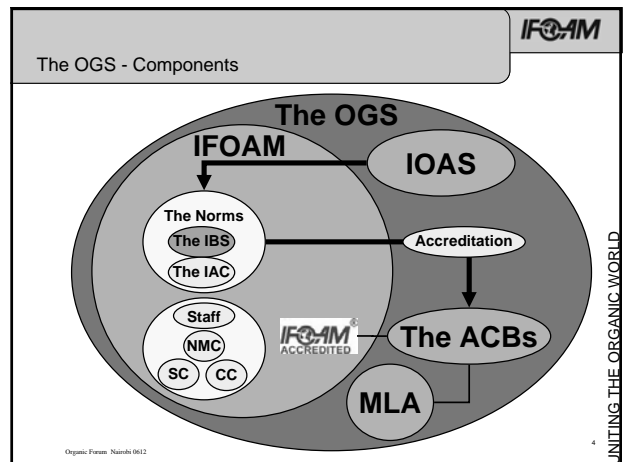
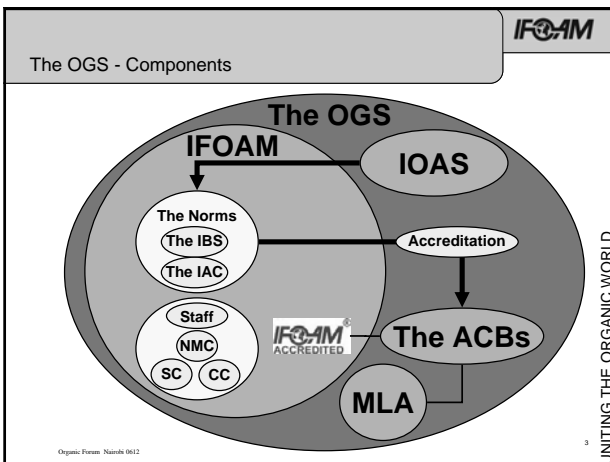




What is IFOAM's Organic Guarantee System ?

- A private international organic quality assurance system for organic production and processing, and products therefrom.
- Operating since 1993
- Comprised of several components
 - Norms (organic standards and certification requirements)
 - Certification
 - Accreditation
 - Quality seal for the system
 - Multi-lateral agreement (MLA)
- A collaboration among several actors
 - IFOAM
 - International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS)
 - IFOAM Accredited Certification Bodies

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The IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS)

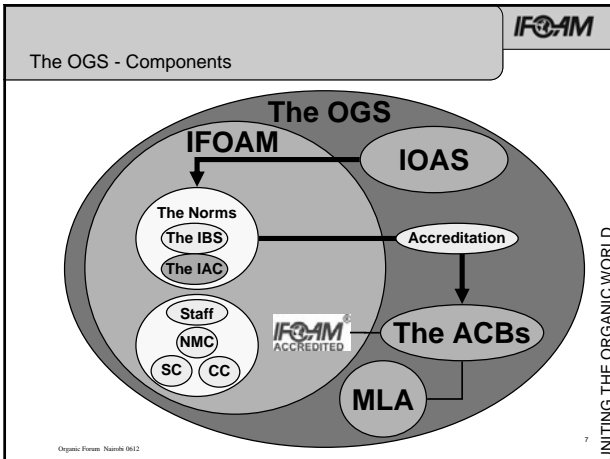
- Standards for standards (**they are not certification standards**)
- **Standards shall require that:**
- They define organic agriculture
- Enable regional variation
 - **From the introduction to the Norms Book:** Certification Standards should take into account specific local conditions ...
- Continuous development based on stakeholder involvement
 - Based on numerous IFOAM policies

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The IBS – Issues covered

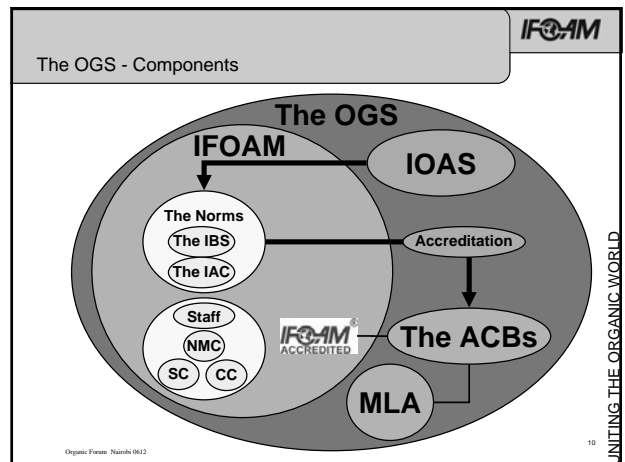
- General Requirements
 - Conversion to OA, Split/Parallel Production, GMOs
- Crop Production
 - Choice of crops, Fertilization, Contamination
- Animal Husbandry
 - Animal Feed and Nutrition, Living Conditions, Transport & Slaughter
- Aquaculture
- Processing and Handling
 - Ingredients, Processing Methods, Packaging, Textiles, Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Labelling
- Social Justice

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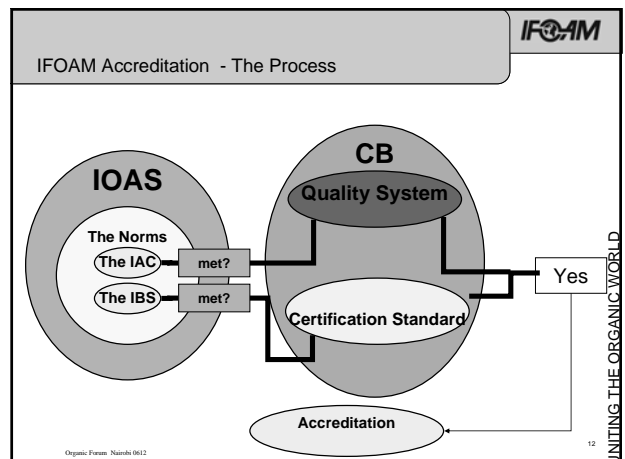


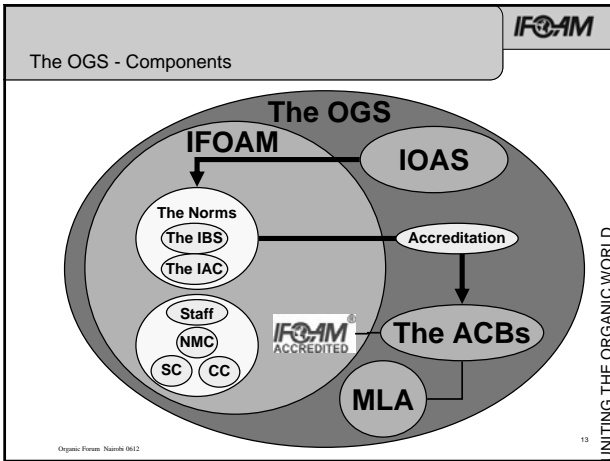
- ### The IFOAM Accreditation Criteria (IAC)
- Requirements for Certification Bodies (CB)
 - Need to be met by Certification Bodies that seek IFOAM Accreditation
 - Based on ISO 65, plus specific requirements relevant to Organic Agriculture
 - Group Certification
 - Conversion Period
 - Inspection
 - Split and Parallel Production
 - GMOs
 - Acceptance of Prior Certification
 - Regular revisions based on stakeholder involvement
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- ### The IAC – Issues covered
- CB Structure
 - Responsibilities, Impartiality + Objectivity
 - CB Quality System,
 - Quality Policy + System
 - Documentation and Document Control
 - Public Access to information
 - Application and Inspection Procedures:
 - Visit procedures, Inspection report specific to organic
 - Certification for Specific Circumstances or Scope
 - Internal Control Systems, Wild Products, Certification of inputs
 - Certification Procedures
 - Certification Decisions, Sanctions, Appeals
 - Acceptance of Prior Certification
 - a) recognition of a certification program, b) document review.
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- ### IFOAM Accreditation
- Carried out by the IOAS (International Organic Accreditation Service)
 - Independent Non-Profit Organization, based in USA
 - Formed by IFOAM in 1994
 - Implements IFOAM Accreditation under a formal agreement with IFOAM
 - Currently 36 Certification Bodies Accredited
 - Process
 - Screening of documentation against IFOAM requirements (norms)
 - Evaluation visit (including witness audits)
 - Annual surveillance visits
 - Complete re-evaluation every 4 years
 - Costs
 - Application fee: \$ 5500
 - Evaluation fee: \$450/day
 - Annual fee: \$3000 + variable based on yearly income
 - Surveillance fee: \$2000
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IFOAM Accreditation - The IFOAM Seal

- Seal use granted to IFOAM Accredited Certification Bodies
- IFOAM Accredited Certification Bodies can sublicense the use of the seal to operators
- Seal can only be used on products certified within an IFOAM Accredited Program
- Can only be used next to certification mark

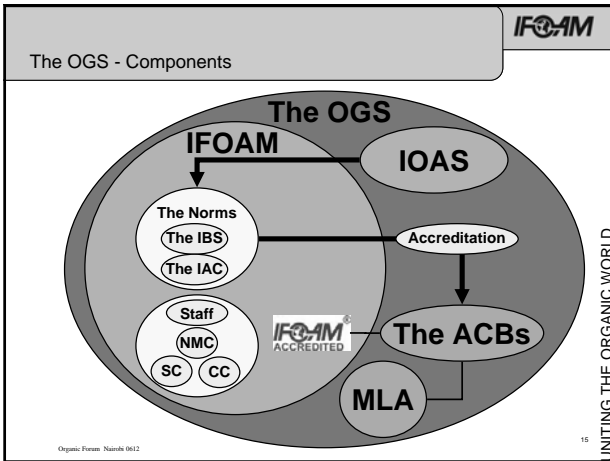
The IFOAM Seal is the global organic guarantee

www.ifoam.org

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The Accredited Certification Bodies' Multi-Lateral Agreement

- IFOAM Accreditation is the basis for trust among certification bodies in certification results
- ACBs are both private and government sector
- Multilateral agreement is the contractual recognition of (prior) certification of other signatories of the MLA
- The objective is to have a smooth flow of certification through the organic supply chain, where the certification at one point in the chain is recognized and accepted at the next point, and so forth.

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Multilateral Agreement (MLA)

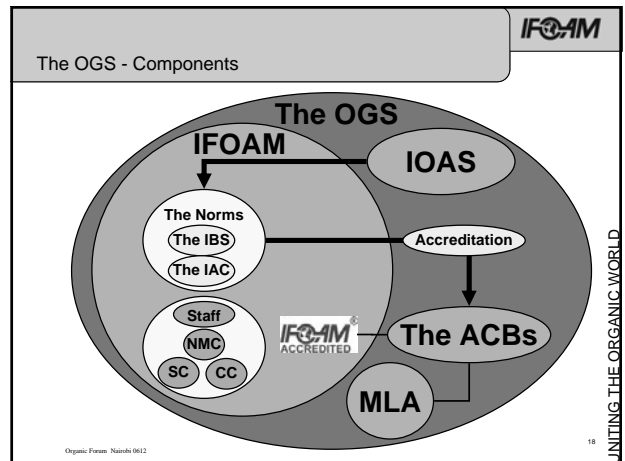
– Accredited certification bodies Accept products certified by each other Based on recognition. Recognition is Based on compliance with the IFOAM norms.

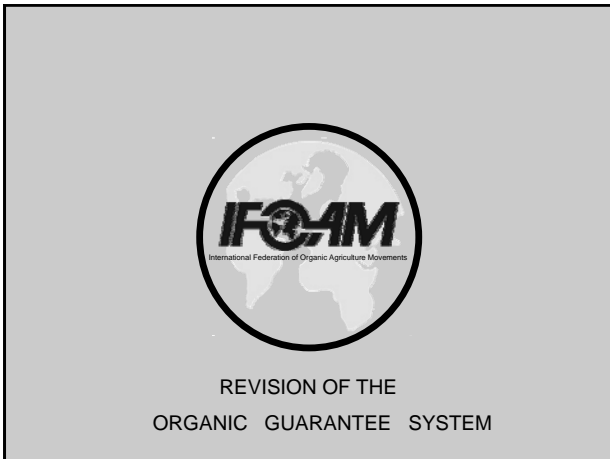
The diagram shows a central circle labeled 'Compliance With Basic Standards & Accreditation Criteria'. This central circle is surrounded by eight diamond-shaped nodes, each connected to the center by a line, representing the mutual recognition between different certification bodies.

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OGS Review

Reasons

- Lacked a clear statement of OGS purpose and objectives
 - Best practices system?
 - Baseline system?
- Change in the environment since the establishment of the OGS
 - Ever increasing number of government regulations
 - Increasing number of private standards and certification bodies not in OGS
 - Lack of government recognition for OGS
- To improve ability of stakeholders to understand the system and see benefits
- Ensure that OGS contributes to IFOAM mission and goals
 - Harmonization and market development
 - International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence

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OGS Revision –Results

IFOAM 2005 General Assembly clarified that :

Purpose of the OGS is to:

- protect organic integrity,
- ensure consumer confidence
- facilitate access to organic products.

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OGS Revision –Results

IFOAM General Assembly

Objectives of the OGS should be to:

- draw a distinct line between organic and not organic
- safeguard the integrity of organic production and certification
- provide sufficient oversight mechanism to maintain trust between the parties involved
- facilitate global acceptance of organic products certified under different systems
- be a platform for cooperation between the affected parties

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OGS Review – Results

- Furthermore, the OGS should:
 - work together with other existing systems, including governmental systems
 - be accessible for all serious producers and certification systems
 - work to improve guarantee systems and to build certification capacity
 - allow for different solutions in different contexts
 - i.e. realize that organic production certification needs to be adapted to the local conditions and the stage of development
 - have simple and transparent procedures of operation
 - include service and problem solving approaches, and seek to add value

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OGS Revision

- Revision Components (highlights)
 - **Comprehensive revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards**
 - True "standards-for-standards"
 - More relationship to the principles of organic agriculture
 - More emphasis on objectives for standards setters (what standards must address)
 - Less emphasis on "how" to implement objectives (prescriptions)
 - Limited lists of mandatory and prohibited practices
 - **Building up an IFOAM Family of Standards, including**
 - Regional private standards (e.g. East Africa Regional Standard, Italian Organic Standard)
 - Government standards (e.g. EU regulation, Chinese regulation)
 - **International Certification Body Forum**
 - 50-60 CBs participating
 - Objectives include networking/cooperation, CB capacity development and improvement of the general system of certification
 - Workshops on key topics

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