

IFOAM – Organics International

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS): what, why and how

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The Introduction to Participatory Guarantee System
is available in EN, FR, ES, GR, CZ, Hu, IT, ALB here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb1hfRswKMg>

The full documentary is available in EN, FR, ES, PT, KO here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbwiCwhIAEs>



1. What is a guarantee system for organic agriculture?

The different types of guarantee



Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people.

It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity, and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects.

Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation, and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved .

-- Official IFOAM Definition --

Why is a guarantee system needed?

- Consumers pay a premium price, or make an extra efforts to seek organic products, because they believe that such products correspond to particular efforts at the production level.
- Producers should produce according to expectations. They commit to follow a set of organic practices.
- Organic practices are often laid down in an organic standard, which gives to the producers following such standard the access to an organic label.
- Label = consumer recognition and trust.
- Who guarantees that the producers really follow the standard?

→ Organic guarantee system

Basis of an Organic Guarantee System

- an **organic standard**, which contains the production requirements that organic farmers, processors (and traders) must comply with;
- an **organic verification system** (also sometimes called conformity assessment system, or “control system” in the case of third party certification), which can be either third party certification or PGS and serves to verify compliance to the standard, in a consistent way.
- an organic consumer-facing **label** which is a logo put on the products that have successfully been guaranteed through the organic guarantee system

Who provides the organic guarantee?

- First party is the producer himself. Second party is another producer, the buyer, a consumer (etc.). A third party is a person or organization that is independent from the producer and the buyer and has nothing to do with the value chain
- First party guarantee: Self Claim
- Second party guarantee: e.g. PGS.
- Third-party certification: Independent certification body



Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are **locally** focused **quality assurance** systems. They certify producers based on active **participation** of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of **trust, social networks** and **knowledge exchange**.

-- Official IFOAM Definition --

Group Certification and Internal Control Systems:

- An **Internal Control System** (ICS) is the part of a documented quality assurance system that **allows an external certification body to delegate** the periodical inspection of individual group members to an identified body or unit within the certified operator.

This means that the third-party certification bodies only have to inspect the well-functioning of the system, as well as to perform a few spot-check re-inspections of individual smallholders.

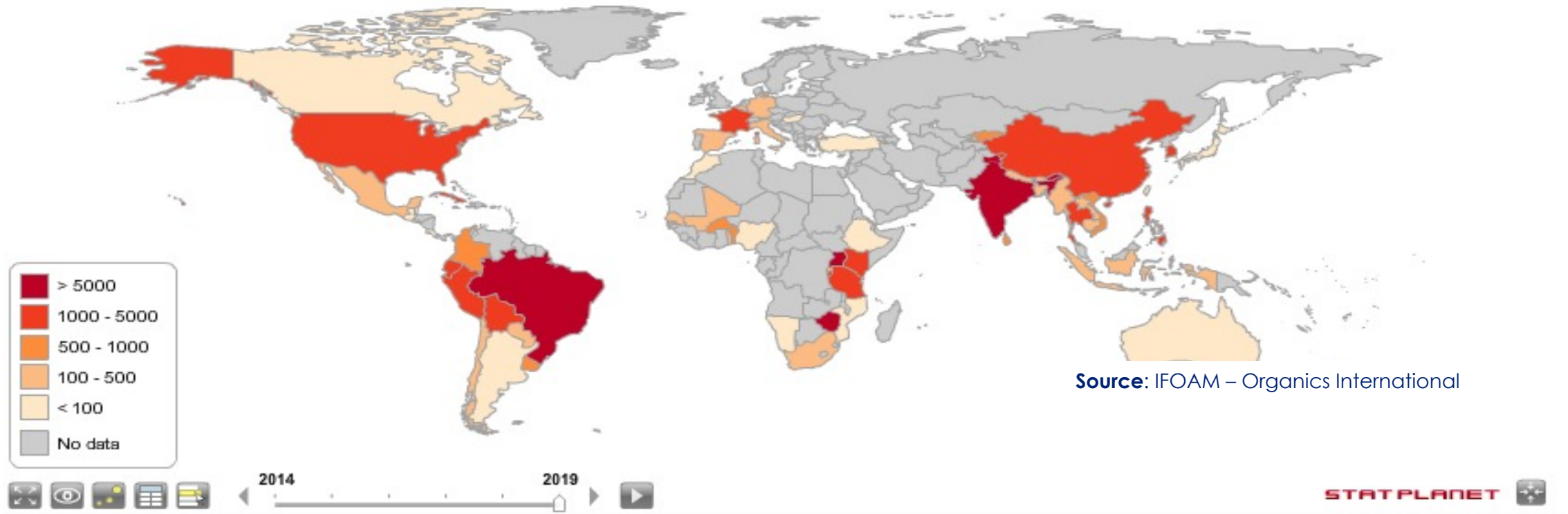
How do Third Party and PGS align

- PGS and Third Party are regarded by IFOAM – Organics International as a complementary approaches to Organic Guarantee and Certification
- The idea is that different producers in different situations need different solutions
- Equally valid approaches to ensure compliance with standards for organic agriculture

2. PGS development worldwide

Current Status of PGS worldwide

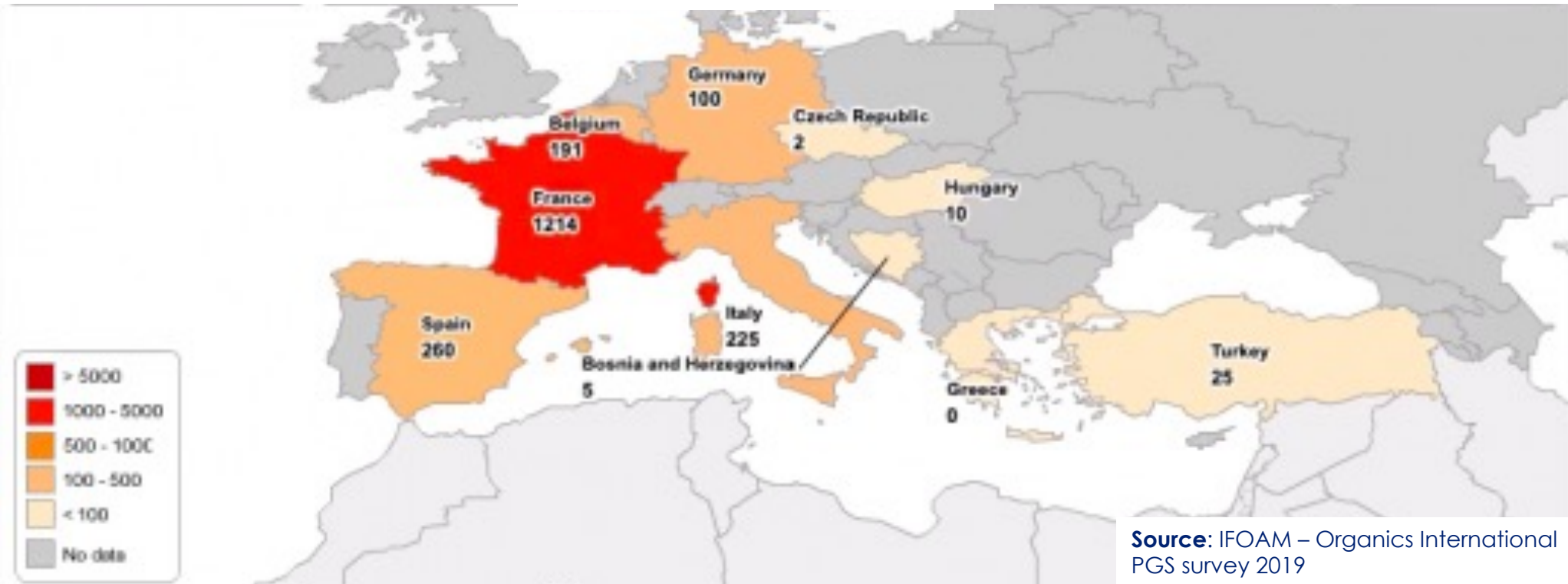
Farmers involved in PGS



- Around **1'244'239 smallholders** are benefiting from the system and **1'205'050** are already **certified**.
- **242 PGS initiatives** exist worldwide of which 63 are under development and 179 are fully operational,
- **South-East Asia (India), Latin America and Africa** are the regions with the highest level of PGS development

PGS in Europe: Producers involved

Farmers involved in PGS

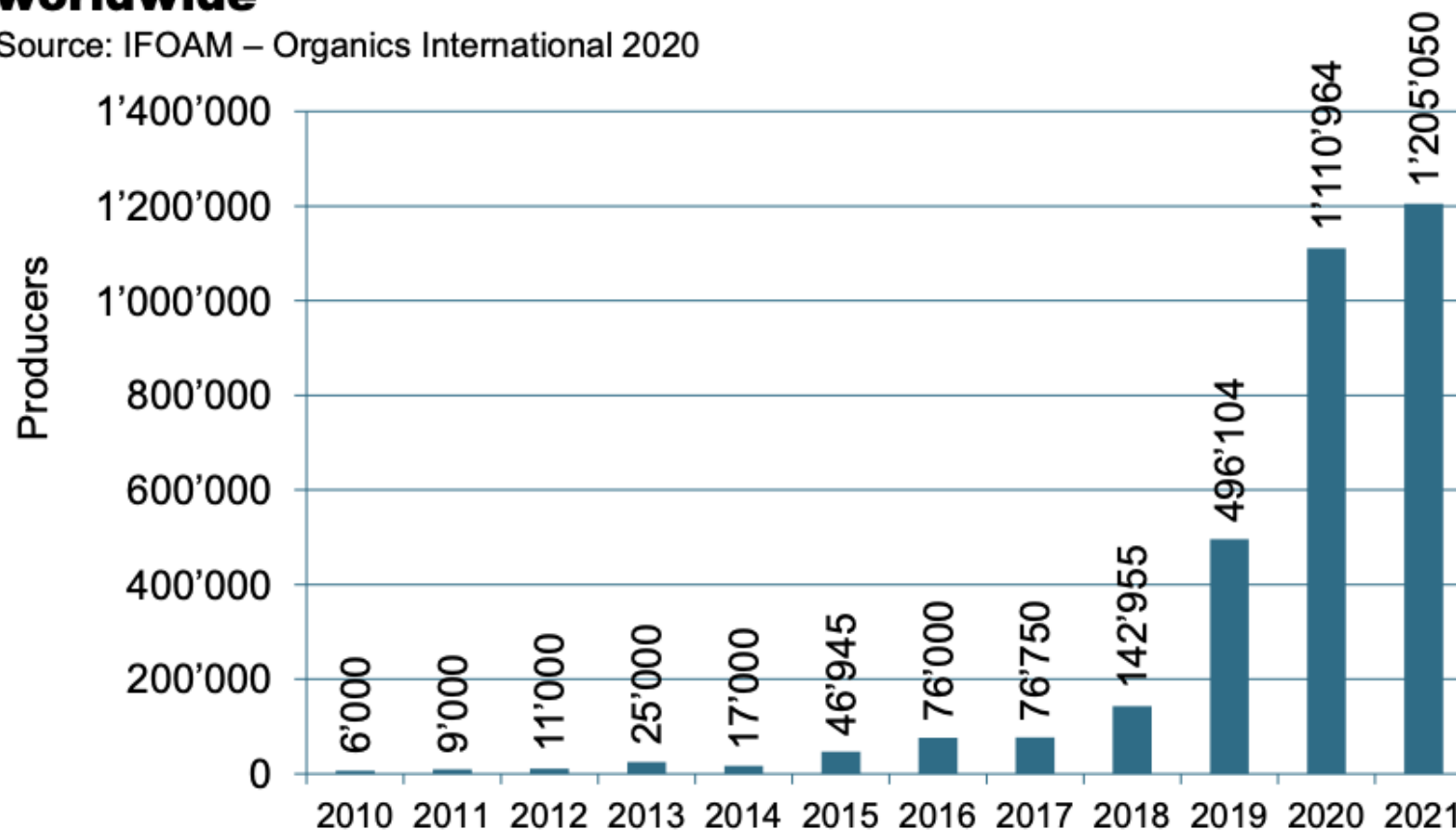


We have recorded in our PGS database **31** PGS initiatives in **Europe**, with at least **2070 producers involved** and **1667 producers certified**.

The growth of PGS worldwide

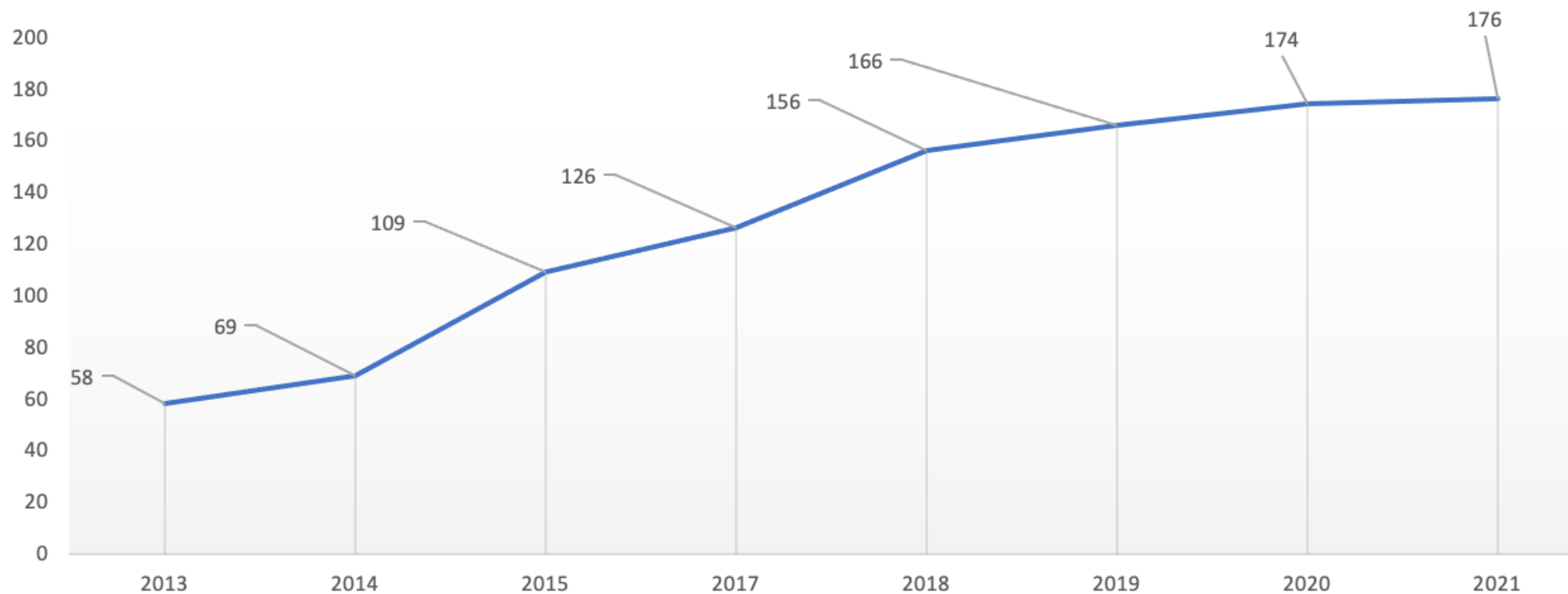
Development of PGS-certified producers worldwide

Source: IFOAM – Organics International 2020



PGS initiatives growth

Number of PGS initiatives operational worldwide 2013-2021



Source: IFOAM – Organics International

The global map of PGS initiatives



Search for a PGS

Any Status

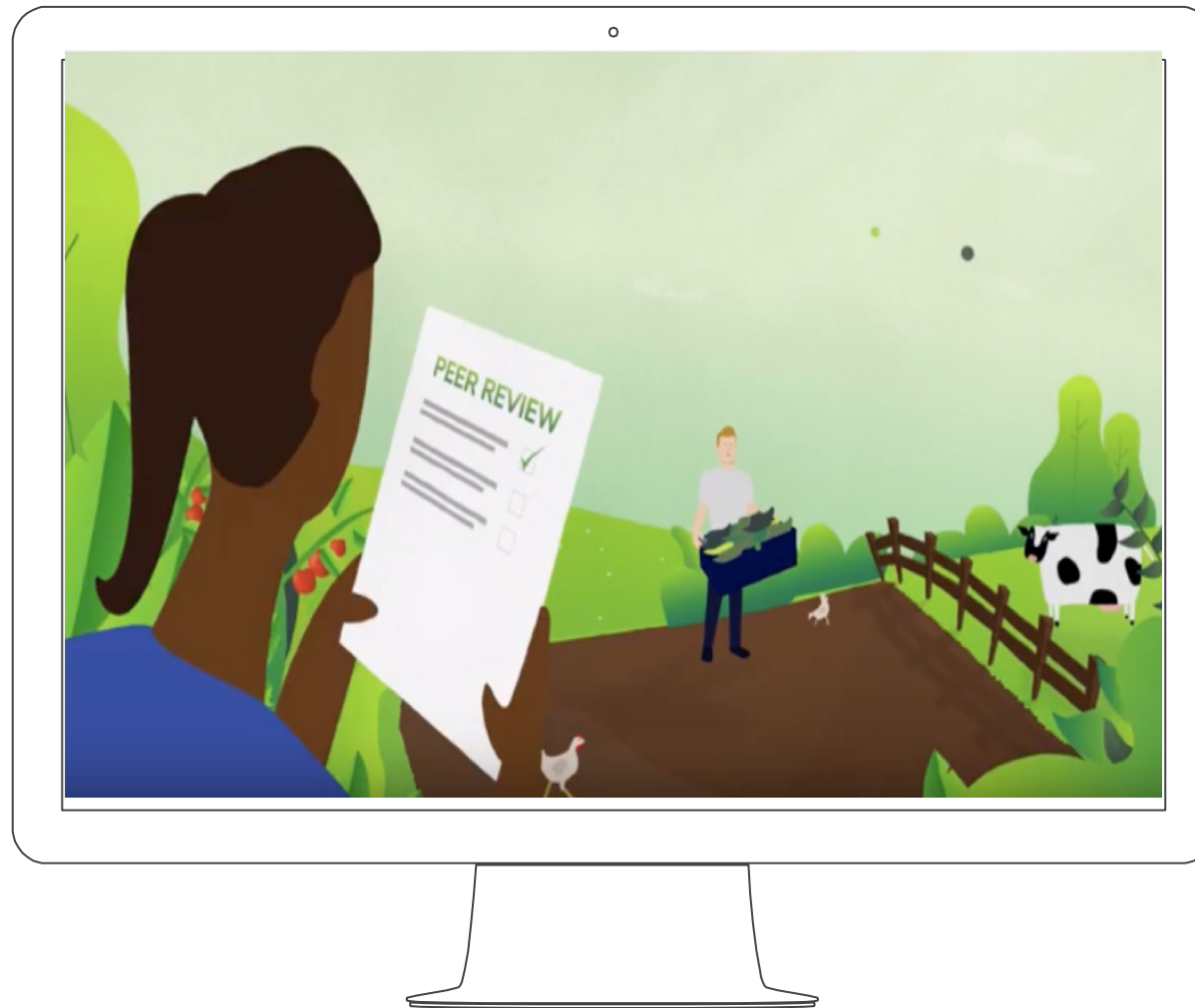
All Countries

Go

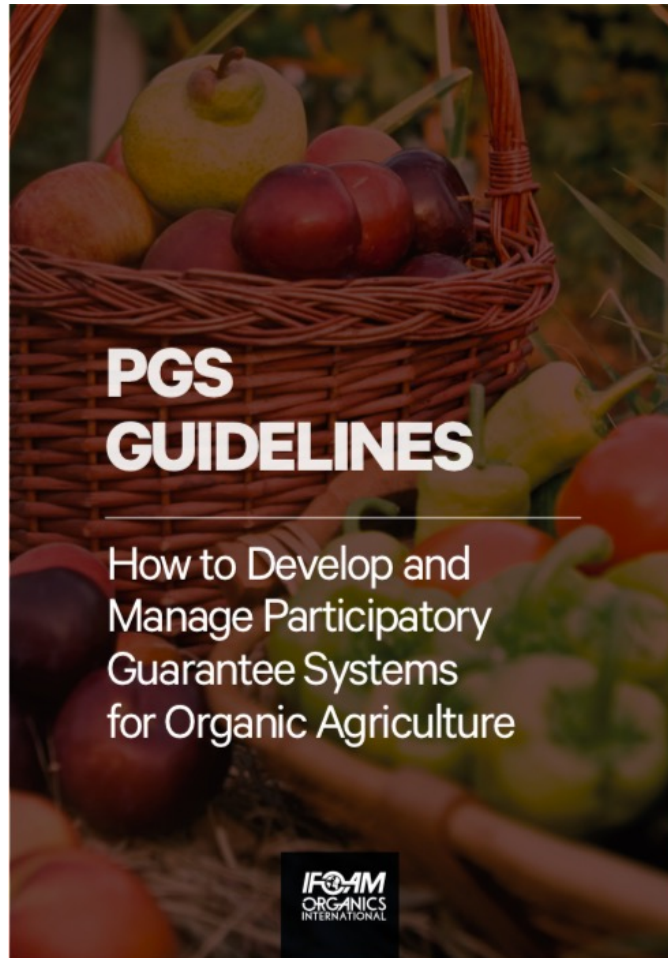


3. Key Elements and Features of PGS

PGS and local sustainable food systems is available in EN, FR, CC, HU, GR, ALB
here: <https://youtu.be/VfRmaqWaB5A>



Resources: PGS Guidelines



These guidelines make the cornerstone of the toolkit. They highlight how, although developed independently in different countries and cultural contexts, PGS initiatives around the world share a common set of key elements and features. This revised edition of the PGS guidelines also propose a step by step approach for implementing PGS and introduce other important concepts like marketing and organisational arrangement.

Available at: <https://www.ifoam.bio/our-work/how/standards-certification/participatory-guarantee-systems/pgs-toolkit>

PGS aim to ...

provide a credible organic guarantee to consumers seeking organic produce...

- ...creating meaningful relationships between stakeholders, based on democracy and inclusion
- ...at a reasonable cost for the farmer
- ...building alternative food networks
- ...reestablishing ownerships of production standards and certification
- ...supporting agroecological approach (science-practice-movement)
- ...fostering food sovereignty

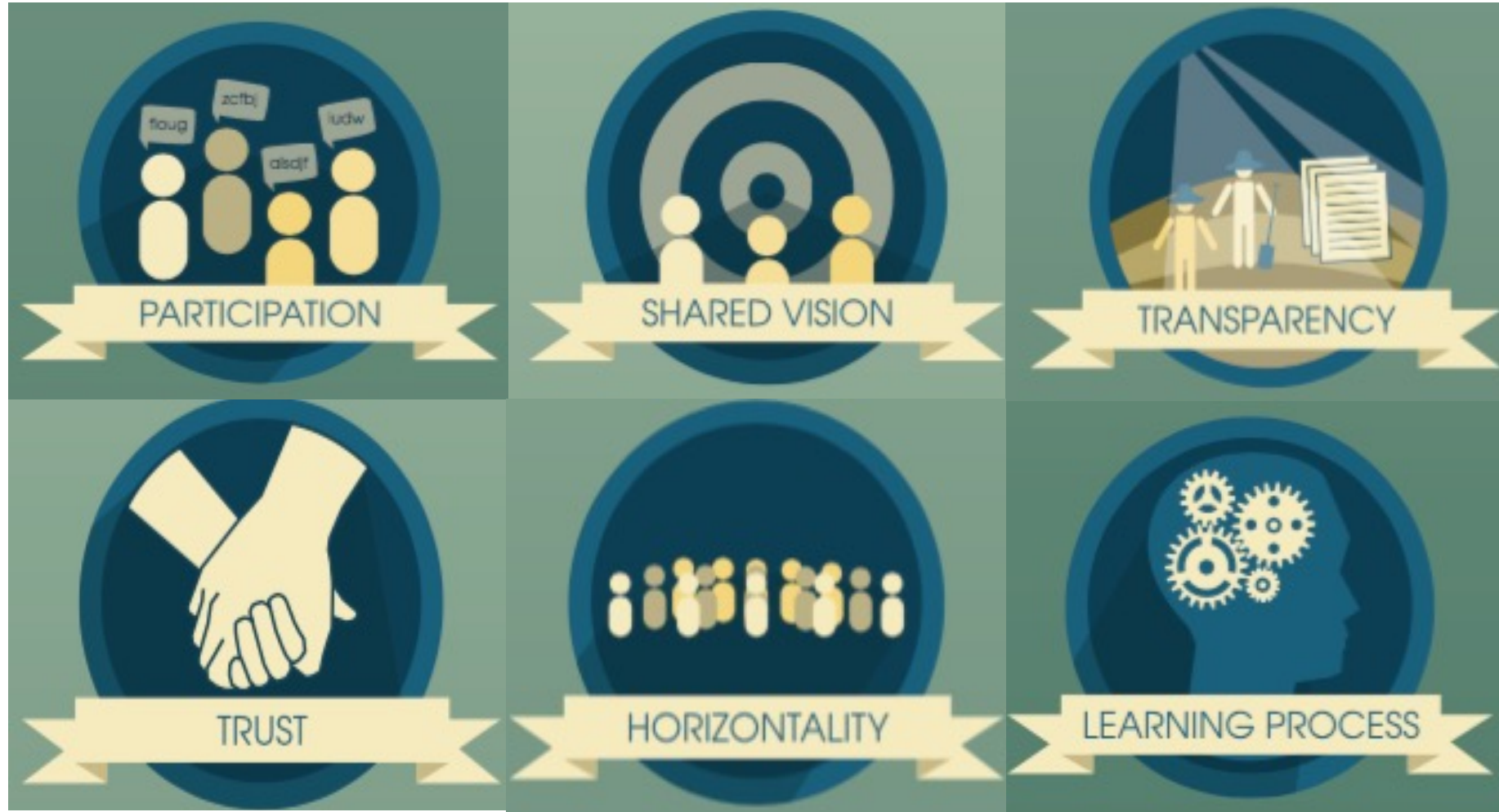
Motivation behind starting a PGS :

- Make organic claims (or differentiate organic produce from conventional produce, or ensure the organic quality of the produce)
- Less administrative burden for producers
- Customers need assurance
- Frustration with OA regulation/3rd party certification
- Improved knowledge sharing and participation
- Community building/empowerment
- Build local food systems

*What would
be yours?*



The Key Elements of PGS



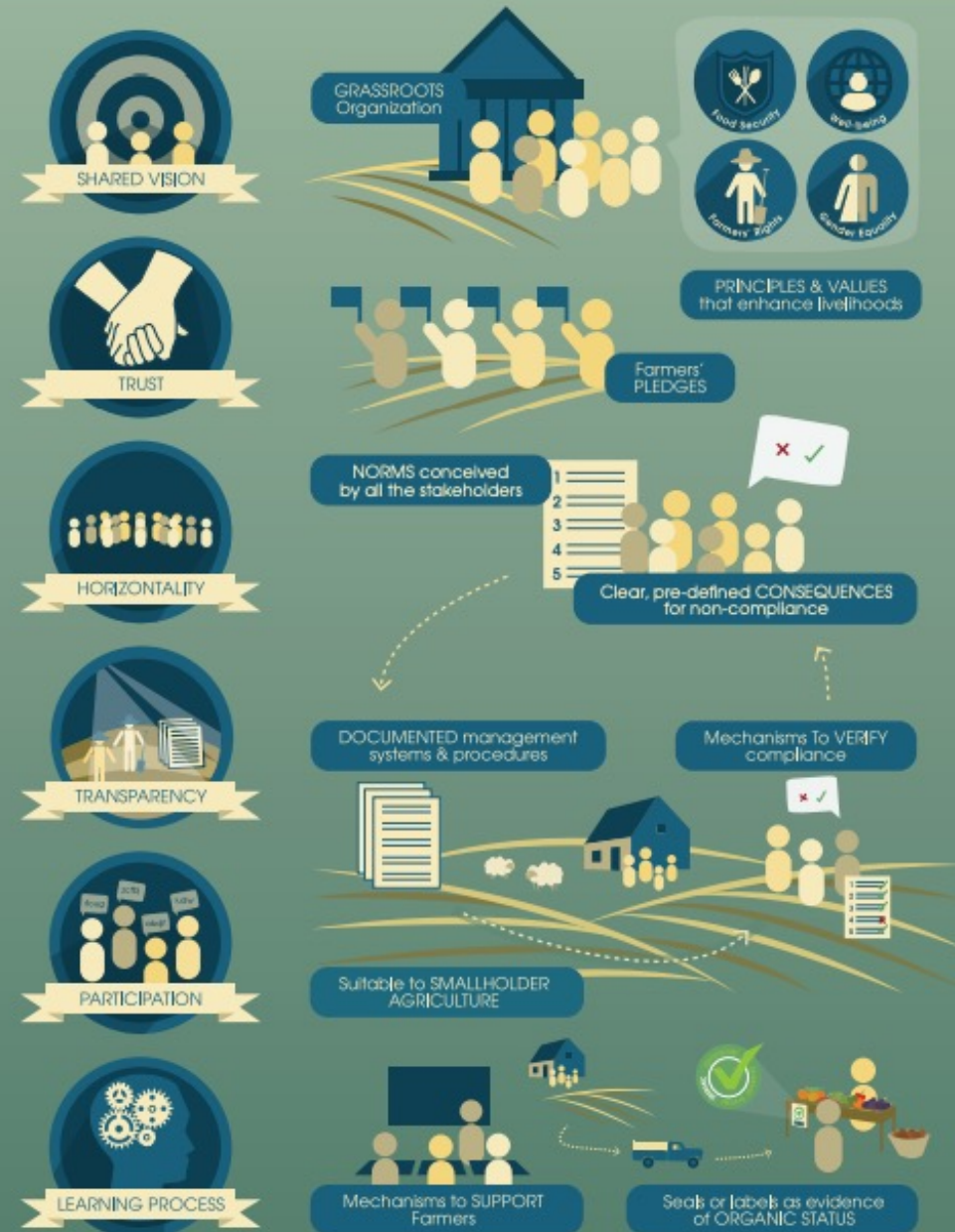
The Key features of PGS

1. Norms conceived by the stakeholders
2. Grassroots organization
3. Suitable to smallholder agriculture
4. Principles and values that enhance livelihoods and promote organic agriculture.
5. Documented management systems and procedures
6. Mechanisms to verify farmer's compliance
7. Mechanisms for supporting farmers
8. Farmer's pledge or similar (contract etc..)
9. Seals or labels
10. Clear and previously defined consequences

Participatory Guarantee Systems

KEY ELEMENTS

FEATURES



Source: IFOAM - Organics International (www.ifoam.bio/pgs)

Stakeholders participation is the essence of PGS

They participate in:

- Shaping and selection of standards
- Designing the procedures
- Decision making
- Verification procedures

→ **Peer review**



Peer review



Process where farmers belonging to the PGS, together with consumers and other stakeholders assess the production practices of their peers.

It is the core of PGS .



It means that the quality control is not carried out by an external inspector but by the members of the same group, community, association.

PGS: more than a guarantee system

- Bring people together
- Is a tool for collective actions bringing opportunities for cooperation and other social processes
- Generates learning and improvement of practices for farmers and consumers
- Build alternative food systems

These benefits may even be perceived as bigger benefits of the PGS than the certification itself

4. Focus on the peer review process

Peer Review

- Process where farmers belonging to the PGS together with consumers and other stakeholders assess the production practices of their peers.
- It is the core of the PGS .
- It means that the quality control is not carried out by an external inspector but by the members of the same group.



Why

The goal of the peer review should be always two-fold:

- to verify that the standards are being upheld,
- to create the opportunity for producers to review their practices with their peers and reflect on how to improve further.

*This is an
exchange
that goes
beyond a
simple
control*



What

A peer review is:

- An assessment of a producer that is either applying for the first time to become a member of a PGS or either that needs his/her certification to be renovated.
- A verification of the production practices, but it could/should also include an assessment of the broader sustainability goals of a producer.

The assessment is based on:

- Field observations
 - Interview with the producer/processor
 - consultation of administrative and accounting documents
- The **output** from this process is a written report of the peer review visit (dated and signed) with details of what was seen and any non-compliance activities.

Who

Generally, during the peer review, the following stakeholders are involved:

- The team performing the peer review
- The Producer reviewed



How to behave when doing a peer review?

- Being part of the team that reviews a farm requires acquiring a certain amount of knowledge and competences in order to conduct a visit that can be really constructive for all participants
- It is also a matter of how the people performing the review position themselves during the visit
- It is fundamental that a sense of trust and transparency is built among all actors, because if the reviewers are unable to identify the needs of the producer being assessed, the PGS will not be able to play its role in improving practices

Attitude and ethical behavior of the team

- be attentive and observe carefully,
- be ready to adapt to different people and situations,
- be consistent in keeping the time (it might be necessary to interrupt certain discussions and to postpone them to after the visit),
- be able to rephrase questions if necessary, so as not to put the producer in difficulty if she/he did not understand the question,
- be able to rephrase the answers ensuring mutual understanding among all participants,
- be able to analyze while avoiding personal judgements,
- be able to summaries,
- be able to maintain a certain level of detachment from the situation.

When

- Usually at least once a year
- Always when a new producer applies to become a member

If producers hold already an organic certificate issued by a third party certification body, the peer review could follow a different schedule



How

Defining how the PGS will ensure compliance, thus how the peer review should be organised and implemented, should be discussed in a participatory way in the initial stage of creation of a PGS initiative



Tools to gather information

Objective: to perform the peer reviews in an efficient, fair and comparable way

→ every PGS develops **a set of templates and procedures** to help its members achieve this objective.

→ different PGS initiatives have different tools, however a common set of support documents can be identified.

**Take care to keep the process easy
to follow and understand for all
members!**



The Organic Standards



Checklist of questions



The peer review report



NATURE &
PROGRES

Annexes

F. Rapport d'enquête

SYNTHÈSE DE L'ENQUÊTE NATURE & PROGRÈS 20__

Enquêteur : Accompagnateur(s) :

Date de la visite :
Durée : de h à h

Nom de l'adhérent :

Adresse :

Tel : E-mail :

Évaluation de l'exploitation par rapport à la Charte ? ☐ oui ☐ non

Contrôle A.B. CEE : ☐ oui ☐ non Organisme :
Joindre le rapport de contrôle au dossier.

Nombre d'Unité de Travail Humain (UHT) :
Dont : familial : ouvriers permanents : saisonniers : stagiaires :

Orientation principale de la ferme (spécialité) :

Surface totale : Surface Agricole Utile : Bio :

Conversion + année : Conventionnel : Autre (préciser) :

Produits pour lesquels l'adhérent demande la mention N&P

Cultures – animaux – produits transformés	Surface – Nb d'animaux – quantités	Caractéristiques

Signature Enquêteur :

Signature Adhérent :

1/11

55

Annexes

ÉCOULEMENT DE LA PRODUCTION

Stockage :

- ☐ Stockage à la ferme
- ☐ Certains produits sont-ils stockés à l'extérieur ?
Si oui, lesquels ?
Nom et adresse du stockeur :

Mode de vente :

- ☐ Vente à la ferme
- ☐ Vente sur les marchés (journées et lieux) :
- ☐ Vente aux foires biologiques (dates et lieux) :
- ☐ Vente en gros (vrac ou conditionné), produits, quantités, clients :
- ☐ Achat / Revente de produits. Précisez la nature du produit et les coordonnées du/des fournisseur(s) :

Les quantités vendues sont-elles cohérentes avec la production ou les achats ? (Faire une balance sur 1 mois si possible.)

Panneau de marché conforme ? ☐ Oui ☐ non
Étiquette conforme ? ☐ Oui ☐ non
(joindre une étiquette au dossier pour information)

10/11

AVIS POUR L'ATTRIBUTION DE LA MENTION

Avis de l'enquêteur (appréciation globale et points de non conformité) :

Fait à le

Signature Enquêteur N&P :

11/11

60

Additional documents

Beside these basic documents, several PGS initiatives use also:

- **Farm/business management plan**
- **Records of practices**
- **Maps**
- **Other type of record keeping**



In practice:

Several steps:

- **Before the visit** → Preparation
- **On the field:** physically going around the farm and/or the processing workshop
- **The "administrative" part:** to check the accounting elements (verification of invoices, traceability tests ...)

Preparation

The coordinator should:

- Make contact with the producer member to be reviewed in advance (at least one month) so that he/she can prepare the necessary documents (invoices, mapping areas of harvest or foraging ...)
- Send a reminder a few days before.
- Foresee to schedule visits also to plots, apiaries, etc. distant from the farm itself

Reviewers and the producer should prepare for the review by:

- Reading the standards and their guide well in advance.
- Reading the visit support materials well in advance and the previous report.
- Note the specific points to check/discuss during the visit.

Example:

- 1) make an inventory of the type of the productions perform at the farm and report them on the summary sheet → 1,5 hours
- 2) Read and discuss with the producers the requests for improvement done the previous year. Question the member about what could be done, the context, the difficulties encountered → 1 hour
- 3) Continue with the "field" part → 0,5 hour
- 4) Finish with the administrative part → 1 hour

Remember to keep an eye at the time!

Confidentiality

Beyond the legal framework that concerns the confidentiality obligations in the business sector, **the team performing the review, as any member of the PGS initiative, has a "moral" duty of discretion and confidentiality** (which can also be agreed signing a written contract) so as not to harm the producers visited, who open their farm in full confidence.

For example, members of Nature et Progrès sign a document called '*Engagement déontologique et de confidentialité à Nature et Progrès*'.



ENGAGEMENT DEONTOLOGIQUE ET DE CONFIDENTIALITE au SYSTEME PARTICIPATIF DE GARANTIE de NATURE & PROGRES

Je soussigné(e) :

Adresse :

Tel :

Mandaté par : ☐ La COMAC fédérale
☐ La COMAC locale

M'engage sur l'honneur :

1/ à **respecter l'obligation de réserve** liée à ma fonction, à savoir, ne faire aucune déclaration à des tiers ni porter de jugement public sur les avis et délibérations de la COMAC fédérale ou de la COMAC locale.

2/ à **respecter la confidentialité dans le cadre du Secret Professionnel*** concernant toute information recueillie au cours des enquêtes et contenue dans les dossiers et documents soumis à la COMAC fédérale ou locale, ainsi que sur la teneur des avis et délibérations de cette Commission (sauf après publication par Nature & Progrès ou autorisation donnée par la dite Commission) et à m'exposer à toutes poursuites et sanctions, y compris de la part de Nature & Progrès, en cas de violation du secret.

3/ à **agir en mon âme et conscience et en toute objectivité**, lors des enquêtes et dans l'instruction des dossiers soumis à la COMAC fédérale ou locale hors de toute notion de concurrence économique et commerciale pouvant me concerner (concurrence éventuelle avec l'opérateur dont le dossier est étudié).

4/ à **ne pas enquêter, ni instruire de dossiers de tout concurrent direct** (lorsque la COMAC et l'enquêteur jugent qu'il y a concurrence directe évidente).

La notion de concurrence directe est limitée :

- o A l'existence de secrets de fabrication et commerciaux dans la même spécialité que l'enquêteur ;
- o A la notion de territorialité : zones d'action ou de vente identiques : marchés forains, clients.

5/ à **respecter la vision commune du Système Participatif de Garantie de Nature & Progrès** : le niveau de référence est défini par les cahiers des charges, et l'attribution de la mention se fait sur la base de ces critères. Cependant, ceux-ci reposent autant sur le respect des règles techniques que sur les moyens mis en œuvre pour y parvenir. La recherche continue de pistes d'amélioration des pratiques est privilégiée afin de tendre vers plus de cohérence.

Fait à le

Signature (la faire précéder des mots « lu et approuvé »)

Copie : 1 copie sera conservée par le signataire.

* Le texte fondamental en matière de Secret Professionnel est l'article 378 Alinéa 1 du Code Pénal.

Peer Learning

The peer review is a space for learning, where additional knowledge gaps and needs can be identified

The learning process for the producer assessed:

- Explain and clarify her/his own's own practices
- Reciprocal learning

The learning process for the consumers

- understand and get to know what does it mean farming and the challenges behind this job



Continuous improvement of practices

The objective of a PGS is never the certification in itself.

PGS initiatives always invests in mechanism to support their producers and to work towards a better agriculture and society:

How to do it? → some Examples

- **Using the network as a resource**
- **Organising Professional meetings**
- **Establishing mentorship**
- **Looking for resources outside**

5. First steps in PGS implementation



1. Situation analysis

To understand if **PGS** is **relevant/important/necessary** for a certain group of stakeholders, they should understand:

- the context in which it would be implemented,
- the needs of those involved,
- the challenges and the opportunities



2. Build a shared vision

- The PGS development is the implementation of a Shared Vision
- Building a shared vision through a participatory process is an essential step in the PGS development
- People need to understand the benefits they can get from joining a PGS
- They also need to make a commitment towards achieving this common goal.
- **No matter how complex or easy is this vision, the important thing is to ensure that it is accepted and understood by all members.**



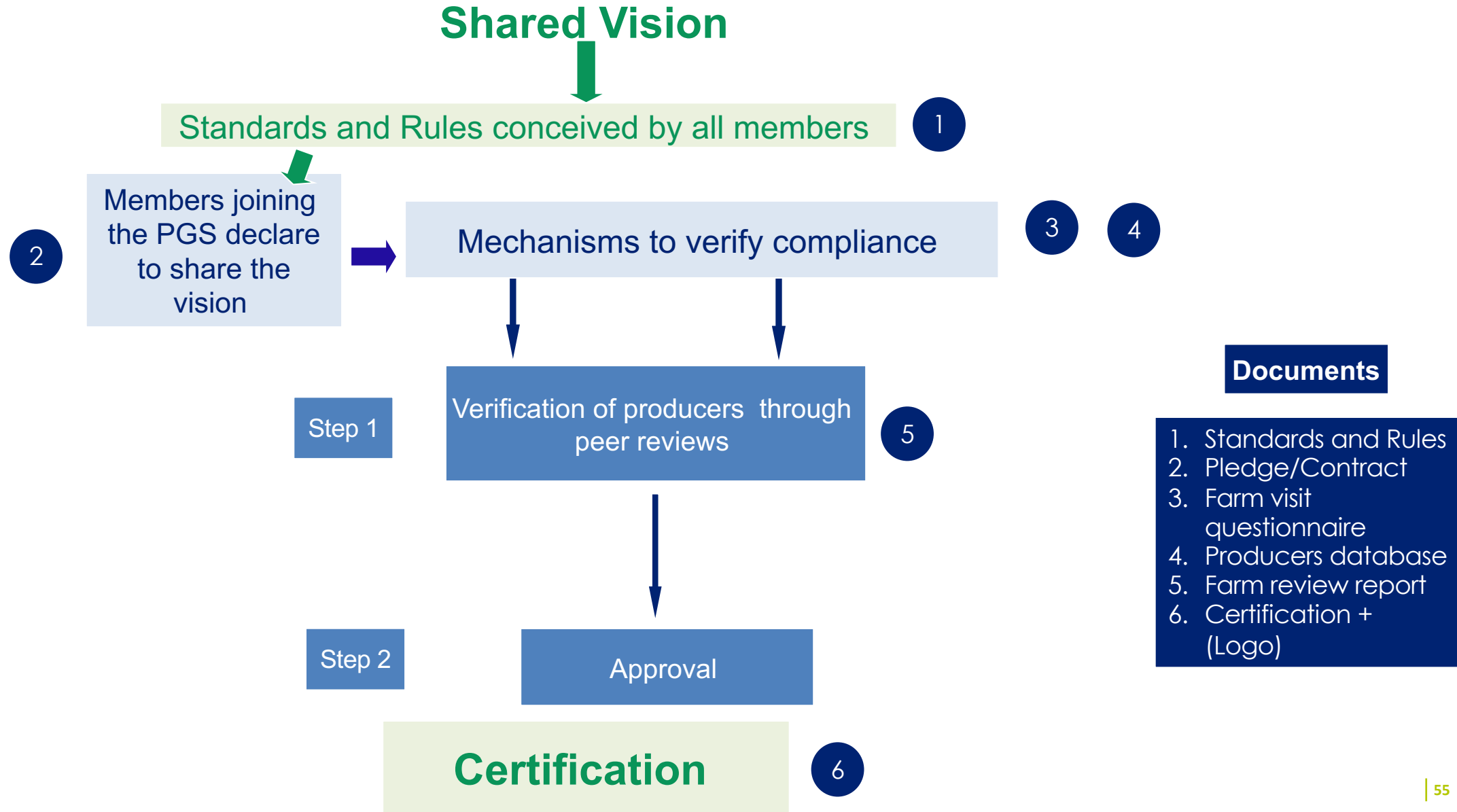
3. Agree and document how the PGS should work

A PGS initiative should have:

- Shared vision (Charter or similar)
- Standards
- Rules/norms: including consequences for non-compliance
- Pledge/contract between members of the PGS
- Documented management systems and procedures
- Certificate
- Producers database
- Logo (optional)
- Legal entity (optional)



How PGS normally work:



Deciding on the organic standard

- Standards = production rules
- It contains the production requirements that organic farmers, processors (and traders) must comply with.
- A PGS can decide to develop a new organic standard or to adapt an existing one.
- The development or adaptation of standard must be a participatory process
- Involving expert in organic farming could be beneficial



Deciding on the organic standard

- Standards can be lengthy documents. A **summary** is helpful.
- It is important that producers are :
 - aware of what the standards entail
 - have access to the principles and key messages in these standards
 - have access to a copy of the full standard.

Standards can be made available on the website of the PGS initiative i.e. for CNG where they're summarized and in printer-friendly format

<https://www.cngfarming.org/certifications>

Examples: Production standards of N&P

15 technical production standards



- **Describe operational aspects of a PGS:**
 - requirements for application and membership
 - steps to be followed in the organic verification process
 - documentation requirements
 - Procedures for improvement of practices
 - sanctions relating to non-compliance.

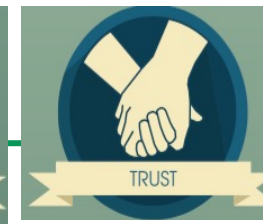
All this information can be summarized in a manual or guidelines that should be distributed to all PGS members



- Vision + objectives of the PGS
- Process to accept a new producer (Application form + procedure + fee scheme if any)
- Process to renew certificates (checklist + procedure)
- Peer review and decision on certification
- Roles and responsibilities in the PGS (producers and consumers)
- What data needs to be collected and kept?
- What happens in case of non-conformity?
- Rules for using the PGS labels

- Clearly define which inputs are allowed for producers and processors.
- In case of doubts about an input used during a peer review:
 - Ask for receipt
 - Write down the composition, take a picture of the product
 - Define a group of people within the initiative that are in charge of investigating such cases, including assessing new products coming on the market.
 - If possible consult with a specialist

Non-compliance



- **Peer review is a tool for improving practices**, as well as a tool to **verify compliance**.
- There will always be circumstances where producers are unable or fail to comply with the standards and rules of their PGS.
- **PGS initiative should establish from the beginning clear pre-defined consequences for non-compliance.**
- The non-compliance sanctions should be graded to fit with the seriousness of the non-compliance.
- They have to be agreed by all stakeholders.
- Producers should be able to make an appeal in case they don't agree with the sanctions.

4. Build awareness of the standards and make pledge

It's fundamental that all actors involved understand and agree on the values and norms that define how the PGS will work, training is an essential step.

Once all stakeholders agree in being part of the PGS it's important to formally ratify this decision through a written agreement or contract.



I PROMISE that I will treat my farm as a home, and use best practices to grow wholesome, nutritious food. I WILL work within the environmental and social standards of the Farm Endorsement Ecological Development (FEED) and for the duration of my membership.

- I will work to **develop the fertility** of my soil and **care for** my animals through ecologically sustainable practices.
- I will **encourage and develop** bio-diversity and ecological agriculture system.
- I will ensure that on my farm all **animals are treated humanely** and in a way that ensures their health and well-being.
- I will **work with my peer support** and attend meetings in order to increase my knowledge and environmental practices relevant to my farm.
- I will **participate in audits** on other farms to disclose my farming records and answer questions from the general public.

All of the information that I have provided to the Byron Region is accurate and true and I will continue to update my membership and endorsement statement as needed.

Date :/...../.....

Signed : _____
(all decision making parties on the farm to sign)

(please print signed name(s))

Witnessed by : _____
FEED – BR farmer member

Farmer's Pledge

Byron Region

Farm Name: _____

Please initial each statement that applies to you



Je soussigné(e),
(Compléter par le nom d'une personne physique)
Au nom de
(Compléter, le cas échéant, par le nom de la personne morale)
Adresse :

Tel :

Fax :

E-mail :

Demande la mention NATURE & PROGRES pour l'année 20__.

Je m'engage à :

- Appliquer au mieux la Charte Nature et Progrès,
- Respecter les règles de production du ou des cahiers des charges Nature & Progrès me concernant,
- Signaler sans délai et soumettre à l'approbation de la Fédération Nature & Progrès toute modification relative à mes produits,
- Observer le règlement d'utilisation de la mention Nature & Progrès et sa charte graphique, en particulier pour l'étiquetage de mes produits, documents de communication, panneaux d'affichage ...
- Soumettre tout nouvel étiquetage à la COMAC fédérale ou la COMAC locale agréée,
- Accepter la visite, même inopinée, d'enquêteurs mandatés par la COMAC fédérale ou par la COMAC locale agréée, pour contrôler la conformité de mes pratiques vis-à-vis de la charte et des cahiers des charges de N&P sur l'ensemble de mon activité, ainsi que ma comptabilité,
- Transmettre dès réception, à la COMAC fédérale ou la COMAC locale agréée, une copie du rapport de visite (recto/verso) de l'organisme de contrôle pour l'année en cours ainsi que le certificat de conformité correspondant (cette obligation ne s'applique qu'à ceux qui sont certifiés « agriculture biologique »),
- M'acquitter de mon adhésion et de mes frais de mention à la Fédération et/ou au groupe local,
- Transmettre à la Fédération Nature et Progrès le montant de mon chiffre d'affaires de vente de produits sous mention N&P, éventuellement diminué de mes achats d'intrants sous mention N&P, et payer, à réception de la facture, ma cotisation solidaire sur chiffre d'affaires,
- Participer aux activités de mon groupe local Nature & Progrès et de la COMAC.

Ce contrat est renouvelé par tacite reconduction à la fin de l'année civile. Toute résiliation de sera signalée dans les meilleurs délais à la Fédération Nature & Progrès par lettre recommandée.

Mon contrôle pour certification en agriculture biologique est fait par : (nom de l'organisme certificateur)

Fait le : à Signature

Certified Naturally Grown Declaration for 2018 ~ Mushroom Operation



I hereby declare and affirm that the information submitted via the Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) application, and that all information will be kept confidential and not shared with third parties.

I agree to follow the CNG standards, and our practices

I reserve the right to remove us from the CNG program and marketing materials for any reason that does not meet CNG standards, or have missing or incorrect information.

I represent products as Certified Naturally Grown and come from a Certified Naturally Grown farm.

I agree to grow CNG mushrooms meets CNG standards and byproducts of GMO crops.

I agree to provide my operation, and initial the statements below.

I agree to sterilization a) meet CNG standards or b) use other methods applicable (please circle one!)

I agree to use a) or b) will be brought into compliance with CNG standards (please circle one!)

I agree to use pressure treated wood used to grow mushrooms and old wood removed within two months or less.

Date

5. Map farm and record farm details

- Name of the producer and Company
- Address
- Local group to which they belong (if it is a PGS with several groups)
- Kinds of products
- Area of the farm (ha)
- Date on which he or she joined the group (= date of signing the commitment / pledge)
- Date of last peer review
- Certification decision
- Sanctions/ recommendations
- Etc....



Name	Address	Organization	Crops	Area (ha)	Date of inspection	Sanctions/recoms	Status	Validity
	Bejajeng, Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet	Bejajeng Pansigshan Organic Producers Association (BPOPA)	Native utong, pechay, mustard, tomato, spinach, beans, dragon fruit, tonsoy, guyabano, banana, pomelo, jackfruit, mango, star apple, santol, guava, coconut, kalamansi, avocado	0,48	March 22, 2017	dagdagan ng buffer zone; maglagay ng tamang dami ng compost sa lupang tinataniman; dagdagan ang paggawa ng compost	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- March 2018
	Bejajeng, Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet	BPOPA	eggplant,beans,gabi,strawberry,green onions,upo,kamatis, sayote,green onions,camote,banana,sili labuyo,alugbai,mint	1 ha	13.Mar.17	subukang gumamit ng crates upnag hindi masira ang mga produkto; dagdagan ang compost at gumawa ng concoctions	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- June 2017
	Bejajeng, Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet	BPOPA	Pace,Sayote, alugbati,Tomato,potato,pechay, amti,sitting beans,onions,cassava, mint,bell pepper,banana	3 lots	13.Mar.17	mag-practice ng organic farming (fertilization and pest management); gumamit ng mas mataas na buffer katulad ng ipil, made de cacao at iba pa; hanggang maari, gumamit ng crates upang mapangalagaan ang mga produkto	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- June 2017
	Tabaan Norte, Tuba, Benguet	AOFA	rambutan,calamansi,jack fruit, pomelo,pineapple,guyabano, mango,marunggay native, longgan,pomelo, cacao, squash,ambuligan	0,6	23.Mar.17	magkaroon ng storage at packaging area, compost shed; lagyan ng kanal sa farm (lot 2)	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- May 2018
	Bejajeng, Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet	BPOPA	galyang,amti,alugbati,gabi(mindanao,s pinach,oregano,fern,avocado,coconut tree,lemon tree,banana,corn,upo,guava	0,03	13.Mar.17	magdagdag ng compost; magdagdag ng concoction para sa nitrogen at insect repellent; magtanim ng sunflower	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- June 2017
	Bejajeng, Taloy Norte		onions,papaya,sayote,gabi,banana,ma s,kamote,kamoteng kahoy,pechay,siling labuyo,unas camote	0.0050sq.m	13.Mar.17	magtanim ng sunflower para sa contouring at magdagdag ng compost	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- June 2017
	Palina,Taloy Sur,Tuba, Benguet	Ti Ubbig ti Biag Organic Farmer's Association	lamut,cassava,gabi,ginger,togi,upi,caca o,chinese mal,sili panigang,sili labuyo,pechay,mustard,corn,papaya,ba nana	0,35	21.Mar.17	ipagpatuloy ang organic agriculture practice; dagdagan ang concoction katulad ng FPI, FFI, etc.	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- June 2017
	Palina,Taloy Sur,Tuba, Benguet	Ti Ubbig ti Biag Organic Farmer's Association	ampalaya,beans,eggplant,tomato,wing beans,fern,durian,guyabano,mango,sta rapple,cacao,coconut,marang	1	21.Mar.17	maglagay ng buffer sa kanang bahagi ng farm; dagdagan ang compost at concoction; maglagay ng storage at compost shed	passed from Aug 22, 2017 to Aug. 22, 2018	March 2017- June 2017

Cloud based database


Good Market PGS

The screenshot displays the 'Organic PGS' web application interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Organic PGS', 'Private Team', 'Public', and a user profile icon. Below this, the main content area is divided into several columns, each representing a different status of farm listings. The background of the interface features a vibrant image of fresh organic produce, including tomatoes, bell peppers, and leafy greens.

- Inquiry (Producer Promise):** Lists farms like IF103 Peacock House - Free range eggs, IF108 VH Agri Farm, PG028 Via Village, IF110 Shanks's Farm - Ja ela, IF097 Labugollawatte Farm, IF111 Ebenezer Hill, IF033 Asgiriya Estate, IF104 Bibila Farm, and PG037 Magalla Agro Farm.
- Ready for Visit:** Lists farms like IF106 Peacock House - Organic Produce, PG038 Wellawaya women Group, IF083 Haritha Herbs, IF042 Sunrise Organic Farm, and IF023 Uva Forest Gardens.
- Pending Committee:** Lists IF013 Eco Garden.
- Pending Payment:** (Empty column).
- Certified:** Lists farms like IF087 Gami Seva Sevana, IF086 Kenko 1st, IF090 Saaraketha Katool Oya Watte Farm, IF089 Saaraketha Arachchige Hena Organic Farm, IF092 Friends Organic, IF040 Sri Luck Organic Farm, IF094* Forest Garden Organics, and IF045 Amuura.
- Expired:** Lists farms like IF085 Kusum Organics, IF080 Malaboda Forest Products, IF014 Rajamuttu, PG008 Savira, IF019 Garden Estate, IF021 Botejue Farm, IF015 Ranjit Seneviratne, PG003 Sevalanka Hatton, PG005 Surekuma, and IF007 Kaludiyawala Estate.
- Not Approved:** Lists farms like IF012 Senani, IF099 Green Agro Farm Pvt Ltd - B, PG036 (001-004)Green Agro Farm Pvt Ltd -A, IF091 Welimada Farm, PG035 Diriya Liya Farmer Group, IF017 Zebediya Estate, IF027 WR Karunaratna (Sahan Agro), IF006 Ulapane Greenhouses, and IF026 Thissa Bandara Thambavita (Sahan Agro).

Software examples

PGS Vietnam



PGS Cert Manager

Admin Online

PGS MANAGEMENT

Dashboard

Certificate

Farmer

Group

Associated Group

Alarms 0

DMZ

Administrator

Dashboard

PGS Status

Quickly summary

0 Certificates

0 Nearly Expired

339 Total female farmers

PGS

HỮU CƠ ORGANIC

XÁC THỰC SO

WE UPDATE, YOU VERIFY

PGS organic - Participatory Guarantee System Organic, taking **TRANSPARENCE** a core principle, applies QR code in order to trace back and check up the organic products monitored by the PGS.

- QR stamps are provided by distributors who officially have contract with organic farmers' groups.
- Only organic farmers can activate the stamps for qualified products before distribution
- The activated date is the date of sale display
- The products without checkable stamps are disqualified

For more detailed information of organic farmers' groups and distributors' shops please view www.vietnamorganic.vn

PGS organic - Participatory Guarantee System Organic

5 PGS Associate Groups

87 Total male farmers

9:12 AM 11/03/2018

Software examples

N&P

Fédération Nature & Progrès

Liste des professionnels

Année 2018 2060

Groupe : N° d'adhérent :

Mention : Pays : Lettre(s) du Nom :

Traitement : Département : Raison :

Activités : COMAC :

Spécialité : Année 1ère adhésion : ☐ Email

Mention : Année FIN adhésion :

Structure :

Enquêtes : Frais admin. :

☐ Tri par Nom
☐ Tri par N° Adhérent

Effacer
Afficher

N°adh	Nom et prénom	Raison sociale	Dpt	Spécialité	Etat adhésion	Mention
LISTE						



Fédération Nature & Progrès - Gestion des professionnels

F11P0058 Raison sociale :

Nom : Prénom :

Copier Nom(s) pour Adresse :

Adhérent Enquêtes Produits Productions Informations

2017 7 Objet de l'enquête : Mention adhérent :

Organisme du contrôle : Organisme adhérent :

Validation de l'enquête : ☒

Enquêteur : Nom : Prénom :

Accompagnateurs : Noms : Prénoms :

Date prévue avant le :

Date de l'enquête : 22/05/2017

Attestation de conformité : 01/09/2017

Non-conformité : RAS

Améliorations : Une analyse du sol détaillée a été réalisée afin de travailler à l'amélioration des techniques culturales. Analyse d'eau en cours. Objectif : ramener de la vie au sol.

Commentaires de l'enquêteur : Belle activité en cours de stabilisation avec une amélioration du sol envisagée.

Commentaire COMAC Fédérale : Avis favorable. Encouragements.
Belle activité en cours de stabilisation avec une amélioration du sol envisagée.
Analyse d'eau en cours / analyse du sol détaillée a été réalisée.

U.T.H. : 1,00
UTH Total : 1,00
dont familial : 1,00
S.A.U. : 0,41 hectares

F11P0058 Attestation de conformité Liste Enquêtes Imprimer Ctrl+P Fiche Enquête : 2018

Enr : 7 sur 7 Aucun filtre Rechercher

Renouv. Adhésion Attes. Engagement Année: 2018 Dossier COMAC Comac Lettre Fiches: Adhérent Infos Produit Fermer

6. Peer review

One of the main ways PGS ensures compliance with its members adopted organic standards is the peer review of another's farm.

Peer review is a process whereby people in similar situations assess the production practices of their peers.

In PGS, a peer review takes place when producers, often accompanied by consumers and other stakeholders, visit a farm of another producer in their local group or region, to conduct a farm review. Peer review stands at the very core of PGS.



The Peer Review of Nature et Progrès
is available in EN, FR, GR, CZ, HU, IT here:
<https://youtu.be/lv6hUtPSwG0>



7. Certification Approval

- The results of the peer review are summarized in a report
- The result are presented to a certification committee
- The decision is based on the results of the peer review reported and summarized in a peer review report





PGS ENDORSEMENT

This serves to confirm Nature's Heritage Drumblade and Walkerville properties were assessed by the Bryanston Market PGS on 13 November 2017 and are endorsed to sell their products as:

NATURALLY GROWN

Based on compliance with the Basic Production Principles of Bryanston Market PGS and the adherence to the required guidelines, the following products are endorsed as grown according to organic principles:

Beetroot	Cauliflower	Green Beans	Melon	Sweet potato
Broccoli	Chillies	Kale	Pumpkin	Swiss Chard
Butternut	Egg plant	Leeks	Raspberries	Tomato
Cabbage	Gem Squash	Lettuce	Spinach	
Carrot	Granadilla	Marrows	Sweet Pepper	

For: **Bryanston Market PGS Group**

Bryanston Market PGS is a member of PGS South Africa (PGSSA), a voluntary association of growers, retailers and consumers supporting organic agriculture and local food production based on the principles of ecology, health, fairness and care.

PGSSA is a proud member of IFOAM-Organics International and supports the development of organic agriculture in its full diversity worldwide.

This certificate is valid for 18 months from date of farm visit



PGS - India

A Participatory Organic Guarantee Programme
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
Govt of India



Scope Certificate

I certify that the product(s) and area(s) of the farm: **SADASHIV MADHAV VANDHEKAR** belonging to PGS-India Group, **MURUDEV KISAN MAITREYA GROUP** Regional Council No. **PGSI/S(KE)-1628** **ORGANIC FARMING SOCIETY** are in accordance with requirements of **India National Standards For Organic Production** For the process of:

"Crop Production"

This Scope Certificate
is valid from **9/22/2017 until 9/22/2018**
for the **product(s) and area(s) specified in the annex**

in accordance with the required standards and PGS-India guidelines.

Signature of PGS India Group Leader
Local Group No. **LG1100011027**

6. Day to day operations

Day to day operations

A PGS initiative should have:

- A **coordinator/coordination team** supervising the day to day management, usually a member with technical ability and time availability (voluntary or paid position).

Typical roles of PGS coordination

1. Contact point for the PGS initiative.
2. Schedule meetings, trainings, etc.
3. Process PGS applications
4. Keeps and manages data about PGS members (database)
5. Coordinate schedule of the annual farm visits.
6. Follow-up incomplete documentation.
7. Local support for members.

N&P Coordination team Calendar

December-January	Check the renewal of the commitment of N&P certified producers.
	Check the producers members database (membership status, farm visit fee, etc.)
February	New invoices are prepared and sent to all professionals within a week.
	Preparation visits to be done for each COMAC with a summary of the budget funded by the federal office, with additional documents (summary sheets, etc.)
	Organization of a meeting-training day with the members participating the farm visits in the areas without local COMAC.
March to November	Process the farm visit report , consultation, if necessary, with the federal COMAC.
December	Evaluation of the farm visits : as a general reflection on the quality of the farm visits during the year



- PGS rely on a lot of volunteer internal work, especially in the first years of implementation.
- Consumers can share the workload taking over different tasks.
- At least 3 **years are needed to set-up a PGS initiative**
- The financial sustainability comes from the **market access** and **premium price** compensating for their efforts in engaging in the PGS
- **Membership fees** also support the administration of the scheme and the defrayal volunteers' expenses.

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) - Examples



GASAP, Belgium

Location: Brussel Area, BE

Production method: agroecology and organic

No of producers (certified): 30

Start date: 2016

Type of products: Vegetables, fruits, grains, mushrooms, livestock products, honey, juices, pasta, bread, beer, kombucha, chocolate etc

GASAP, Belgium

Philosophy and principles

- GASAP is a network of 75 CSAs (involving producers and consumers)
- PGS as a tool to improve consumers-producers relationships used by GASAP since 2016
- **Two main objectives:** improvement of economic situation of farmers and access to quality food at an affordable price for consumers
- PGS is used more as a **tool for building trust and exchange** rather than just a conformity verification system



GASAP, Belgium

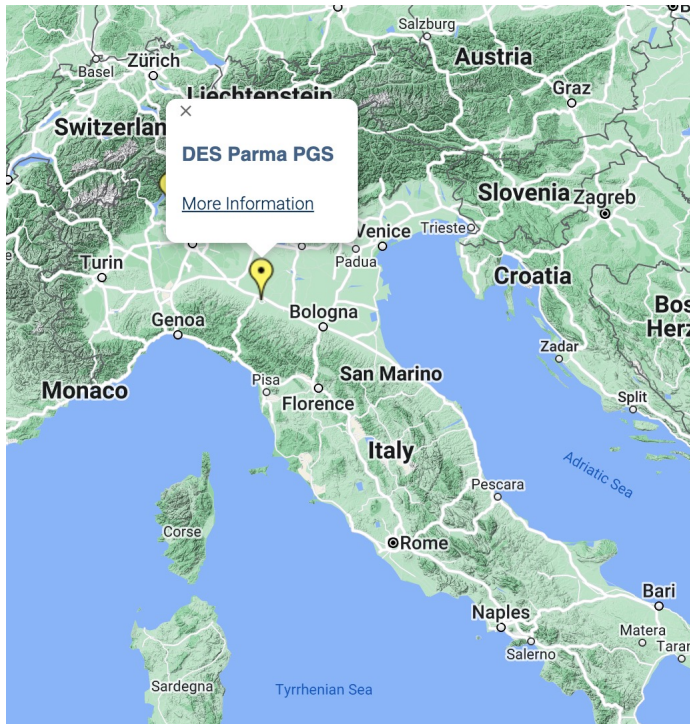
Main elements of GASAP PGS:

- ✓ Standards
 - Two standards: basic (adapted to the local context; compulsory) and aspirational (to strive for improvement)
 - Standard also contains specific sections for consumers' involvement → Consumers participation is high
- ✓ Advantages and Challenges:
 - **Advantages:** exchange and experiences sharing; transparency and better communication
 - **Challenges:** low access to finances; and finding compromises between consumers and producers



Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) - Examples

DES Parma, Italy



Location: Parma, IT

Production method: organic with additional elements

No of producers (involved and certified): 57

Start date: 2013

Type of products: Fruits and vegetables, cereals, meat and cured meats, eggs and poultry, cheeses, honey and hive products, fish and fish products, jams, preserves, juices, wine.

DES Parma, Italy

Philosophy and principles:

- Core values are ecological sustainability, fair and socially sustainable economy, the enhancement of the local dimension, and prioritization of production and consumption of local resources.
- 60% producers are also third party certified (PGS and TPC)
- Marketing through solidarity based purchasing networks (GAS) and markets



DES Parma, Italy

✓ **Advantages**

- PGS as tool for support and cooperation
- PGS to access some marketing channels (e.g. two organic markets in Parma)
- PGS as a tool for exchange and interaction

✓ **Challenges**

- Consumers are not always actively involved, especially during and after COVID 19
- Strong producers' commitment required towards PGS values that exceed third party certification requirements

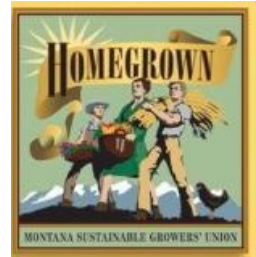


7. Marketing

Marketing

- It is important to **maintain integrity** of organic PGS certified products after they leave the farm.
- Build market linkages → **involve local retailers/food-coop**
- Develop a **logo** (optional)
- Point of sales → in some cases the PGS establishes its own farmers market or point of sale
- If the PGS doesn't have point of sale, it is important to verify possible misuse of the logo and check integrity of the products in the place where these products are sold.

Labels



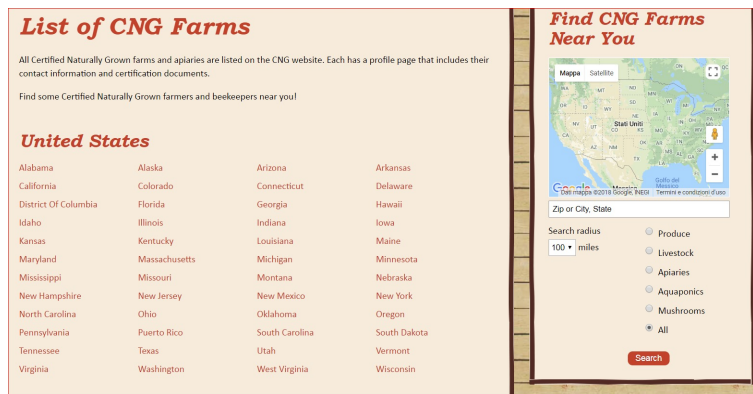
Pour notre santé et celle de la Terre




Marketing: CNG Example





- Promotion of retailers that support CNG
- List of all producers



Key

 **Recognized:** The co-op or grocer recognizes CNG certification in its promotional efforts.

 **Preferred:** When selecting vendors, managers of the market, co-op or grocer give preference to CNG producers because of their certification.

 **Required:** Vendors are required to hold a certification and CNG is one of the options.

- Support farmers in developing marketing tools (logos, website, business-card, videos, etc....)



The use of the term “Organic” in the EU

- In the EU the use of the term organic is regulated by the regulation 2018/848
- This Regulation applies to the following products:
 - (a) live or unprocessed agricultural products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material;
 - (b) processed agricultural products for use as food;
 - (c) feed
- The labelling and advertising of a product may refer to organic production methods only if it has been certified by a competent authority (third party certification body).
- PGS producers in Europe cannot make organic claims on their products, however they can explain to their consumers that they produce using standards that are based on the ideals of the organic movement.

8. Political justification for supporting PGS

Why supporting PGS?

- PGS offers numerous benefits, including:
 - ✓ improved access to organic markets through a guarantee system for small-scale producers (more affordable than third party certification),
 - ✓ increased education and awareness among consumers (by involving them in the guarantee process),
 - ✓ promotion of short supply chains and local market development,
 - ✓ farmer capacity building and empowerment.
 - ✓ Create tools for implementing local democracy
- Public support in the initial stage of PGS development is necessary to provide resources for investment in capacity building and organizational development.

Resources: Global Policy Toolkit on Public Support to Organic Agriculture

GLOBAL POLICY TOOLKIT ON PUBLIC SUPPORT TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE



This toolkit is aimed at anyone involved in advocating for pro-organic policies, designing them, or deciding on them. It is therefore aimed both at government representatives and private sector users. The toolkit is composed of a series of tools, including:

- A **main report**, the "Guidelines for public support to organic agriculture": these guidelines make the cornerstone of the toolkit and present the fullest possible compilation of facts, arguments and tips of the full panel of policy measures that can be conceived to support organic agriculture. Most of the sections of this main report are also broken down into separate documents for easier download and use. The report is targeted to policy makers and policy advocates.

4. *Enabling measures (combined push-pull)*

a. **National Data production and dissemination**

[Main report section](#) | [PPT](#) | [Policy Summary](#)

b. **Support the institutional development of organic associations**

[Main report section](#) | [Policy Summary](#)

c. **Build organic expertise within the public sector**

[Main report section](#) | [PPT](#) | [Policy Summary](#)

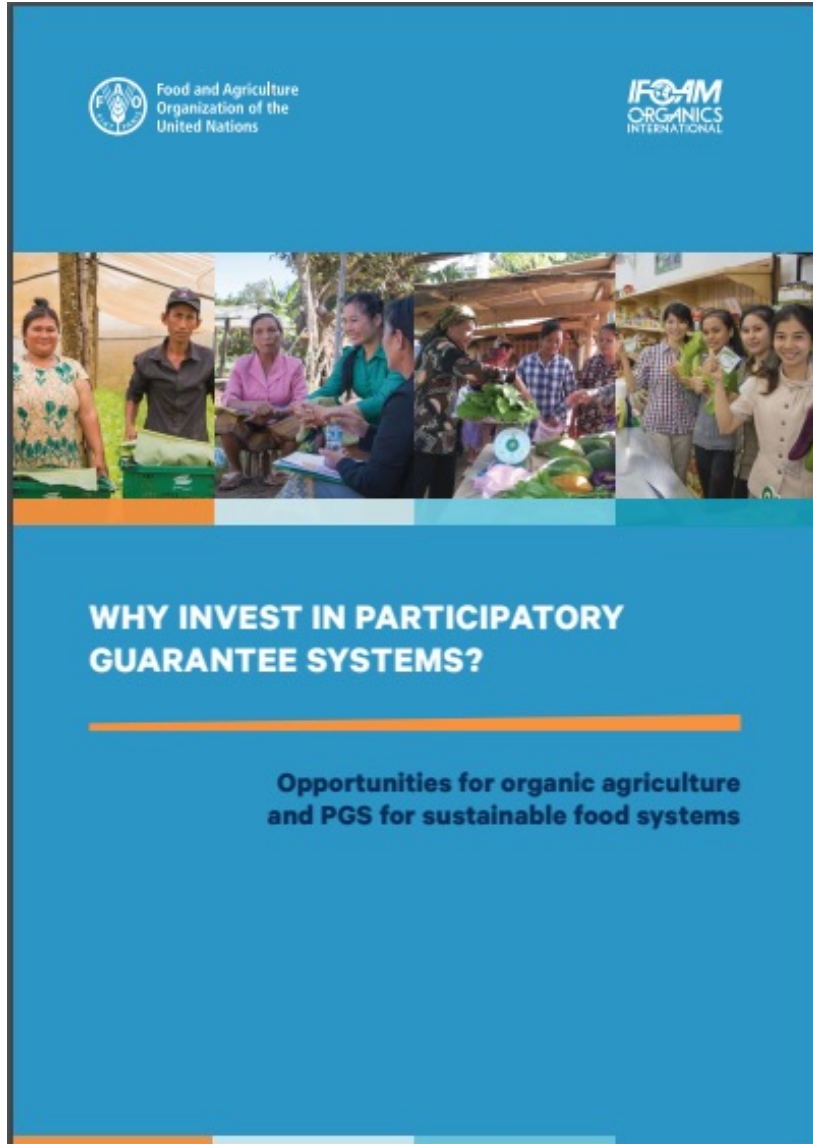
d. **Support to PGS development**

[Main report section](#) | [PPT](#) | [Policy Summary](#)

e. **Support to urban gardening and collective gardens**

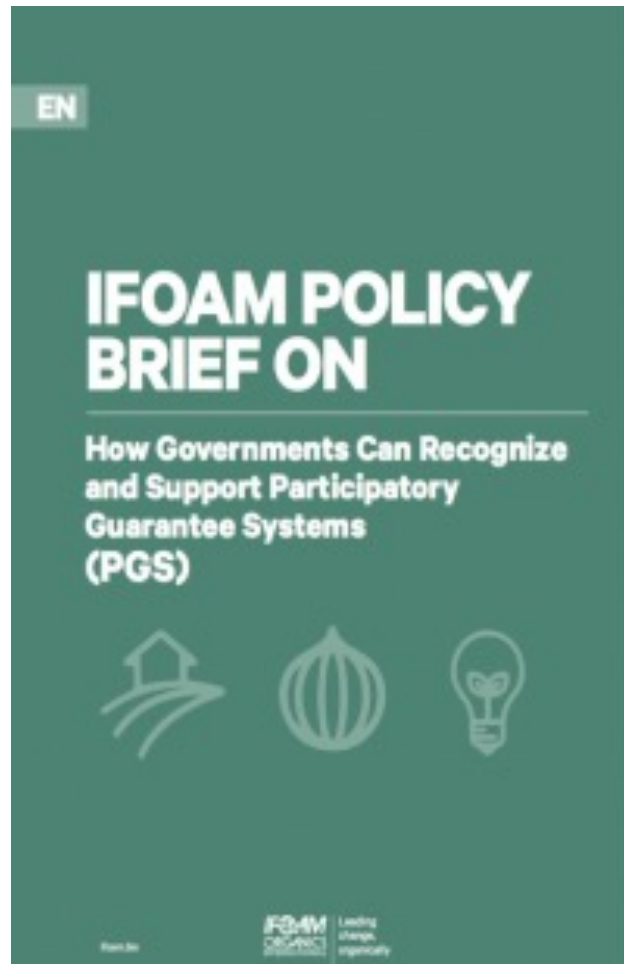
[Main report section](#) | [Policy Summary](#)

Resources: Why invest in PGS?



Available at:
<http://www.fao.org/3/ca6641en/ca6641en.pdf>

Resources: Policy brief



Published for the first time in 2011, this Policy Brief on PGS is a landmark in IFOAM's advocacy work. The document targets policy makers and advocates that wish to support PGS not only through recognition in their national organic regulatory systems, but also through different form of support aiming at promoting rather than regulating

https://www.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/pb_en_web_eatingcraft.pdf

Other international organizations supporting PGS development

FAO (Since 2006, when they assisted PGS development in India)

“PGS brings an original example of how to enable small producers to access and secure markets through a participative and collective certification mechanism.”

-Denis Herbel, FAO officer

Forms of support to PGS

- The right regulatory framework is very important: accommodate PGS in the organic regulation (See IFOAM-OI policy brief “How Governments Can Support PGS”).
- Finance projects that set-up PGS initiatives (must be at least 3-years long).
- Ongoing support: partial funding of existing PGS initiatives for expenses such as farmer training, committee meetings, development of standards and operating manuals, communication and networking.

Other examples

- In India the Government has been increasingly supporting PGS for its national market, developing a unique example of a large-scale government-facilitated PGS program, coordinated by its National Centre for Organic Farming, under the Ministry of Agriculture. The government has allocated a significant amount of money to promote conversion to organic farming and adoption of PGS through various programs.
- Peru, several local governments support PGS through local official recognition and supporting their implementation.
- The municipality of Bella Vista in Argentina is an active stakeholder in the set-up of their local PGS.
- The government of Mexico, in 2010 gave support of around EUR 82,000 to the national PGS network to form 20 PGS initiatives.
- In Costa Rica the government provided technical and financial support for the establishment of PGS initiatives.
- Brazil : In 2016, EUR 91,000 for support to family farmers and technicians involved in PGS initiatives.
- Central and local government in the Philippines support PGS through funding initial operation, including training, committee meetings, and development of standards and manual of operations.

THANK YOU!
pgs@if foam.bio