




CBTF
UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force
Trade, Environment and Development

**POLICY DIALOGUE ON PROMOTING
PRODUCTION AND TRADING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

**Role of organic standards and
certification, harmonisation**

**How can certification costs in developing
countries be reduced?**

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WHY CERTIFICATION IS NEEDED?

- Need of an independent third party (required in all organic standards whether public or private and established by the organic community itself)
- Access to the market
- Required by the consumers (certification closes the gap between far distant producers and consumers and provides for communication about product quality)
- Certification also is about protecting the organic community against fraudulent operations



WHAT CONTAIN THE COST OF A CERTIFICATION

- Inspection on Site
- Report
- Evaluation of the report
- Decision of certification
- Establishment of certificate
- Follow up – Transaction – Export – Import – Documents



FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PRICE OF A CERTIFICATION

- Inspection fees
- Certification fees
- Travel costs
- Inspection Plan - Frequences of the Inspection
- Analysis



**HOW TO GET A BALANCE BETWEEN CERTIFICATION
COST AND CREDIBILITY OF THE CERTIFICATION**

- Inspection done by local staff
 - Adequate fees - local fees
 - Less travel cost
- Provisions for small holder group certification – certification
- Certification based on Internal Control System (ICS)
- Risk assesment. Approach for external control



WHAT TO DO TO ACHIEVE THIS BALANCE

- Develop program to train organic farmers and small holder groups
- Adopt standard and inspection plan to the local situation
- Assure the farmers to get the right price for its production



A CERTIFICATION BODY SHOULD:

- Be able to certify to various public and private Standards
- To be accredited ISO guide 65
- To maintain a high quality and a professional work
- Assure to the certified product an access to all markets
- To provide to the applicant the update Standards
- Be willing to cooperate with local staff, train and use domestic inspectors, work with local domestic certification bodies

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And this has a cost.

