

Future Growers seminar



ORGANIC: PRINCIPLES STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION

Isabel Griffiths, June 2015

WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?



WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?



Farming without chemicals?

Back to pre-WW II farming?

Replacing chemical inputs with organic inputs?

Small-scale, self-sufficiency?

Hippy farming?

WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?



A farming system where the use of pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilisers is prohibited or strictly limited

WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?



WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?



Holistic

Wildlife-friendly

Good animal welfare

Crop rotations

Mixed cropping

Soil health

On-farm nutrient sources

Natural pest control

Mechanical weed control



WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?



'Organic Farming is a production system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetically compounded fertilisers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives.

To the maximum extent feasible, organic farming systems rely on crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, legumes, green manures, off-farm organic wastes, and aspects of biological pest control to maintain soil productivity and tilth, to supply plant nutrients and to control insects, **weeds and other pests.**'

USDA

IFOAM
ORGANICS
INTERNATIONAL

WHAT IS IFOAM?

1. A community





ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT OF
IFoAM - ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL

2014

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IFOAM
EU GROUP

IFOAM
IRAN

IFOAM
ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY
ALLIANCE

IFOAM
AGRIBIO
MEDITERRANEO

IFOAM
AQUA
CULTURE

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SOUTHERN
AFRICAN
NETWORK

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AMENITY
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Regional
Bodies

THE IFOAM - ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL ACTION GROUP

IFOAM
Sector
Platforms



IFOAM
AMERICA
LATINA

IFOAM
JAPAN

IFOAM
TECHNOLOGY
INNOVATION
PLATFORM

IFOAM
FRANCE

IFOAM asia

UMBRELLA	Uniting the Organic Movement
VALUE CHAIN	Facilitating Production and Trade
ADVOCACY	Promoting Sustainability in Agriculture
PROGRAMS	Assisting Organic Development
ACADEMY	Building Organic Leaders' Capacity

IFOAM
Daughter
Organization



WHAT IS IFOAM?

1. A community
2. Norms



IFOAM NORMS

Set the basis for organic standards (The IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing)

Outline organic principles (Common Objectives and Requirements of organic Standards)

Give a framework for organic operators and certification bodies

(Accreditation requirements)



WHAT IS IFOAM?

1. A community
2. Norms
3. Principles



IFOAM PRINCIPLES



What do these mean?





THE SOIL ASSOCIATION



Founded in 1946

Concerns:

- The loss of soil through erosion and depletion
- Decreased nutritional quality of intensively produced food
- Exploitation of animals in intensive units
- Impact of large intensive farming system on the countryside and wildlife



LADY EVE BALFOUR



THE SOIL ASSOCIATION



Farm trials:

1. New intensive post-war methods
2. **'Traditional' techniques**
3. Mixed system

New understanding of synergies between traditional and new techniques

First Soil Association standards 1967

SA STANDARDS HISTORY



1967 - guidelines

Soil husbandry

Crop husbandry

Animal husbandry

2015 - standards

Farming and growing

Aquaculture

Processing

Health and beauty

Textiles

Food for Life Catering Mark



OUR STANDARDS



1. Agriculture

2. Aquaculture

3. Horticulture

4. Processing

5. Health & beauty

6. Textiles

7. Catering Mark



Covered by EU
organic
regulations



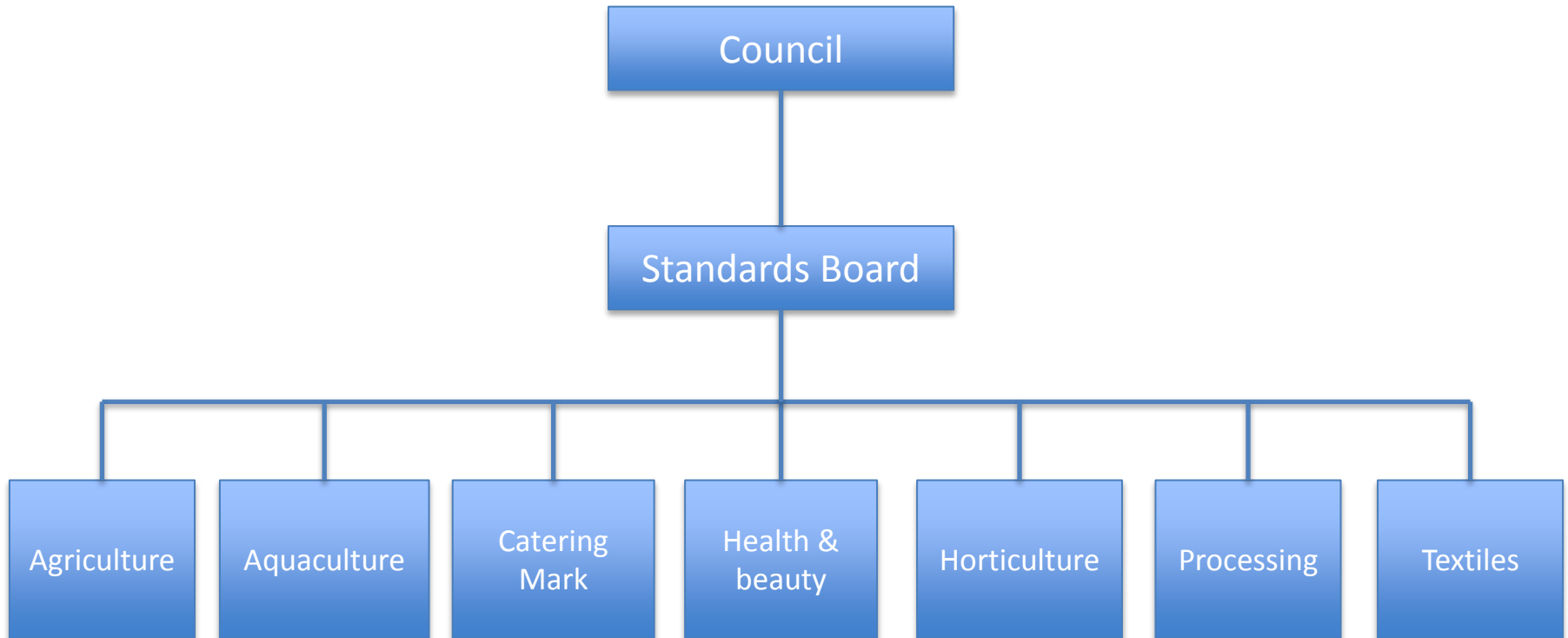
EU or global
standards
partnerships



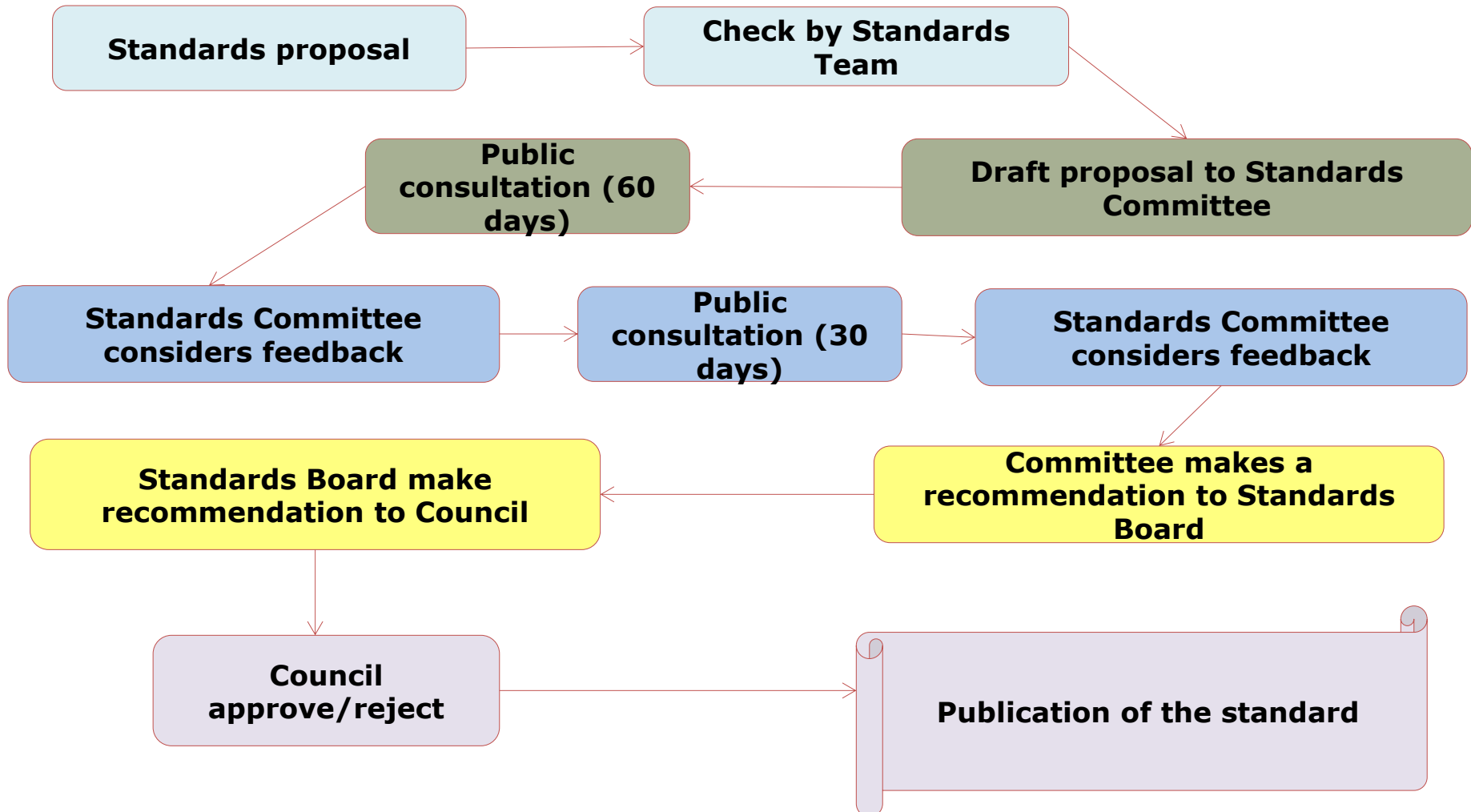
Soil Association
scheme



STANDARDS STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE



STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT



Home – What is organic? – Organic standards – The standards

[Organic farming](#)

[Organic animals](#)

[Organic food](#)

[Organic textiles](#)

[Organic beauty](#)

[Organic standards](#)

[Our symbol and standards](#)

[The standards](#)

[How we set standards](#)

[Standards committees](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Ethical trade](#)

[How do I know it's organic?](#)

[Packaging standards](#)

[Organic principles](#)

Standards

No system of farming has higher levels of animal welfare than organic farms working to our standards. Our organic standards use the EU organic regulation as their baseline, but in many cases our standards are more robust.

From time to time, we hold [public consultations](#) on our standards. We encourage you to get involved and participate in these consultations.

The current version of the standards are organised by sector below:

Farming and growing standards

- [Farming and growing](#)
- [Livestock markets](#)
- [Abattoirs and slaughtering](#)
- [Aquaculture](#)

If you are a feed manufacturer the standards you need to comply with are chapters 40 and 41 contained in the [food and drink standards](#), and standards 10.13.37 and 10.13.38 in the [farming and growing standards](#).

Food and drink standards

- [Food and drink](#)



Related links

Find out more

- [Resource for farmers and growers](#)
- [Standards development](#)



EU ORGANIC REGULATIONS



Published in 1991

EC Regulation 834/2007

EC Regulation 889/2008

How we shaped its formation

IFOAM standards (heavily influenced by UK IFOAM members)

UKROFS and other national standards (based largely on SA standards)

IFOAM EC delegation - formed in 1986 to advise the COM

EU ORGANIC REGULATIONS



Framing organic regulation 834/2007:

Organic production is an overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources, the application of high animal welfare standards and a production method in line with the preference of certain consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes. **The organic production method thus plays a dual societal role, where it on the one hand provides for a specific market responding to a consumer demand for organic products, and on the other hand delivers public goods contributing to the protection of the environment and animal welfare,** as well as to rural development.

EU ORGANIC REGULATIONS



Implementing regulation 889/2008

...laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control



Group task



Why have Soil Association standards?

Why have a regulation for organic production and processing?



STANDARDS WHY HAVE THEM?



- To drive change
- To enable innovation
- To improve EU organic regulation
- To support the global organic movement



Why have a regulation for organic?



1. Consumer protection
2. Level playing field
3. Official 'recognition' – public goods = financial incentives



CERTIFICATION



Declaration of Intent

Those who are prepared to subscribe to the above Standards are invited—where applicable—to sign the following Declaration:

To:

In consideration of your agreeing to include the name and address of

my.....in your publication *Wholefood Finder*, I undertake that to the best of my ability all the foods which may be produced or sold by me (or my firm) as organically grown will be produced according to the "Recommended" or "Permitted" standards annexed herewith.

Signed.....

CERTIFICATION



- Any food or drink product sold as 'organic' must comply with the EU regulation
- All members of the supply chain must be certified and licensed
- SACL can inspect and award organic certification to EU regulation **and** the SA standards



CERTIFICATION



	Approved UK organic control bodies	
1	Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd	GB-ORG-02
2	Organic Food Federation	GB-ORG-04
3	Soil Association Certification Ltd	GB-ORG-05
4	Biodynamic Agricultural Association	GB-ORG-06
5	Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association	GB-ORG-07
6	Organic Trust Ltd	GB-ORG-09
7	Quality Welsh Food Certification	GB-ORG-13
8	Global Trust Certification Ltd	GB-ORG-16
9	Scottish Food Quality Certification Ltd	GB-ORG-17

SOIL ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATION



- a subsidiary of the Soil Association Charity
- set up in 1973
- offers independent auditing from field to consumer
- 100% of Soil Association Certification surplus income reinvested in Soil Association charity



CERTIFICATION



Annual inspection:

- Farm/production site visit
- Inspection report
- Identification of corrective actions
- Organic plans
- Spot inspections



CERTIFICATION



Conversion periods:

24 months arable land and grassland

36 months perennial crops

Simultaneous conversion land + crops

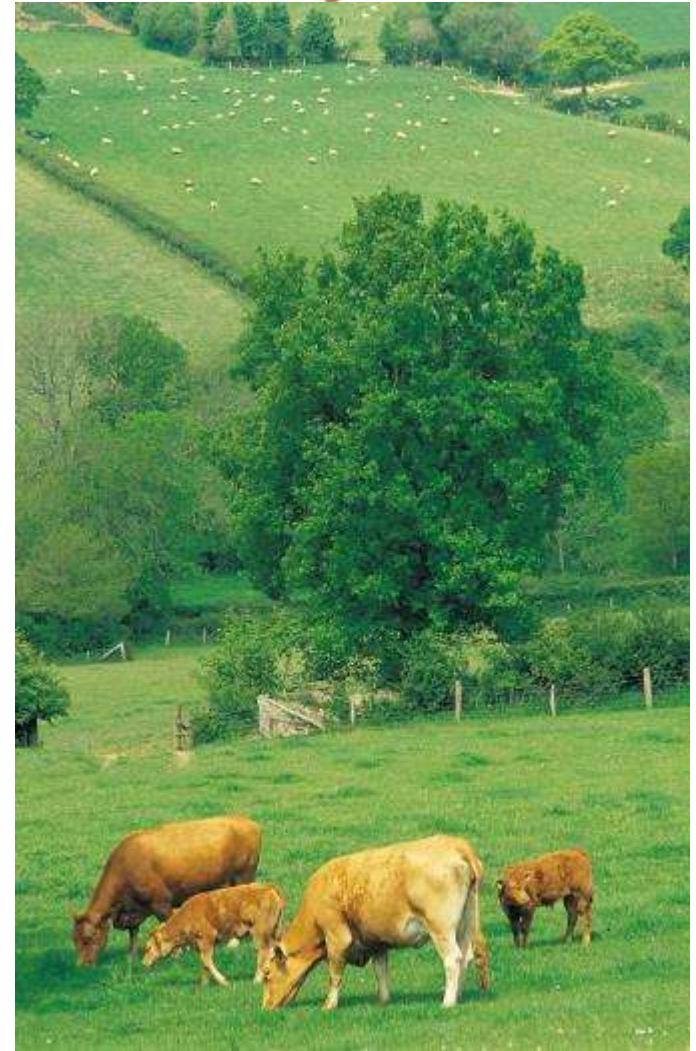
Reduced conversion periods



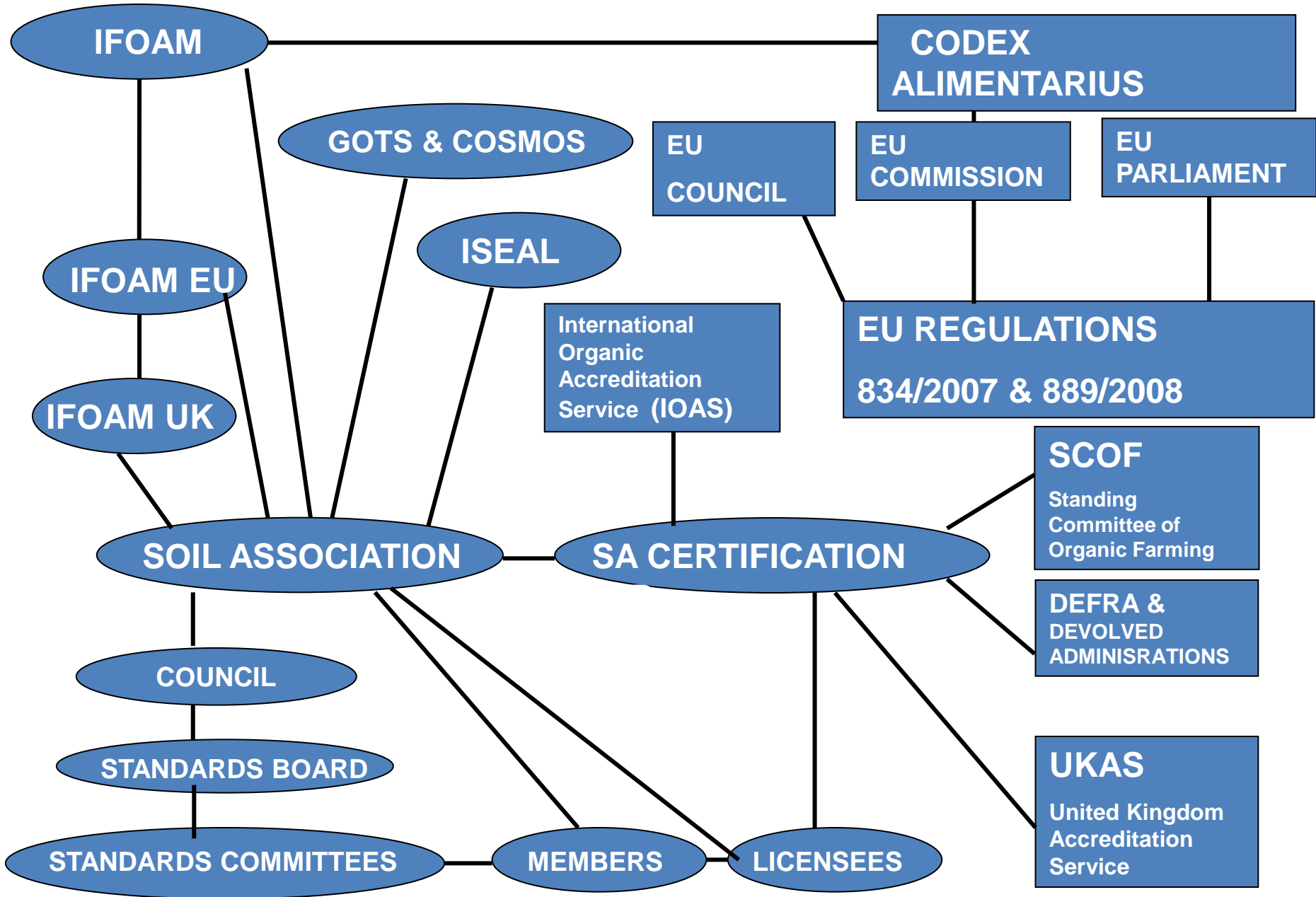
CERTIFICATION



Why have a conversion period?









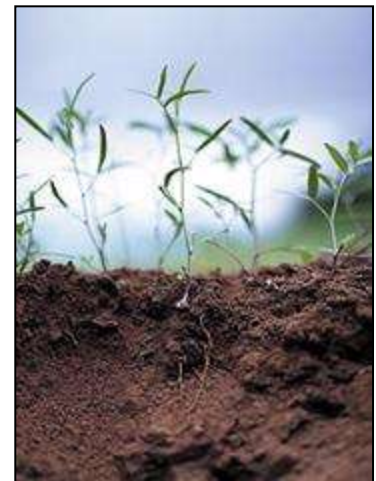
PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

SOIL HEALTH



'Feed the soil and let the soil feed the plant'

Lady Eve Balfour, The Living Soil



SOIL HEALTH

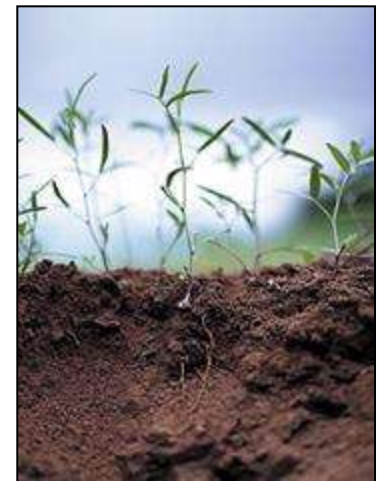


Aims:

- Maintain and enhance soil health including soil fertility and soil structure
- Maintain humus levels, biological activity and plant nutrients

Key practices:

- Return of crop residues, animal manures
- Use of green manures
- Well-timed cultivations, avoiding damage to soil structure
- Monitoring levels of soil organic matter, available plant nutrients
- Nutrient budgeting



ROTATIONS



The cornerstone of organic horticultural and arable production

Balanced rotation benefits:

- Building of fertility
- Varying demands on the soil
- Providing nutritional needs of crops
- Limit disease spread
- Help prevent weed problems
- Break lifecycle of pests
- Keep nutrient loss to a minimum



ROTATIONS



Things you should do:

Use fertility building crops – legumes (catch crops, green manures, leys, legume crops)

Deep vs shallow rooting crops

Weed suppressing vs weed susceptible

Things you shouldn't do?



WEED CONTROL



Things you should do:

Careful design and management of whole farm system e.g. good rotation design

Good manure management

Well-timed soil cultivation

Good farm hygiene



WEED CONTROL



Methods:

Weed suppressing crops

Green manures

Good composting of plant wastes and manures

Pre-sowing cultivation, stale seed beds

Crop variety selection for weed suppression/vigour

Under-sowing

Mechanical weed control



PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION



Questions?



ORGANIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY



Aim:

To rear livestock in optimal conditions for the species with special care for their health and welfare, providing conditions that satisfy their behavioural needs.



ORGANIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY



Elements of the system:

- Stress free outdoor based systems with high welfare standards
- Access to grazing when conditions allow
- Ample space when housed to reduce stress and disease
- Natural **diet free from GMO's**



ORGANIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY



How:

Good management practices

High standards of welfare

Good stockmanship

Aims:

Prevention of disease and injury

Increase resistance of stock to infection and disease

Increase their ability to overcome disease (rapid healing)



PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

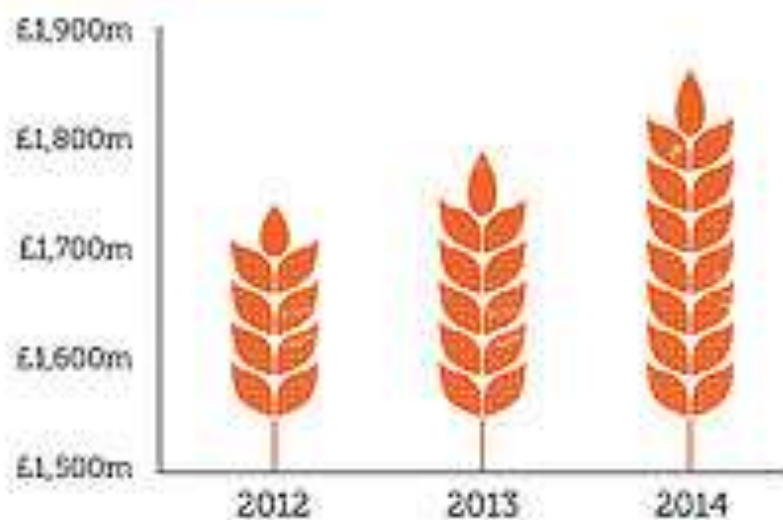


Questions?



THE ORGANIC MARKET 2014

UK sales of organic products, 2012–2014





UK organic
sales up

4%



**Growth in organic
sales of Soil Association
symbol holders**

+7.7%▲







THANK YOU

