

The relationships among quality assurance systems

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Types of certification

- **Products**
 - safety, technical performance etc.
- **Organisation/management**
 - ISO 9000, ISO 14000
- **Process and Production Methods (PPM)**
 - Organic, Utz Kapeh, EurepGap
- **Origin**
 - area/country of origin
- **Personnel**
 - Accountants, auditors etc.



Terms

Third Party

First party Supplier

Second party Customer

Third party Independent

Certification normally means "third party certification"



Elements of a certification system



- Standards
- Contracts
- Inspection
- Certification, approval
- Management
- Labelling
- Information



Standards and certification bodies

- Legislations: EAOPS, EEC 2092/91, NOP (US) and many others
- International standards: Codex Alimentarius and IFOAM Basic Standards
- Many private standards
- 400 certification bodies, 8 in Africa



Organic assurance

Any systematic effort to assure that the product is organic



Different types of organic assurance



- Self claim
- Participatory Guarantee System – PGS
- 3rd party certification



Organic assurance in the local market in Africa

85 cases
11 countries

3 rd party	8
Self claim	61
"PGS"	16



What is Participatory Guarantee System - PGS?

- Credible guarantee for consumers
- Emphasize participation of stakeholders, farmers and sometimes also consumers
- High priority on knowledge and capacity building
- Wider scope than 3rd party certification – sharing ideas, capacity building
- PGS is more locally focused – seldom accepted for export
- The producers have the power and responsibilities



3rd party certification

- Independent certification open for all producers
- Done by independent bodies
- All producers inspected by the certification body
- Internal control system, ICS, some of the responsibilities delegated to the group/project.
- "Grower groups" is one type of ICS
- Internationally recognised certification
- Simpler local system



How can the organic assurance be organised?

- Self claim by individuals or groups
- PGS by a group, organised by the group itself, a buyer or a NGO
- ICS organised by a group, a buyer or a NGO



Comparing ICS and PGS

- Share the goal to assure the consumer about trustworthy organic production
- Internal Control Systems = an internal system by operators that are 3rd party certified
 - CB "delegates" some control functions to operator.
- Participatory Guarantee Systems = a certification by a group itself
 - with or without extra external assurance



Two different paths & perspectives



- 3rd party – trust is upheld by an independent outside body. ICS is mainly a mechanism to reduce external verification work
- PGS – trust is upheld by the group itself and by involvement of interested parties



Interested parties - stakeholders

- Involved in a Certification Body as owners, Boards or certification committee members
- Involved in the PGS directly in the group



Inspection and certification

- In the PGS the inspection and certification is done by the group, a smaller team or by individuals.
- In the ICS the external inspection is done by an inspector from an independent certification body and the certification decision is taken by the CB
- Paperwork is needed in both systems but in the PGS often less important. Both systems need standards and contracts
- Both systems need to have clear consequences for farmers not fulfilling the standard.
- Seals and labels can be used in both systems



Group certification without an ICS



- **Mainly for smaller groups**
- **All farmers are inspected**
- **Documentation, handling of products, selling can be done together in the group**
- **ICS is a difficult system for both the group and the certifier**
- **Cheaper!**



Remember!

- Transparency is always important
- Organic assurance/ Certification is a tool
- There are different options which fits differently well for different situations
- Use the best!



THANK YOU!

