

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:

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Steering Committee Members:

- Marco Schlüter
- Federica Varini
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Main Topic:

1. 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
2. on several key areas:
3. Group composition and how the new rules affect formation of the group and operations.
4. Effects on producers based on total land holding and turnover limits by crop type.
5. ICS documentation and challenges, including required documents and common implementation issues.
6. Expected cost increases associated with compliance.
7. Collaboration with control bodies and changes in these relationships.
8. ICS documentation requirements, emphasizing traceability and comprehensive record-keeping.
9. 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