



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

09102010db

Invitation to Tender
For a Study on Organic Certification Requirements for Asia

Qualified consultants are invited to submit proposals for a study and recommendations as described in the Terms of Reference below.

Project Timeline (2010)

Deadline for Proposals: 31 August
Decision and Contract: 10 September
Draft for Review: 1 November
GOMA's review and comment: 12 November
Final Draft: 22 November

Fees

The Project Fee will be based on the budget (including # of days and daily rate) submitted in the successful proposal, and the total fee shall not exceed €5000 (includes consultant's VAT where applicable e.g. in Germany). Fees shall be paid upon acceptance of final draft of the study.

Contract and Accountability

The contract for this project will be with IFOAM, which administers the GOMA project on behalf of the GOMA Partners. The consultant will be accountable to the GOMA Project Manager.

Elements of the Proposal

- Consultant's reflections on the project
- Consultant's qualifications for the project (including descriptions of work on similar projects)
- Proposal for the structure and function (including internal timeline) of the project.
- Project Budget

Factors in Decision on the Consultant

- Quality of the proposal with respect to the project aims and required outputs
- Experience and qualifications of consultant relative to the project
- Cost to the GOMA project
- An established network with key organic stakeholders (government and private) in the relevant regions of Asia will be considered a "plus".

Submission of Proposal

- Proposals should be submitted electronically to GOMA Project Manager, Diane Bowen, d.bowen@ifoam.org. All proposals will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt.

Terms of Reference For a Study on Organic Certification Requirements for Asia¹

Background

GOMA is supporting a regional project to develop a framework for cooperation on facilitating organic trade for Asia. The framework includes cooperation through harmonization of standards, equivalence of regulatory systems, and public-private cooperation. Government stakeholders from countries with full-system regulations that include standards and conformity assessment have expressed that they will seek to recognize one another, and that they would like GOMA to provide technical assistance to facilitate these recognitions. The technical assistance will cover both standards for organic production and processing and requirements for conducting certification of organic production and processing operations. This study aims to provide technical information for developing equivalence and recognition of certification requirements among Asian countries and for Asian countries with other importing countries and regions. Further information on the Asia initiative under GOMA is found at www.goma-organic.org/regional-projects/asia.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to provide fundamental technical and political information that will support the discussion of equivalence and recognition of the certification requirements of Asian governments that are currently regulating organic certification, and establish a framework in case of any future regulation of organic certification in Asia. The objectives and activities in this project can be considered as falling into the following two categories:

1. Information to support the direct comparison of certification requirements in countries that currently regulate organic certification.
2. Information to support an international approach to recognition of organic certification based on the ITF International Requirements for Organic Certification (IROCB) and/or ISO Guide 65. It is noted that these documents serve different purposes. ISO Guide 65 is an international guideline (but defacto requirement) for product certification across many sectors focused on the qualities of end-products. IROCB is a normative document that aims to serve mainly as a tool for equivalence among organic certification requirements in regulations and in private sector organic guarantee systems. IROCB is less prescriptive and is oriented more quality-oriented outcomes in organic certification.

Work and Products of the Study

The study will include:

¹ For the purpose of this project, East, South-East and South Asia

A) For the purpose of providing information to support an international approach to recognition of organic certification based on the ITF *International Requirements for Organic Certification* (IROCB) and/or *ISO Guide 65*:

- A comparative analysis of the requirements of ISO Guide 65 and the ITF/GOMA International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies

This analysis should include:

- Additional organic sector requirements in IROCB with respect to ISO Guide 65.
- ISO 65 topics excluded by IROCB (including analysis of rationale)
- Additional topics in ISO 65 excluded in IROCB.
- A qualitative comparative analysis of both documents
- A qualitative comparative analysis of the draft 1ISO 17065 (which will replace ISO 65) and IROCB.

B) For the purpose of providing information to support an understanding of the similarities and differences among existing certification requirements in Asian countries that regulate conformity assessment:

• A qualitative comparative study, with supporting details, of the certification and accreditation/approval requirements for the organic regulatory systems of the following countries:

- Japan
- China
- Philippines
- Taiwan Province of China
- S. Korea
- Indonesia
- India

Only those requirements available in English language will be included in the study.

Participative Process

The key stakeholders from the countries included in the study should be invited to participate in the process by contributing their certification requirements and answering questions about them. The GOMA Project Manager can assist in providing some of the certification requirements and also in engaging participation from the key stakeholders in the study.

Qualifications of the Consultant

GOMA will commission this study from a qualified consultant. The consultant will have the following qualifications:

- knowledge and expertise in quality requirements for certification – both general and for the organic sector;
- experience in comparatively analyzing normative documents;

Project Timeline

The following timeline applies:

- first draft of report due to GOMA 1 November 2010;
- review of first draft by GOMA Project Manager 8 November 2010;
- final draft due to GOMA 22 November 2010.

This timeline is critical to support the meeting of the Working Group for the GOMA Asia Initiative in early December 2010.