

**Organic Standard Forum 13 December 2006
CBTF-IFOAM Initiative on Organic Agriculture
Standards for East Africa**

Certification of small holders in India

by Mariella Sandini

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Trade and Investment Development Programme
India (EuropeAid cooperation framework) and
APEDA, the Agricultural and Processed Food
Products Export Development Authority

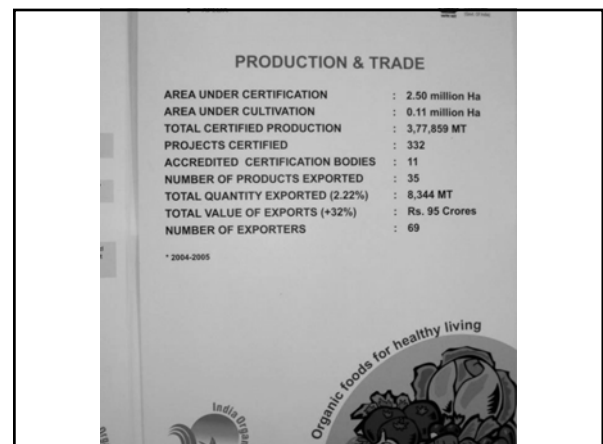
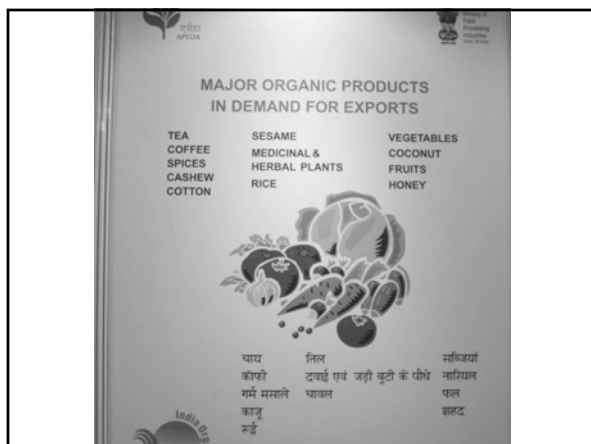


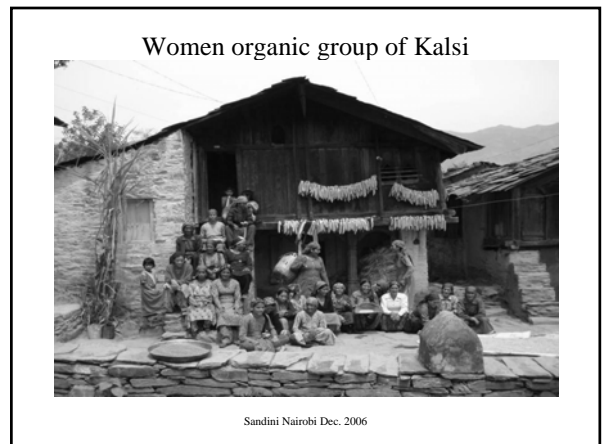
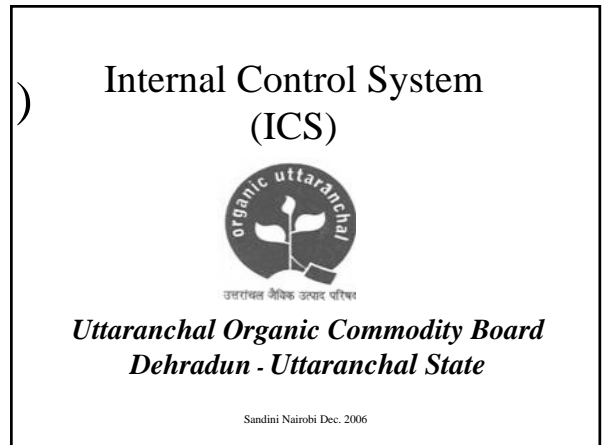
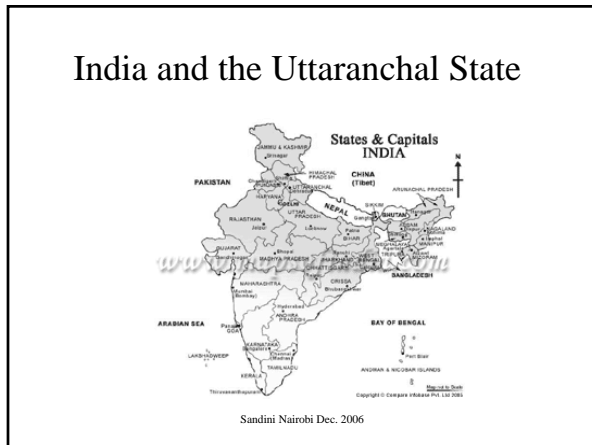
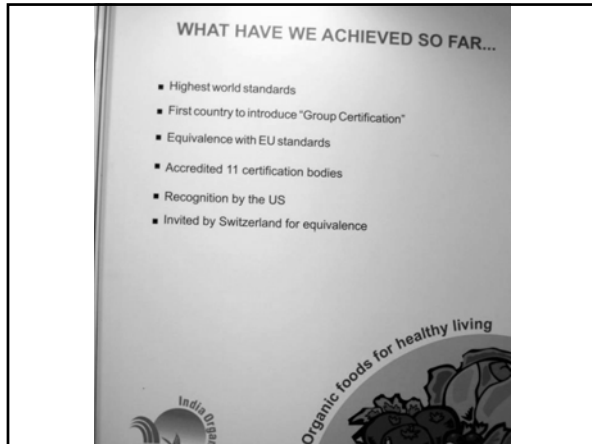
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Pillars of the extraordinary development of organic sector in India

- Acknowledgement of equivalency of the Indian National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) at EU and USDA – NOP level.
- Support to creation of State and private organic Certification Bodies, compliant to ISO:65
- Implementation of ICS – Internal Control System
- Government/State logistic support to trade of organic certified products, thanks to databases developed through the Internal Control Systems.

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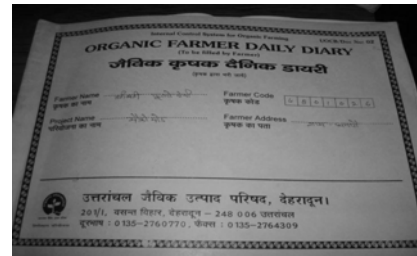


External Inspector from Uttaranchal State Accredited Organic Certification body



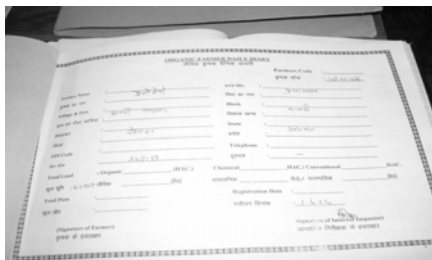
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Internal Recording System



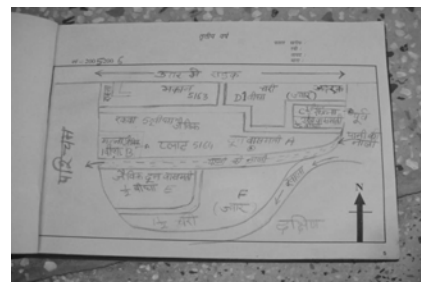
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Organic Farmer Daily Diary



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Organic farmer holding map



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Special about ICS in mountains and marginal areas

- Small land holding – (0.60ha)
- Fragmented land holdings
- Multi cropping systems
- Low scales production pattern
- Difficult and typical terrains
- Very often the production is organic by default
- Difficulties in maps, documentation etc
- Difficulties in providing assistance

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Organic Certification of small holders

- External Certification is very expensive and the small and marginal farmers of mountains and remote areas cannot afford the high cost due to the scale factors.
- However, at the same time certification is necessary not only from a marketing perspective but also for proper documentation, information, monitoring, etc.

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Internal Control System in Uttaranchal Organic Commodity Board (UOCB)

- UOCB is the Mandater for the ICS in the State programs
- Quality Cell is in place
- Internal Inspectors are salaried persons from the UOCB programs
- Documentation is carried out by the farmers/groups and Grass root level workers (Master Trainers)
- Internal inspection is carried out twice a year on 100% basis.

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Advantages of ICS

- Reduction in the cost of inspection & certification per farmer per hectare. This is advantageous to the Marginal Farmers of Uttaranchal who otherwise will not be able to afford certification due to the high costs.
- The documents used in ICS helps in creating a very good database of the organic "Production & Supply chain" in Uttaranchal for e.g. Actual Farmer List.
- Creates Livelihood opportunities for the rural youth(selection as master trainers, internal inspectors etc)

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Structuring of an Internal Control System with the State support

- Arranging Internal Inspection for selected villages by the team of Uttaranchal Organic Commodity Board internal Inspector
- Training of Farmers for ICS by the Master Trainers
- Assistance in Documentation procedures for Organic Certification: Registration form, Farmers Diary, Farm file, Internal Inspectors Checklist, Approved Farmer List.
- Organic Product Outflow
- Assistance to the group in preparation of criteria for internal organic certification

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Development of an ICS Manual built on initial field work

- Prepared after building up experience for two years
- A number of regulations were incorporated within the ICS to avoid major problems at inspection level
 1. Minimum area of the farmer under registration
 2. Number of members in a group
 3. Contiguity of area under organic
 4. Process of saturation of the village/micro shed
 5. Common Facility centers at production level
 6. Open to possible future development

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ICS/UOCB and marketing of organic products from marginal areas 1

The database system that UOCB developed through ICS allows for:

- Early market projection and planning
- Realistic trends in production
- Detection of potential crops
- Up to date product availability info
- Other information related to land holdings, practices etc

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ICS/UOCB and marketing of organic products from marginal areas 2

- External Inspection minimum once in a year or as per the requirements of the commodities in the project
- Contacts with traders, reliability of information, quality of products, certification as required by the international market
- Liaison with other Organic Certification Agencies e.g.: IMO Control, ECOCERT, SKAL, SGS etc.

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ICS helps protect and value biodiversity



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Low cost certification, sustainability, stake holding

- Maximum work is conducted at community level
- Minimum intervention from outside sources
- Systems to be risk proof
- Community must understand risk management as well as the consumer
- Community members must be able to sustain their functions
- Acceptability among consumers / Awareness among consumers!!

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