



Why an ITF?

- **Expanding global production and trade in organic products (global sales est. \$30 billion in 2005)**
- **Multitude of governmental & private sector standards, conformity assessment systems, and other requirements**
- **Technical barrier to market entry**
- **Particular challenge for developing country operators**

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What is the ITF?

Platform for dialogue between public and private sector stakeholders to seek solutions to facilitate international trade in organic products and access of developing countries to international organic markets focus on equivalence and other forms of cooperation

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Background and framework

- **Established as a result of the IFOAM Harmonisation Conference 2002**
- **Three convening parties: IFOAM, FAO and UNCTAD**
- **ITF Steering Committee:**
 - Selma Doryan, FAO/Codex Secretariat
 - Nadia Scialabba, FAO
 - Ulrich Hoffmann, UNCTAD
 - Sophia Twarog, UNCTAD
 - Antonio Compagnoni, IFOAM
 - Gunnar Rundgren, IFOAM

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Six ITF Meetings

2003 Nuremberg
2003 Geneva
2004 Rome
2005 Nuremberg
2005 Tunisia
2006 Stockholm

Large number of technical studies, published in books and on ITF Web site Sida-supported

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Participants

twenty-one countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda and USA), seven inter-governmental agencies (EU, OECD, FAO, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNEP and WTO) fifteen civil society organizations and businesses (IFOAM, IAF, IOAS, Argencert, Ecocert, Ecologica, Green Net, KRAV, Rachel's Organic Dairy, ISEAL Alliance, ICEA, JONA, Kawacom Uganda Ltd., Migros and Oregon Tilth)

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Three phases

Review Phase (2003-5)

Solutions Phase (start 2004)

**Communications Phase (start 2006 with
Communique)**

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Solutions Criteria

solutions should provide for the continued growth of organic agriculture and maintenance of its principles and be based on the following criteria:

- benefit producers and consumers and the organic market as a whole;
- take into account of national sovereignty;
- access to markets with minimal bureaucracy;
- fair competition between operators;

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Solutions Criteria (2)

- sensitivity to different biophysical, socio-economic environments;
- stakeholder support and involvement;
- take account of market choice;
- adequate and consistent consumer protection and trust;
- transparency of operation and decision-making.

special consideration should be given to the situation of developing countries

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ITF Strategy (agreed)

- production standards equivalent to a single international "reference" standard;
- mechanism for the judgment of equivalence to the above-mentioned reference standard;
- one set of international requirements for organic conformity assessment bodies;
- common international procedures for approval or accreditation of conformity assessment bodies

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**Please see Communique
and visit ITF Website**

www.unctad.org/trade_env/itf-organic