



Global Organic Market Access
a project of FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD

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Report

GOMA Workshop on Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia 27-29 May 2010 Shanghai, People's Republic of China

36 participants from 12 countries in East, South-East and South Asia (hereinafter called “the Region”) attended the GOMA Workshop on Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia, held on 27-29 May at the site of the BioFach China 2010 trade fair. On 27 May, workshop participants attended the opening ceremony of BioFach China and the BioFach China Conference, which included welcome addresses from FAO and UNCTAD and a presentation of the GOMA project. On 28 and 29 May, participants followed an agenda that aimed to identify and prioritize options for reducing and avoiding barriers to organic trade in the Region through harmonization, equivalence and other forms of cooperation.

28 May

Opening Session

The workshop was opened with an address from the workshop co-sponsor, China Green Food Development Center (CGFDC), which was delivered by its Deputy Director General, Mr. Peixin Han. After welcoming the participants on behalf of CGFDC, he noted the growth of organic production and markets in China, linking it to environmental protection and the rise of farmers' incomes. The good results, he observed, were achieved with the support of the Chinese government and market demand. He added that CGFDC supports harmonization and equivalence as a means of further developing organic agriculture and products in China.

Mr. Hongyan Dong, Chief of Standards Department, Bureau of Quality and Safety Supervision for Agro-products, Ministry of Agriculture of China also addressed the workshop, expressing appreciation to all who gave support to the workshop. He commented that with the support of FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD this workshop will further the cooperation to improve the flow of organic trade through harmonization and equivalence. In conclusion, he noted the opportunity provided by the workshop for China to learn how other countries have developed their organic sectors.

Speaking on behalf of the GOMA Steering Committee, Mr. Andre Leu observed that two countries in Asia, India and China, have one-third of the world's population and Asia has the most rapidly developing organic sector. He advised the organic sector in the Region not to repeat past mistakes of other regions, but rather to develop open markets from the start. Stating that farmers from other regions will want market access in Asia, he cautioned against establishing a market fortress in the region, and encouraged openness to trade to, from and within the Region.

Organic Guarantee System Challenges

Six speakers representing various stakeholder categories – producer, trader, certification body, importing country and exporting country – described their situations and especially their challenges in the course of trading organic products, and recommended steps to improve the organic trade system.

Organic Producers and Trade Association (OPTA), Philippines

Noting the mix of both certified and uncertified organic products and labels on the market, OPTA's Executive Director, Girlie Sarmiento, cited the challenge of illegitimate organic claims in the Philippine market. Another challenge, she stated, is the need to educate consumers. Imports play a big role in the Philippine organic markets. Of the 53 organic brands sold in the Philippines in 2007, 41 were imported and 12 were domestic. Among her recommendations for improving trade were ensuring simple and transparent rules and requirements for organic production and trade, and preferential trade agreements for organic products.

Country Farm Organics, Malaysia

Selina Gan, Managing Director of this organic trading company, illustrated the requirements for certification to the regulations of the various markets to which Country Farm Organics exports. She described the company's approach to export challenges, which is obtaining certification from an international certification body that is approved by governments of major importing countries. Imports to Malaysia are critical, due to a shortage of domestic organic vegetables and dried grocery items. Country Farm Organics currently imports products from 21 countries. It also markets products with multiple ingredients from different countries, carrying different certifications. The mixing of differently certified organic ingredients can sometimes jeopardize the certification of the end product if not all the certifications are internationally recognized. Malaysian customers are generally unfamiliar with the certification marks and language on imported products from Europe. However, they generally recognize the USDA organic mark. High price differentials for organic vs. conventional produce in Malaysian markets (200% to 500%), no economies of scale, short shelf life and logistical complexity are other challenges for domestic marketing of organic products. There could be further impacts to the business when the Indonesian government implements its organic regulation in 2011.

BIOFarm, China

Located on Shanghai's urban fringe, BIOFarm is engaged in production, direct retail sales, and wholesale trading, according to its Public Relations Director, Jane Tsao. BIOFarm operated an organic retail market, OStore, in Shanghai until recently, but the market is not yet ready for a purely organic store, according to Ms. Tsao. There is still not much importing of organic products to China, although China would welcome them. China produces a great variety of organic products, and therefore, imported products, e.g. olive oil, must establish their own brand identity in order to create demand for them among the Chinese people. Traders from other countries must carefully research and decide the party in China with whom it will form the importing relationship. Regional trade could be important because of the high shipping costs for bringing in products from more distant countries.

ACT, Thailand

As a certification body, ACT facilitates organic trade, said its Executive Board Chair, Chayaporn Wattanasiri. Offering certification to its own private standard as well as several government regulations, ACT is both IFOAM and ISO 65 Accredited. It has been recently recognized by the Canadian government and is seeking direct approval from the European Commission under its equivalence track. But there are still problems and challenges for recognition and facilitating trade of ACT-certified products. To address this ACT is part of an alliance of several Asian

domestic certification bodies, which cooperates with a European-based, internationally recognized certification body. Although ACT has managed to meet challenges, new ones arise, such as the requirements to export to China and South Korea. Although ACT has relied mainly on CB cooperation for facilitating trade, system-level initiatives to harmonize standards and facilitate equivalence are welcomed prospects for long term solutions.

Hong Kong Organic Resource Center, Hong Kong Territory of China

The Chinese organic regulation does not apply in Hong Kong, so this prosperous territory with rapidly growing organic demand is essentially unregulated, according to Jonathan Wong, Director of the Hong Kong Organic Resource Center (HKORC). Organic processing and retailing grew 53% in 2009 and 300 retail outlets now carry organic products. The organic market situation is largely dependent on consumer trust in organic labels and the distinction of organic from other green labels, e.g. Green Food, Natural, No Chemical Fertilizers, No GMO. Because there is no certification requirement there are also a lot of self-claimed organic products in the market. However instead of responding with mandatory certification, the Hong Kong government decided to support HKORC to operate a local voluntary certification program. Cases of fraud in organic labeling have accompanied the fast growth of the Hong Kong organic market, some of which have been successfully prosecuted through the government's Customs and Excise Tax Department. This enforcement channel coupled with consumer education conducted by the Hong Kong Organic Resource Center have been the primary fraud controls so far, but a specific organic regulation may be the final solution to underpinning consumer confidence.

APEDA, India

APEDA's Senior Advisor, P.V.S.M. Gouri, reported that 70% of agricultural land in India is farmed by small producers who do not use agrichemicals. Therefore, the high potential of India for developing organic export markets led to the national standard for organic production and shortly thereafter a conformity assessment and accreditation scheme, which is administered by APEDA. The initial scheme has been limited to export, but domestic regulation, including the regulation of imported organic products, will be implemented soon. In order to support organic exports, APEDA has gained approval by the USDA to administer NOP-compliant certification and a place on the EU list of equivalent third countries. 80% of exports currently go to the EU countries and 20% to the US. Equivalence with Taiwan and South Korea are next priorities, and APEDA has also begun to communicate with Canada. APEDA is seeking to further develop confidence in India organic products through implementation of a rigorous traceability system. India's organic system needs constant diligence and capacity building to grow and thrive, Dr. Gouri concluded.

Scoping Study for Harmonization and Equivalence in Asia

A scoping study which aims to assist the Region in developing a way forward was presented by Ong Kung Wai, member of the GOMA Steering Committee. The first part of the study identifies the major trading relationships among countries in the Region and provides examples of the types of products traded. The study also summarizes the regulation and certification scenario in the region. The study concludes with analysis of potential ways forward that cover both regulated and unregulated countries, and it recommended next steps.

Lessons learned, according to the study, are that:

- Domestic market growth will depend upon imports as well as local production;
- Imports compliment local production to meet demands;
 - Imports play critical role in introducing products before local processors get involved.

- Market demand may not be big enough to support local manufacturing.
- Local processors need to import ingredients.

The Study concluded that:

- Without a recognition framework, intra-regional trade and sector development will be constrained;
- Organic labeling import rules add bureaucracy and costs to organic trade and therefore additional disadvantage vis-à-vis conventional agriculture products;
- Government regulations to assist sector development may become an inhibiting factor.

Way Forward: Potential Recognition Mechanisms

The presentation characterized three categories of potential recognition mechanisms as “big doors”, “small doors” and “windows”. The big doors relate to recognition of entire systems of organic standards and conformity assessment that are reflected by government agreements or unilateral recognition e.g. Australia’s concept of equal reliability. The small doors refer to the recognition of supervision, e.g. the NOP’s approval of government supervision of NOP certification and acceptance of international accreditation. Windows are a variety of mechanisms that represent smaller steps to recognition within the schemes e.g. collaboration among certification bodies (CBs), peer review and recognition among accreditation bodies, and government delegation to domestic CBs for determining equivalence of the certification of foreign CBs. Altogether, there are eight potential recognition mechanisms possible across the three categories.

Selected recognition mechanisms should:

- Allow participation of non-regulated markets;
- Reduce duplication and costs of certification but not compromise prior agreements and ability to access;
- Not unduly marginalize poor farmers;
- Address imports from outside of the Region.

A regional recognition scheme could include:

- system recognition among regulated countries and regions (Philippines, Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan/China, India,) including those with established national standards and accreditation systems (Thailand, Indonesia)
- recognition of certification conducted in the other countries in the Region.

Scoping Study and Way Forward: General Discussion

The Steering Committee opened this session with a brief presentation on harmonized regional standards as an approach to facilitating recognition and fostering trade. A project to develop East African Organic Standards with the joint support of UNCTAD, UNEP and IFOAM was described, followed by description of another project to develop Pacific Organic Standards and conformity assessment, supported initially by IFAD and IFOAM, and more recently by FAO. It was further noted that ASEAN developed a harmonized horticultural standard and a Good Agricultural Practice Standards, and there is an idea for ASEAN to now work on a harmonized organic standard.

It was noted by the Scoping Study author that concrete steps to move forward could include the following:

- Interested parties form advisory committee/working group and develop work plan outlines;

- A MoU is drafted to define and formalize the discussion process leading to an Agreement on a regional system for recognition;
- Agreement is presented by the time of Organic World Congress, September 2011;
- Agreement is signed and some equivalence established by BioFach 2012.

Suggested supporting activities included comparative analyses of the existing technical regulations, for both standards and conformity assessment. It was also suggested to consider institutional arrangements for implementing a regional recognition agreement.

29 May

Small Group Discussions and Presentations

Participants organized themselves into four small groups to discuss the following topics, particularly emphasizing an action plan and type of support requested from GOMA for implementing the plan:

- Group One: Harmonized Regional Standards
- Group Two: Equivalence of Standards
- Group Three: Equivalence of Conformity Assessment
- Group Four: Cooperation Among Certification Bodies

After their discussions, the groups reported the following results:

Group One: Harmonized Regional Standards

Objectives of this undertaking would be to:

- * Promote regional cooperation and exchange of information and enhance private and public sector dialogues;
- * Facilitate intra and inter-regional market access of organic products in the Asian region;
- * Promote the global recognition of the regional standards as long-term goal.

It was proposed that participants should include the ASEAN and SARRAC countries in East, South-East and South Asia. A technical working group should be formed to manage the work, including government representatives from India, Philippines, China, Japan, S. Korea, Thailand, Bhutan plus two representatives from the private sector. The group should be supported by GOMA and one country should take the lead for compiling the technical document. Outputs of the group would include the technical dossier covering organic production, processing and labeling, a refined protocol of the technical working group and a platform for discussing further funding support. It was proposed that the group should aim to present the first draft of the standard at BioFach India/India Organic, Dec 7-9 2010, BioFach India/India Organic could be asked to host the presentation and GOMA to support the standards development work.

Discussion: It was advised that if there is a benchmarking step against major importing countries, development of an appropriate regional standard should take precedence over a compliance approach aimed at getting the standard recognized in main importing countries. Also, the ownership issue should be addressed early. Use of the standard should be available at the national level and also for recognition. There was a question of why to develop a regional standard instead of just adopting the IFOAM standard. It was clarified that the IFOAM Basic Standard would be the basis for the Regional Standard. It was clarified that the scope of the

standard would be production through post harvest handling. It would be “inclusive” of all countries in the region, based on minimum regional requirements, as opposed to an overly-strict best practice standard. In-country stakeholder consultation of the standard should be conducted and financed by countries. The standards development process should follow the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Standards Setting. The Regional Standard should not be developed and decided by only a few people; instead, the process should be very inclusive. Most participants agreed on the merit of working on a regional standard. It was observed that we are still exploring both harmonization and equivalence, and the actual application of the standard would depend on how the option develops.

Group Two: Equivalence of Standards

The group acknowledged that the easiest way to work on equivalence is to have one reference standard for making equivalence. But the reality is that comparisons will be done against sets of two or more standards. By standardizing the process and providing criteria for assessment, this process will be easier. If one international standard is referenced in equivalence, then it can bring in a multiple standards as equivalent by virtue of all meeting the international standard.

Discussion: It was asked if some countries could offer to use EquiTool to develop some bilateral agreements. China and Thailand are now engaged on equivalence. The interest of Indonesia and Philippines in a bilateral process was noted. APEDA stated that it is contacting South Korea for equivalence and will try to work with the EquiTool. A caution was expressed to avoid getting into too many bilateral talks at the same time; it could be too confusing. It was suggested to include more detailed guidelines in EquiTool on the practical matter of negotiation. It was observed that EquiTool could also be used when developing standards to test out their fitness for equivalence. There was encouragement for sharing of the equivalence processes experiences so that we build up a base of common knowledge about how to do it.

The relative merits of implementing a harmonized regional standard and equivalence of standards were examined. The harmonized standard might be more-or-less attractive for adoption based on the stage of development of the standards in the countries. It is worth it to initiate harmonized standard even though it takes time, instead of just jumping to equivalence as long-term mechanism. The cartwheel model drawn by Group Two to illustrate equivalence will be easier if the reference standard (the hub of the wheel) is a minimum standard. There are various options for moving forward, and certainly having Accreditation bodies (ABs) sit down bilaterally and work in practical terms carries much weight compared to less specific ideas such as regional standards. There was again a caution to stop one path e.g. equivalence to wait for harmonization or vice versa. The work on both approaches should proceed in parallel.

Group Three: Equivalence of Conformity Assessment Requirements

This group reported that it did not come to a solid conclusion on a plan. The government perspective in this group was strong and had considerable weight in the group’s deliberation. There are currently two norms discussed, ISO 65 and IROCB. IROCB seemed to be a more appropriate version of ISO 65 for organic, but it does not exactly conform to ISO 65. ISO 65 plus additional IROCB requirements could be used for discussions of recognition between National Accreditation bodies (NABs) that are already involved in regulation of systems for organic label claims. It was considered whether IROCB could be used by NABs to recognize/approve CBs in countries that are not regulated and do not have a regulated program. The NABs in the group concluded that are hindered from this, due to the requirements of IAF Membership. It was recommended to use ISO 65 plus the additional requirements in IROCB. Additionally it was recommended to consider bringing IROCB closer to ISO 65. There should be an assessment of

IROCB against ISO 65. It was also noted that governments are using ISO 65 for all the other industries, and it could be strange to exempt only organic agriculture from this approach.

Discussion: Codex has guidelines for equivalence. Discussions in the relevant Codex Committee show that equivalence is very difficult to achieve. One participant reminded the others that GOMA has provided some tools, like IROCB, so why not consider them. It was also observed that the discourse on this topic. It always seems to conclude that “ISO 65 Plus” should be used. But this is a compliance approach. IROCB was specifically developed for an equivalence assessment not for compliance assessment. IROCB leaves out detail that is non-applicable to organic agriculture certification, and it added relevant organic details. IROCB is like minimum standards for conformity assessment. It was expressed that GOMA is here to help, but can only encourage rather than dictate use of the Tools.

Group Four: Cooperation Among Certification Bodies

This group noted the model for cooperation established by the Certification Alliance (CertAll) a network of eight Asian certification bodies which aims to recognize each others competence and facilitate market access. CertAll is also undertaking development of a private harmonized standard, and can consider using EquiTool to test equivalence of this standard. The work plan proposed by this group centered mainly on the private standards development. This standards development project can be carried forward by the CertAll in cooperation with other stakeholders, with target date of September 2011. The proposed work plan includes comparative studies and several workshops. Support from GOMA is requested for the comparative studies, facilitation and workshops. The group also included in its proposed work plan, to gain acceptance of subcontracting and recertification as good practice.

Discussion: It was questioned whether the group considered the idea in the Group One about harmonized standards. Group Four responded that CertAll has already decided to work together on private minimum standards and there is momentum, and it seems good to follow parallel paths in case the government sector is not moving ahead. Also, it is not clear what the framework for the government approach would be. However, if the government one moves forward then the private sector should participate, and government is invited to participate in the private sector process. There is urgency in the private sector to create some efficiency, Group Four stated. Using the analogy from the Scoping Study presentation, if the door is not built yet, the windows should be kept open. CB-to-CB collaboration is a window for now. Certification bodies should be able to cooperate based on trust.

Statement of Intent

The Steering Committee proposed that the workshop issue a Statement of Intent, and presented a draft document. It was explained that the first part of the draft is a statement of the situation and the second is how we want to move forward. It was clarified that statement is intended mainly for this group and its colleagues. It is up to the group if there should be other circulation.

Workshop participants amended the draft and approved a final version of the Statement of Intent, which is Annex One of this Report.

Next Steps

- A limited regional working group for the Region should be formed, with the following composition:
 - Regulated countries: From each country, one person from government and one from private sector/civil society;
 - Non-regulated countries: From each country, one person, either from government or from private sector/civil society from each country.

The Steering Committee called for and noted expressions of interest for the regional working group from Philippines Ministry of Agriculture, APEDA, Certification and Accreditation Research Institute- China, OFDC, Certification Alliance, ACT, ICCOA, JONA, OAM, and BioCert. It was noted that an attempt should be made to include regulated countries not represented in this workshop.

- A sub-working group should be formed to identify the to identify technical, protocol and funding requirements for consideration by the regional working group, which will meet at BioFach India/India Organic, in December 2010. This sub-group will include government representatives from India, Philippines, China, Japan, S. Korea, Thailand, Bhutan plus two representatives from the private sector.
- The GOMA Steering Committee should take up the suggestions for support and timeline towards the framework for regional cooperation, including comparative studies on existing standards and certification requirements, support of the regional working group and sub-group for regional standards, and parallel support for developing private regional standards. Timeline aims to conclude a regional cooperation agreement by September 2011 or at the latest, February, 2012.
- Countries that expressed interest to take up equivalence discussions with one another using the ITF/GOMA Tools should take action e.g. Indonesia and Philippines.
- Participants approved that GOMA issues a press release/announcement about the Workshop and its results.

ANNEX ONE

STATEMENT OF INTENT Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia

We, the participants coming from 12 countries* in East, South-East and South Asia, met from 27 - 29 May in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, for a Workshop on Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia. The Workshop was convened under the auspices of the FAO/IFOAM/UNCTAD Global Organic Market Access project in order to discuss organic trade development in Asia through equivalence, harmonization and other forms of regional cooperation.

RECOGNIZING THAT:

- Organic agriculture contributes to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals and in particular to food security, rural livelihoods and environmental sustainability, including adaptation and mitigation of climate change - as reported by the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), the Asia Development Bank and others.
- The organic sector in East, South-East and South Asia (hereafter referred to as the "Region") is growing dramatically in terms of production, domestic markets and international trade. Although initially driven by exports to the EU and USA, markets for organic products in the Region are expected to continue to grow due to domestic and international demand, as well as intra-regional trade. Imports play an important role in the development of domestic organic markets and value-added processed products.
- The organic sector in the Region includes seven national regulations, several national and private standards, 154 domestic certification bodies and some 50 foreign certification bodies. With a diverse mix of scenarios - from highly developed regulatory frameworks to non-regulated developing markets, including government certification programs, as well as international and local certification bodies operating to national requirements and/or private standards - solutions should be inclusive to facilitate recognition of organic trade throughout the Region and beyond.
- It is critical to facilitate organic trade and prevent potential technical barriers to trade in the Region. The Asia organic market, including exports and imports, could avoid constricting the future growth of the sector through recognition of the various organic claims.

WE SEEK TO:

- Facilitate organic trade in the Region, with a view to enhance organic production and commercialization, especially by smallholders.
- Develop a framework for cooperation on organic labeling claims in the Region, which :
 - (i) is suitable to address various degrees of sector development and regulation in organic production, in accordance with domestic laws and specific circumstance;
 - (ii) allows participation of countries with non-regulated markets;
 - (iii) reduces duplication and cost of certification;
 - (iv) does not compromise prior agreements and the ability to access external markets;
 - (v) does not unduly marginalize poor farmers (grower group production base);

- (vi) addresses imports from outside the Region (e.g. from the EU and USA) and within the Region, based on equivalence and harmonization of regulations and public-private cooperation on certification;
- (vii) uses the tools and recommendations of the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture, i.e. EquiTool and IROCB.

WE THEREFORE AGREE TO:

- Create an open-ended public-private network for transferring knowledge and paving the way towards a framework for regional cooperation on organic labeling and trade;
- Establish a regional working group of interested parties to spearhead the development and implementation of harmonization, equivalency and cooperation arrangements. More specifically:
 - (i) Develop a regional organic standard through a public-private consultative process. This Asian Organic Standard will include production, processing and labeling and will be based on core international norms and regional minimum requirements. A sub-working group (composed of the participants from Bhutan, China, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand), supported by GOMA, is being established to identify technical, protocol and funding requirements for consideration by the regional working group, which will meet at BioFach India/India Organic, in December 2010.
 - (ii) Countries are encouraged to recognize equally credible organic systems, and to initiate multi-lateral and/or bilateral discussions on equivalency using EquiTool and IROCB. Indonesia and Philippines are considering to test EquiTool in assessing their systems' equivalency. It is recommended to promote the recognition of IROCB as a sector-specific adaptation of the future ISO 17065.
 - (iii) Promote further cooperation among accreditation and certification bodies. Certification bodies (CBs) recommended that sub-contracting and re-certification be recognized as good practices for CB-to-CB collaboration. Certification Alliance, which already undertakes recognition of competence among eight certification bodies, will seek to harmonize public and private organic standards with others by using EquiTool, before the Organic World Congress in September 2011.
- Request GOMA to undertake two comparative studies on organic standards and certification requirements in the Region.

ADOPTED: 29th May 2010

Workshop participants came from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

ANNEX TWO



Agenda and Timetable
Workshop on Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia
27th-29th May 2010
BioFach – China Shanghai

Co-Organized with China Green Food Development Center (CGFDC), Ministry of Agriculture

Thursday 27th May

08.30 –12.00	Arrival, BioFach opening ceremony, meeting with CGFDC, trade show tour
12.00 –13.30	Lunch
15.40 –16.00	GOMA presentation at the BioFach - China Conference
19.00	BioFach VIP dinner hosted by BioFach

Friday 28th May

08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 11.00	Opening Session - Welcome from China Green Food Development Center: Han Peixin, Deputy Director General - Welcome from Ministry of Agriculture, China: Dong Hongyan, Chief, Standards Development - Introductions of participants - Address from the GOMA Steering Committee on situation in Asia
10.45 – 11.15	Break
11.15 – 12.30	Organic guarantee system challenges: stakeholders' perspectives - Producer: Organic Producers and Traders Association (OPTA), Philippines: Girlie Sarmiento - Trader: Country Farm Organics, Malaysia: Selina Gan

- Retailer: BIOFarm, China: Jane Tsao
- Certification Body: ACT, Thailand: Chayaporn Wattanasiri
- Importing Country: Hong Kong Organic Resource Center: Jonathan Wong
- Exporting Country: APEDA, India: P.V.S.M. Gouri

12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.30	Findings from GOMA Scoping Study for Asia
14.30 – 15.00	Questions for clarification
15.00 – 15.15	Break
15.15 – 17.00	Discussion of the scoping study findings
17.00 – 18.00	Options for the way forward for harmonization and equivalence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What other regions have done - Options for Asia

18.00 Workshop dinner hosted by CGFDC

Saturday 29th May

09.00 – 10.30	Working Group discussions on options for the way forward (i) regional standard; (ii) equivalency of standards; (iii) equivalency of conformity assessment systems; (iv) cooperation among certification bodies
10:30 – 11.00	Break
11:00 – 12.30	Working Group reports and discussion
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.30	Proposal for a workshop declaration
14.30 – 15.00	Discussion
15.00 – 15.30	Next steps and conclusion of Workshop

Sunday 30th May

Optional visit to BioFarm and World Expo

ANNEX THREE

List of Participants

Country	Name	Title	Agency/Organization
Bhutan	Ms. Kesang Tshomo	Coordinator, National Organic Program	Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture
Bhutan	Ms. Irmela Krug	Executive Director	BioBhutan
Cambodia	Mr. Sdok Khun	Project Officer	Cambodia Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC)
Cambodia	Mr. Sanphirom Sar	Executive Manager	Cambodian Organic Agriculture Association (COAA)
China	Mr. Maohua Wang	Deputy Director	Agricultural Products Office, State Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA)
China	Mr. Dong Qiao	Director	China Research Institute for Certification and Accreditation Technology (CCAI)
China	Mr. Qiang Li	Deputy Secretary General	China Certification and Accreditation Association (CCAA)
China	Mr. Xinji Xiao	Director	Organic Food Development Center of China (OFDC) (Under Ministry of Environmental Protection)
China	Ms. Yunhua Chen	Director	Accreditation Auditor Supervision Office, China National Accreditation Services for Conformity Assessment (CNAS)
China	Ms. Xiuwen Gao	Section Chief	China Organic Food Certification Center(COFCC) (under Ministry of Agriculture)
China	Ms. Jun Xiang	Program Coordinator	China Organic Food Certification Center (COFCC)
China	Ms. Maozhi Tang	Expert	China Research Institute for Certification and Accreditation Technology (CCAI)
Hong Kong Terr.	Mr. Jonathan Wong	Director	Hong Kong Organic Resource Center
India	Dr. P.V.S.M. Gouri	Advisor, Organic Products	APEDA
India	Mr. Mukesh Gupta	Executive Director	M. R. Morarka-GDC Rural Research Foundation
India	Mr. Manoj Menon	Executive Director	International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA)
Indonesia	Mr. Agung Pawoto	Director	BioCert
Indonesia	Ms. Rosalia Surtiaseh	Head	Division for standard

Indonesia	Ms. Ita Munardini		application infrastructure and quality assurance systems, National Standardization Body for Indonesia (BSN) Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia
Japan	Mr. Kenji Masumoto	President	Japan Organic and Natural Foods Association (JONA)
Laos	Mr. Thavisith Bounyasouk	Manager	Laos Certification Body Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Laos	Mr. Thatsaka Saphangthong	Head, Standards Division	Department of Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Malaysia	Ms. Selina Gan	Managing Director	Country Farms Sdn, Bhd.
Myanmar	Mr. Nyan Lin	Managing Director	Shan Maw Myae Co., Ltd.
Philippines	Mr. Gilberto Layese	Director	Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards, Department of Agriculture
Philippines	Ms. Leilani Ramona	Executive Director	Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP)
Philippines	Ms. Girlie Sarmiento	Executive Director	Organic Producers and Trade Association, INC. (OPTA)
Thailand	Ms. Panjaporn Sitbunloam	Manager	Organic Agriculture Certification Thailand (ACT)
Thailand	Ms. Chyaporn Wattanasiri	Chair, Executive Board	Organic Agriculture Certification Thailand (ACT)
Thailand	Mr. Wanlop Pichpongsa	Secretary General	Thailand Organic Trader Association (TOTA)
Thailand	Mr. Vitoon Panyakul	Executive Director	GreenNet/EarthNet
Thailand	Ms. Patrathip Vacharakomolphan	Senior Standards Officer	National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Thailand	Ms. Phawana Assawaprapa	Senior Standards Officer	National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Thailand	Ms. Ing-Orn Panyakit	Senior Standards Officer	National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Thailand	Ms. Pathumwadee Imtour	Policy and Plan Analyst	National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Vietnam	Mr. Le Thanh Hoa	Deputy Director	Viet Nam SPS Office, C/o International Cooperation Department – MARD
OBSERVER			
United States	Ms. Freddie Xu	Agricultural Marketing Specialist	US Agricultural Trade Office Shanghai

Opening Session

Country	Name	Title/Position	Agency/Organization
China	Mr. Hongyan Dong	Section Director	Department of Agri Product Quality and Safety Supervision, Ministry of Agriculture
China	Mr. Peixin Han	Deputy Director	China Green Food Development Center (CGFDC)
China	Ms. Jianhua Mu	Deputy Director	Market Information Office of China Green Food Development Center (CGFDC)
China	Ms. Xianjun Li	Acting Director	China Organic Food Certification Center (COFCC)

GOMA Steering Committee and Staff

Organization	Name	Position
FAO	Ms. Nadia Scialabba	Steering Committee
UNCTAD	Dr. Sophia Twarog	Steering Committee
IFOAM	Mr. Ong Kung Wai	Steering Committee
IFOAM	Mr. Andre Leu	Steering Committee
IFOAM	Ms. Diane Bowen	GOMA Staff
IFOAM	Mr. Zejiang Zhou	GOMA Staff
IFOAM	Ms. Zhenye Zhang	GOMA Staff