



Antônio Prado - RS - Brasil
22 a 27 de outubro de 2007



LETTER OF ANTONIO PRADO

From the beginning, Organic* Agriculture has sought ways to guarantee the organic integrity of products to consumers. Various organic quality assurance systems were developed to allow farmers to differentiate their products in the marketplace. Over time, these mechanisms have evolved into a complex system of laws, norms, accreditations, inspections, contracts, seals, and other people's commercial interests.

These guarantee systems have brought benefits, but also negative consequences especially for small farmers. While Organic Agriculture has benefited from legislation increasing society's recognition on an international level, the cost of certification and complexity of rules and procedures make it difficult for small farmers and consumers to access the organic sector, especially in the countries of the south.

In the last several years, this problem has been tackled worldwide at multiple levels (producers, consumers and supporters). Among the solutions that have emerged are methodologies for conformity assessment of products and processes complying with organic production norms based on participation by stakeholders and procedures adapted to specific political contexts and socio cultural realities. These are called Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).

IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) and MAELA (Latin American Agro Ecological Movement), organized the Seminar on Alternative Certification in Torres, 2004, stimulating multiplication of experiences as well as ways to recognize, legitimize and legalize PGS. With the aim to follow up and exchange experiences to identify strategies and actions to spread out PGS adoption and acceptance, IFOAM and MAELA; decided to join efforts again and promoted the Latin American Seminar on PGS. The Seminar was organized by Centro Ecológico, and carried out from October 22nd to 27th, 2007, in Antonio Prado, Rio Grande do Sul - Brazil.

The 46 participants coming from 16 countries, mainly Latin Americans, publicly reaffirm through this document, that PGS are valid mechanisms to generate credibility of organic products and that they are a necessary tool to provide market access to all stakeholders involved in organic production and consumption, as well as an efficient tool to build knowledge networks.

* This paper considers Organic as a synonym of Agroecological, Ecological, Biological.

Organização:



Colaboração:



Apoio:



Secretaria da Agricultura Familiar

Secretaria de Desenvolvimento Territorial

Ministério do Desenvolvimento Agrário





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The participants affirm that legislation in different countries should recognize PGS in its full diversity, without imposing procedures that make it lose its identity. They should also provide mechanisms to foster organic production and not only work with control aspects.

According to the Principles of Organic Agriculture, a primary market for producers involved in PGS, are local and domestic markets. But, according to several contexts, often producers also need access to the international marketplace. Besides this, we believe that the product or process generated with PGS should not be limited to geographical boundaries. Therefore, participants give their support for the international recognition of PGS and the possibility that products guaranteed by this process can circulate among countries.

The inclusion of consumers in PGS is considered highly important for everyone involved in these systems, and we commit to make every effort to increase the participation of these stakeholders.

Reaffirming our commitment of the previous Seminar, IFOAM and MAELA with all the present organizations, commit to foment PGS in their members countries and places of international representation.

Antonio Prado, Brazil, October 26th 2007.

Organização:



Colaboração:



Apoio:



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Participantes	Institución	País
Martin Eimer	IFOAM	Alemania / Germany
Maria Calzada	El Rincón Orgánico	Argentina
Patricia Flores	IFOAM	Argentina
Abel Jarro	Ecoferia Cochabamba	Bolivia
Daniel Vildoza	AOPEB	Bolivia
Georgina Catacora	Agregol	Bolivia
Nélson Ramos	AOPEB	Bolivia
Cláudia Moreira	ADAO	Brasil
Cristina Ribeiro	ABIO	Brasil
Francismar C. da Silva.	Xique-xique	Brasil
Irene García Rocas	ACS	Brasil
Laércio Meirelles	Centro Ecológico	Brasil
Leandro Venturin	Centro Ecológico	Brasil
Luiz Carlos Rebelatto	GTZ / MDA Federal Brazilian Government	Brasil
Marcelo Nunes	SAF/ MDA Federal Brazilian Government	Brasil
Marcelo Passos	Rede Ecovida	Brasil
Maria F. Fonseca	PESAGRO-RIO	Brasil
Roberto Mattar	MAPA Federal Brazilian Government	Brasil
Rogério Rosa	Heiffer Brasil	Brasil
Romeu Leite	ANC Campinas	Brasil
Mário Ahumada	MAELA	Chile
Patricia Antillero	Tierra Viva	Chile
Marbelis Del Carmen	RECAR	Colombia
Tarcisio Aguilar	La RECAR Antioquia	Colombia
Antony Garcia	CDS	Costa Rica
Maureen Lizano	Comité Mercados	Costa Rica
Carlos Padilla	CLUSA	El Salvador
Israel Morales	CLUSA	El Salvador
Diego Andrade	VECO	Ecuador
Benjamín Macas	CEA	Ecuador
Eva Torremocha	Andaluzia	Espanña
Fabio Piccoli	ICEA	Italia / Italy
Felipe Iñigues	MAELA	México
Fidel Mejia Lara	Red Tianguis	México
Cesar López	CIPAE	Paraguay
América Gonzalez	Altervida	Paraguay
Hipólito Vidal	SENAVE Paraguayan Government	Paraguay
Alfredo Rincon	ANPE	Perú
Daniel Carrion	ANPE	Perú
Jannet Villanueva	Tierra de hombres	Perú
Mariela Wismann	Heifer Peru	Perú
Mario Tapia	ANPE	Perú
Rodolfo Magne	SSNC	Suecia / Sweden
Betty Mandl	DGSA del MAG Uruguayan Government	Uruguay
Hugo Bértola	APODU	Uruguay
Noelia Gimenez	Red de Agroecologia	Uruguay

Organização:



Colaboração:



Apoio:



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