is still engaged. This has contributed to minimising the effects of overcrowding and saturation of the tourism sector in rural areas. There is a growing demand in Spain for another model of more responsible and sustainable consumption, which is in line with international demand. That is, creating occupancy levels of over 35-40% in rural accommodation certified by Ceres over the usual average of around 10% in rural tourism in our country. This trend has been consolidated in the worst years of the crisis as indicated by our surveys carried out on the public at trade fairs such as Biocultura.

Agroturism training with certified operators

TOS: Is there a mutual recognition or agreement between ECEAT and other ecological/sustainable tourism certifications or projects?

SG: We have recognition from the National Rural Network (Red Rural Nacional), which has developed a Manual of Good Practices for Rural Tourism. The manual comprises experiences or initiatives that promote and diversify economic activity combined with environmental conservation tourism development. This has created small-scale accommodation options, co-ordinated with the local environment.

Among the seven projects selected for the Manual of Good Practices, the Ecolabel Ceres certification was the only private initiative selected. Unfortunately,getting recognition by the public sector is often an insurmountable difficulty in our country, especially when there is no public support or intervention.

In 2015, we signed co-operation agreements with similar initiatives in Colombia in the town of Pijao Città Slow, where we have participated in implementing strategic plans for sustainable tourism in the municipality. We have also signed an agreement with Quercus in Portugal, for the implementation of the Ceres/ ECEAT certification project in that country.

TOS: Who is responsible for the inspection and certification of organic ECEAT projects?

SG: The inspection and certification decisions are sub-contracted to external institutions through agreements with small companies that share our view on the model of organic, sustainable and responsible tourism. Companies like Ecotouristing (www.ecotouristing.com) are in charge of guaranteeing

In 2008, the Ceres Ecotur project adopted the ECEAT quality system.


Self-consumption areas of the agroturism project.

the implementation of our standards. Since 2008, the ECEAT certification system is available online on the website of the Foundation and Ecotur, (www.ecotur.es). There is also a guide to eco-lodges promoted by the Foundation.

TOS: Is there an ECEAT common standard for all countries?

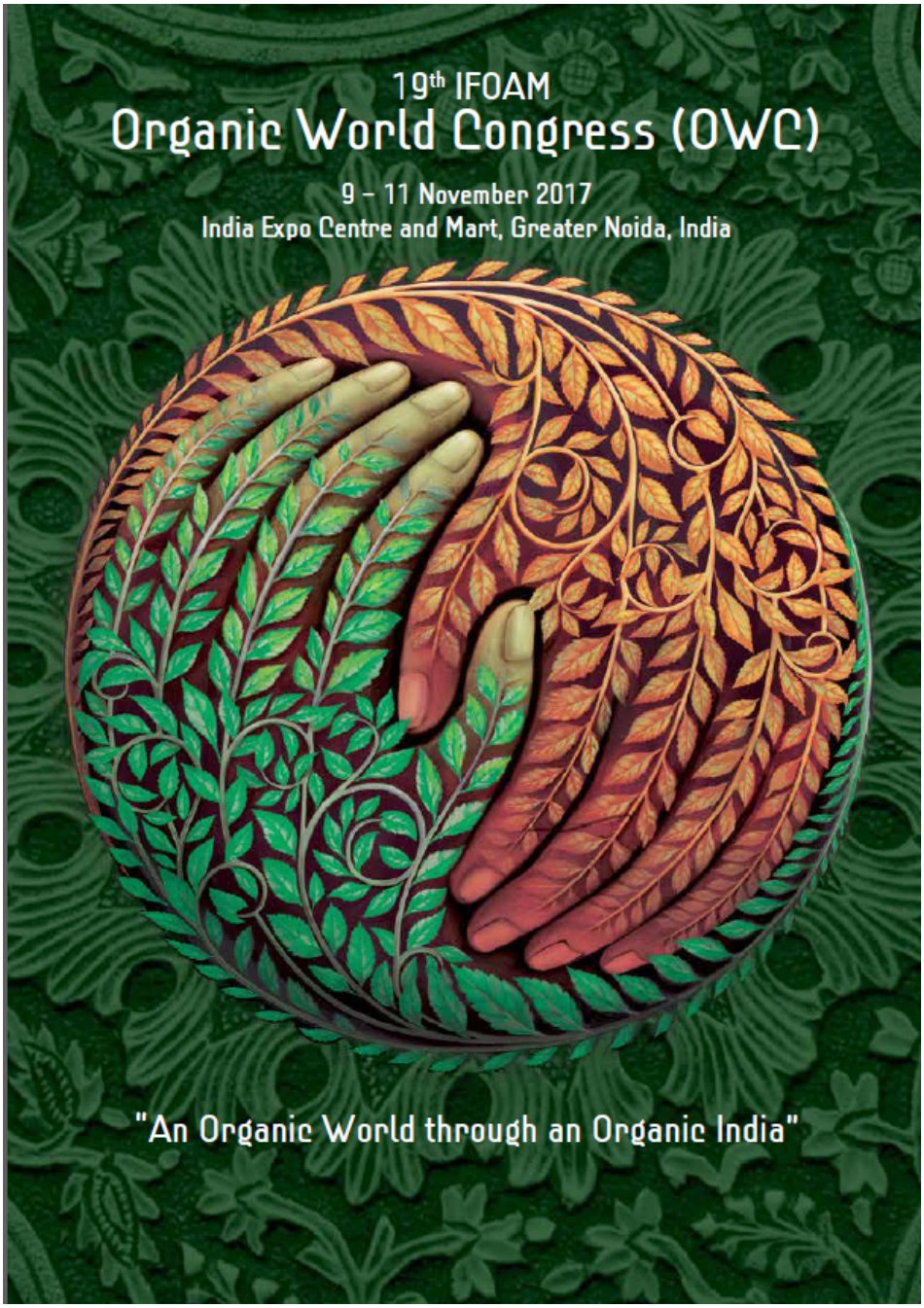
SG: The quality system is common to all countries which are members of the ECEAT network, with some nuances according to the criteria and requirements of specific zones (North, Central, Eastern and Southern Europe). There are also particularities in the different regions of Spain.

TOS: Is there a forum for the different ecological certifications of agro-tourism?

SG: We are not aware of one. In Spain, the only forum related to agro-tourism that has worked as such in recent years has been the National Reference Centre for Agroturism in Merida. We are part of the group of experts that is working in the reflection, dissemination, research and professionalisation sector towards a more sustainable and organic model of agro-tourism management. ■

We would like to thank Severino García, President of Foundation Eco-agroturismo, for providing the information to TOS.

Jesus Concepcion-Cabrera
news@organicstandard.com



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17487 Castelló d´Empúries
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Tel: +34-451129
e-mail: office@organicstandard.com

Editorial Office:
98 Hill View
Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4QG
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-07812 176521
e-mail: editor@organicstandard.com

Commissioning Office:
Calle Venezuela 17, 3C
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Tel: +34-451129
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