

Organic Production

Objectives, Principles and General Rules

Summary from:
SRS Organic Standard

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Based on

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007, as amended
COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008, as amended

Objectives

Organic production shall pursue the following general objectives:

Establish a **sustainable management** system for agriculture that:

- respects nature's systems and cycles and sustains and enhances the health of soil, water, plants and animals and the balance between them;
- contributes to a high level of biological diversity;
- makes responsible use of energy and the natural resources, such as water, soil, organic matter and air.

Aim at producing of **high-quality products**.

Aim at producing a wide variety of foods and other agricultural products that respond to consumers' demand for **goods produced by the use of processes that do not harm the environment, human health, plant health or animal health and welfare**.

Overall principles

Organic production shall be based on the following principles:

The appropriate design and management of biological **processes based on ecological systems using natural resources which are internal to the system** by methods that:

- use living organisms and mechanical production methods;
- practice land-related crop cultivation;
- exclude the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products produced from or by GMOs;
- are based on risk assessment, and the use of precautionary and preventive measures, when appropriate.

The **restriction of the use of external inputs**. Where external inputs are required, or the appropriate management practices and methods referred above do not exist, these shall be limited to:

- inputs from organic production;
- natural or naturally-derived substances;
- low solubility mineral fertilisers.

The **strict limitation of the use of chemically synthesised inputs** to exceptional cases these being:

- where the appropriate management practices do not exist; and
- the external inputs are not available on the market; or
- where the use of external inputs contributes to unacceptable environmental impacts.

The adaptation of the rules of organic production taking account of sanitary status, regional differences in climate and local conditions and stages of development. Any adaptations have to be approved and implemented only when necessary and within the framework of this standard.

General production rules

Prohibition on the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs shall not be used as food, feed, processing aids, plant protection products, fertilisers, soil conditioners, seeds, vegetative propagating material, micro-organisms and animals in organic production.

For food and feed made in the EU, operators may assume that the product is not produced by GMO and no GMOs have been used in the manufacture of purchased product, when not stated on the label or accompanying documents.

For other products than food and feed (such as processing aids, ingredients, fertilizers or plant protection products) made in the EU the operator must request the non-GMO declaration for the product by its manufacturer.

In case of use of any product not made in EU, the operator must request the non-GMO declaration for the product by its manufacturer. Operators using non-organic products

purchased from third parties shall require the vendor to confirm that the products supplied have not been produced from or by GMOs.

Prohibition on the use of ionizing radiation

The use of ionising radiation for the treatment of organic food or feed, or of raw materials used in organic food or feed is prohibited.