

PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS



THE CONTEXT



- Workshop in Torres, Brasil, April 2004
- 50 participants, 20 countries, 6 continents
- Compendium of 26 schemes
- Task Force – diversity, existing around the world
- Objectives:
 - Analysis of existing PGS
 - Dialogue and exchange
 - Formulate an action plan to promote and develop the PGS concept

THE REASONS



- High costs for 3rd party certification
- Bureaucratic procedures
- + Learning & empowerment of farmers
- + Facilitate development of local markets
- + Encourage community building, support local economies
- + Revival of organic agriculture

THE PHILOSOPHY

- Goal to provide a credible guarantee
- Built on trust and openness
- Appropriate for small diversified farmers
- Created by the farmers and other stakeholders that it serves – greater influence & responsibility
- Main focus on local markets and direct sales
- Minimize costs and administration



THE BASIC ELEMENTS

- Shared vision
- Participatory
- Transparency
- Trust – “integrity based approach”
- Learning process
- Horizontality



KEY FEATURES

- Norms conceived by the stakeholders
- Grassroots organization
- Suitable to smallholder agriculture
- Principles and values that enhance livelihoods and promote organic agriculture.
- Documented management systems and procedures
- Mechanisms to verify farmer's compliance
- Mechanisms for supporting farmers
- Farmer's pledge or similar
- Seals or labels
- Clear and previously defined consequences

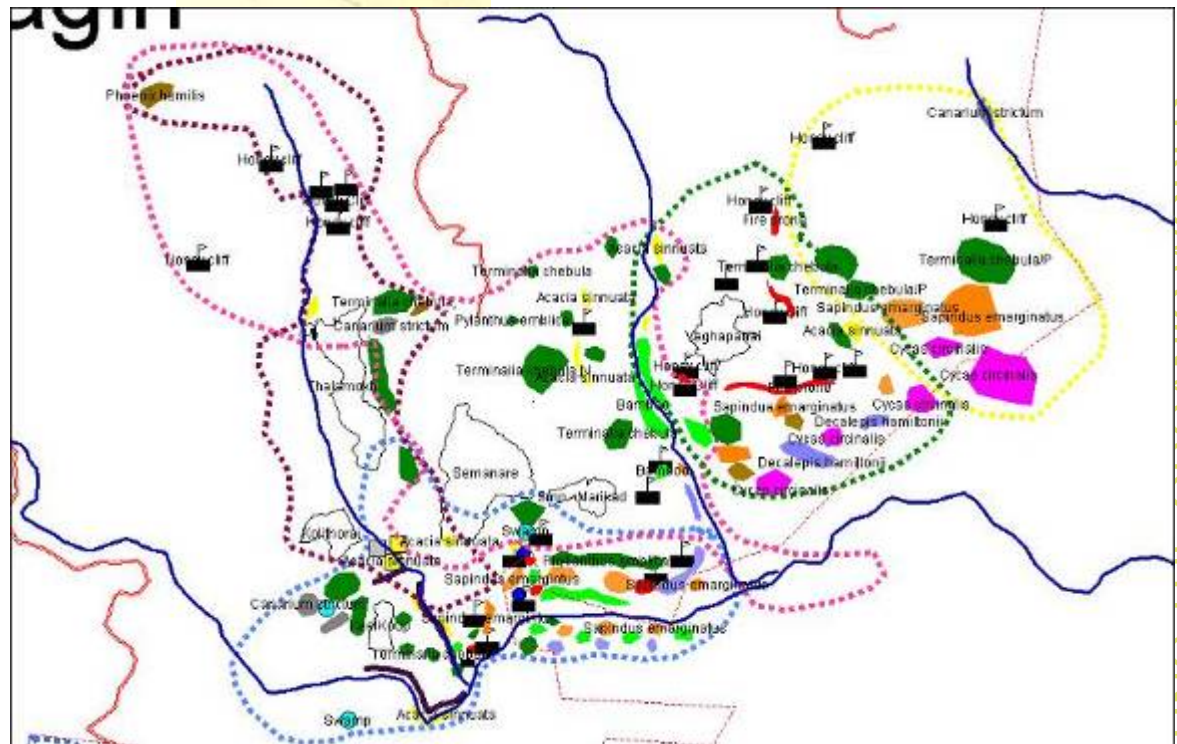
THE DEVELOPMENTS



- Concept document
- Case studies
- Workshops & presentations
- Information materials: leaflet, posters & articles
- Web platform www.ifoam.org
- Translation & availability of PGS manuals

KEYSTONE FOUNDATION, INDIA

- Since 2001; initial attempt in 1998
- Wild Produce: resource monitoring, stake in resources & dialogue with Forest Dept
- Cultivated Produce: access to land, food security, conservation, health & nutrition
- 350 families



ORGANIC FARM, NEW ZEALAND

- Began in 2002
- Process supported by Govt; now self-funded
- 185 organic producers
- Regionally managed & community focused
- Peer review & assessment system
- Using production rules of NZ Biogro



ECOVIDA NETWORK, BRAZIL

- Discussion process: 1997-99
- Non-obligatory certification for direct trade by organized small farmers
- Decentralized: knowledge & respect for local reality, cost reduction & direct assistance
- Inclusiveness
- 2400 families in 270 groups
- Sales of \$ 33 million in 2003



Certified Naturally Grown, USA



- Started in June 2002
- Grassroots marketing label
- For small direct market organic farmers
- Internet management
- Inspection by grower/peers - volunteers
- 600 farmers
- Using existing USDA standards

STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

- + Stronger relations between producer-consumer
- + Access for small producers to quality assurance systems
- + Stimulates local development based on local culture
- + Ownership and responsibility
- + Low direct costs
- + Less bureaucracy
- High degree of dedication from stakeholders
- Long term process for capacity building
- Lack of formal recognition
- Complex social organization
- A lot of voluntary work, high indirect costs

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- New PGS (Peru, South Africa, Bolivia, Kenya, Costa Rica, Uruguay, India, Phillipines)
- Outreach (International Task Force on Harmonization, FAO)
- Regulation Developments



THE FUTURE

- PGS self-evaluation document & registry
- Availability of guiding documents
- Advocacy & outreach assistance

