

Introduction of LOAM and guidelines for Organic Certification

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Helvetas Sri Lanka & LOAM

What is LOAM?

- National Association with 70 members
- LOAM – Lanka Organic Agricultural Movement, It is involved in:
- Promotion of O/A and Awareness creation on O/A
- Policy Advocacy for O/A
- Advisory support
- Technical collaboration on O/A

Primary objectives of LOAM

- To promote Organic Agriculture (OA) in Sri Lanka (SL)
- To contribute to establish, improve and maintain standards for O/A in SL
- To create awareness on O/A among different target groups – various interest groups, mainstream gov. organisations in the Agriculture sector, public in general.

Main out puts by LOAM

- OA sector has been recognized by the Government
- An organic products council (OPC) has been initiated
- Setting up guidelines for organic production and processing standards
- Proposed a certification label for “certified organic” in Sri Lanka

Highlights of the guidelines for organic stds.

- Prepared based on the IFOAM Basic standards
- Principles and aims of O/A - *holistic*
- Organic Ecosystems – *system based approach*
–*main aim is to conserve biodiversity*
- Soil and water conservation- *conservation through recycling and re-use*

Guidelines contd.

- Genetic engineering – *not allowed*
- Wild harvested products- *permitted, derived from sustainable & stable systems*
- Conversion period – *24 months for annual crops, 36 months for perennial crops*
- Crop production through *rotation & diversification*
- Use of Seeds and their production - *mostly of organic origin*

Guidelines contd.

- Soil management – *long term programme based on composted organic material, animal and green manures*
- On-farm production of organic materials for nitrogen self sufficiency – *hedge rows and cover crops*
- Pest & disease management through *biological, physical and cultural means*

Guidelines contd.

- Processing and handling of organic produce
- Labeling of produce “Certified Organic” or ‘made with organic ingredients”, “In conversion”
- Animal husbandry
- Indigenous knowledge
- Annexes

THANK
YOU



LANKA ORGANIC
AGRICULTURAL MOVEMENTS