

Workshop Title: Future-Proofing Organic Farming: Improving Group Certification and ICS Compliance

Subtitle: Navigating New EU Requirements Insights from Growers and Certifiers

Main Organizer & Contact Person:

Organizer: Naturland e.V. Germany

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Steering Committee Members:

Marco Schlüter

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Main Topic:

The workshop will update participants on the requirements of EU Regulation 2018/848 related to grower groups with Internal Control Systems (ICS). It will discuss the impact of these requirements on several key areas:

- Group composition and how the new rules affect formation of the group and operations.
- Effects on producers based on total land holding and turnover limits by crop type.
- ICS documentation and challenges, including required documents and common implementation issues.
- Expected cost increases associated with compliance.
- Collaboration with control bodies and changes in these relationships.
- ICS documentation requirements, emphasizing traceability and comprehensive record-keeping.
- Risk assessment and precautionary measures for identifying and mitigating potential risks under the new regulation.

Targeted Public:

Farmers, grower groups, certification bodies, consultants, NGOs, with a focus on the Global South

Main Objectives of the Workshop:

- The workshop aims to provide an understanding of the EU Regulation 2018/848 requirements for group certification with Internal Control Systems (ICS).
- It seeks to evaluate the current and future impacts of the regulation on the organic sector and explore ways to strengthen ICS beyond governmental mandates.
- It addresses financial and administrative challenges faced by small-scale farmers in low and middle- income countries in obtaining organic certification, by focusing on how group certification with ICS, can facilitate market access and maintain high-quality standards for organic products.
- This workshop will equip participants with the knowledge needed ensuring the sustainability and growth of organic farming in the Global South.

**Language: English (with materials and key insights shared via online platforms)**

**Maximum Participants: 50 people**