

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
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aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



Deutsch-Kasachischer Agrarpolitischer Dialog
Германо-Казахстанский аграрно-политический диалог

IFOAM -Organics International

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)

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IFOAM – Organics International

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally-focused quality assurance systems.

They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange.

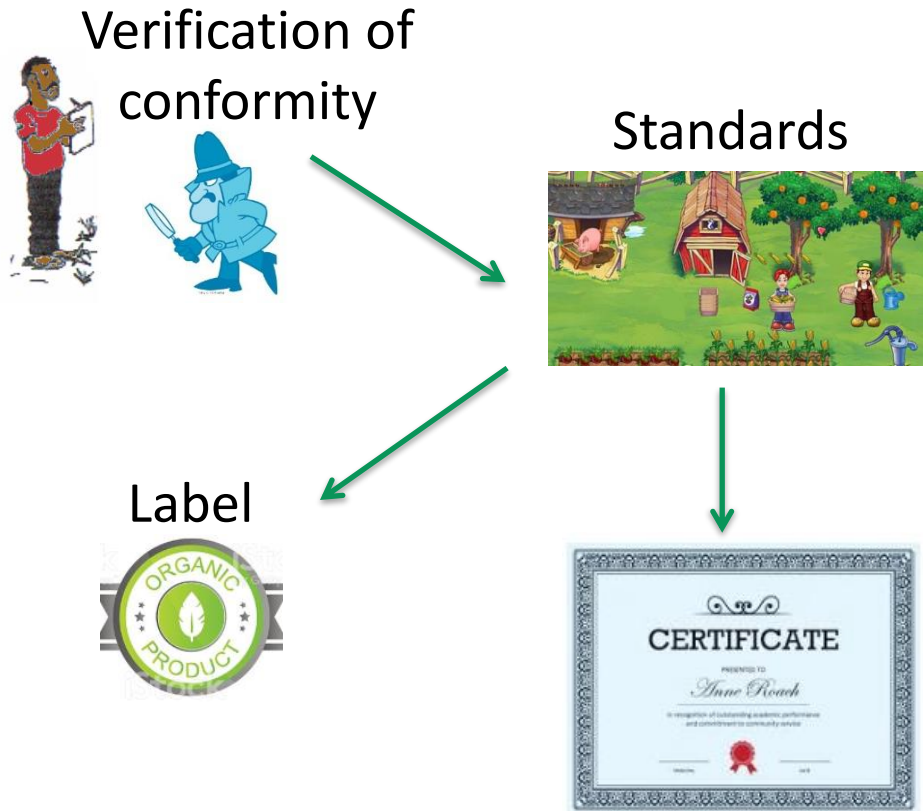
Definition adopted by IFOAM – Organics International in 2008.

PGS is ...

- ... an alternative to third party certification.
- ... a tool for the development of local organic markets.

What is PGS?

A verification system:



PGS key elements

- Shared vision
- Trust
- Horizontality
- Transparency
- Participation
- Learning process



Stakeholder participation is key!

They participate in:

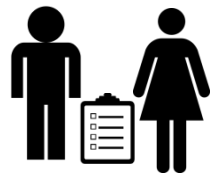
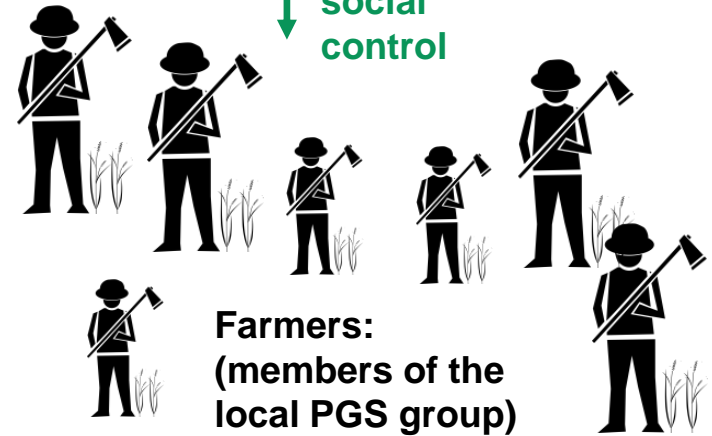
- Shaping and selection of standards
- Designing the procedures
- Verification process, farm reviews
- Decision making



Let's see it work ...



Year-round social control



Other local stakeholders (NGO, local retailer extension worker, consultant, etc.)



Regional / national stakeholder council



Objectives of a farm review

- Know the practices of the producers so that the PGS can ensure conformity of the practices.
 - Accompany the producer in a process of improvement of the practices.
- This is an exchange that goes beyond a simple control

Potential of PGS

- Develop local market – tool to build assurance/trust with consumers
- Affordable certification system and label also for small-scale farmers
- Facilitate learning and knowledge exchange between farmers – capacity building tool
- Organize farmers, involve consumers,

PGS is NOT ...

... a tool for export/long-distance markets.

It is not recognized by many governments (e.g. EU, US, China, Japan)

It has limitation in being able monitor/oversee complex/long value chains.

Third party certification versus PGS

Third-party certification

PGS

Independent/external and impartial	Participatory (stakeholder involvement)
In accordance with international norms (ISO, ...)	Following general PGS international principles, but locally adapted
Gives access to international markets	Access mainly to local, regional or unregulated markets
Most common guarantee system in government organic regulations	Not everywhere recognized
Deals only with certification	Combines with other functions, e.g. capacity building, marketing

Two kinds of group certification: ICS & PGS

Internal Control System (ICS)

PGS

Certification assured by external body (third party)	Certification assured by actors themselves (second party)
Only certification	Certification and social aspects
Joint marketing	Joint and individual marketing
Group certificates and sanctions	Individual certificate and sanctions
Mainly export	Mainly local market
Hierarchy vertical	Hierarchy horizontal
Certifier own seal	PGS owns the seal
Limited to producers	Involves all citizens

PGS History

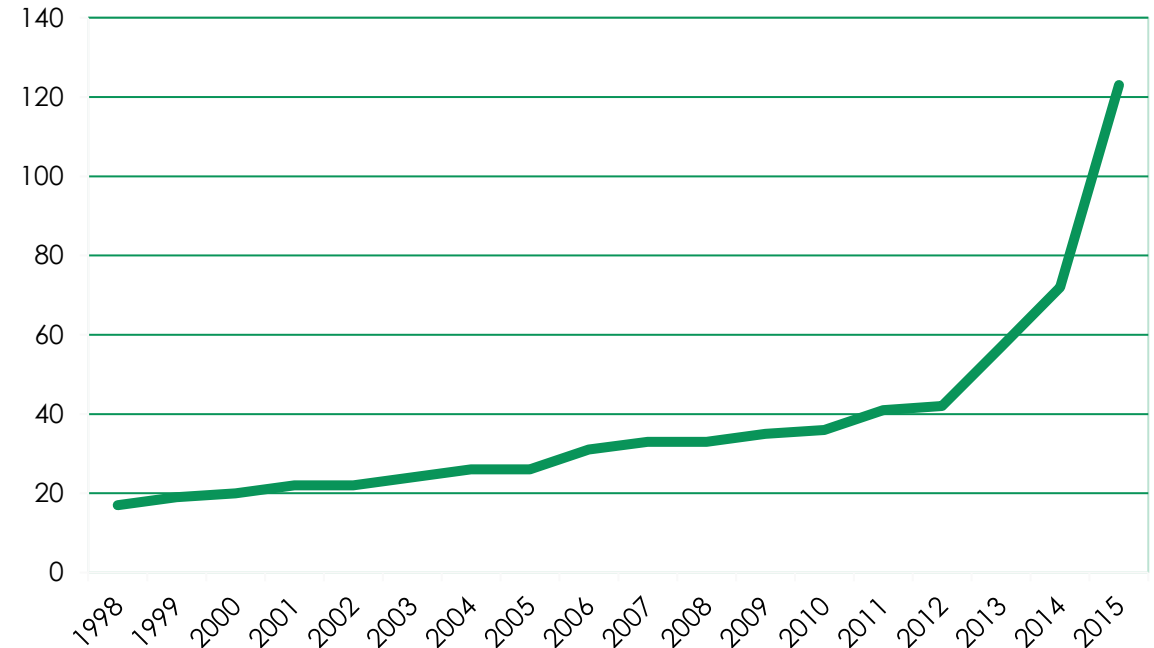
Existed before 3rd party certification

Developed independently in different countries (e.g. France, Brazil, New Zealand)

2004: International Workshop on Alternative Certification
→ Birth of PGS as a concept

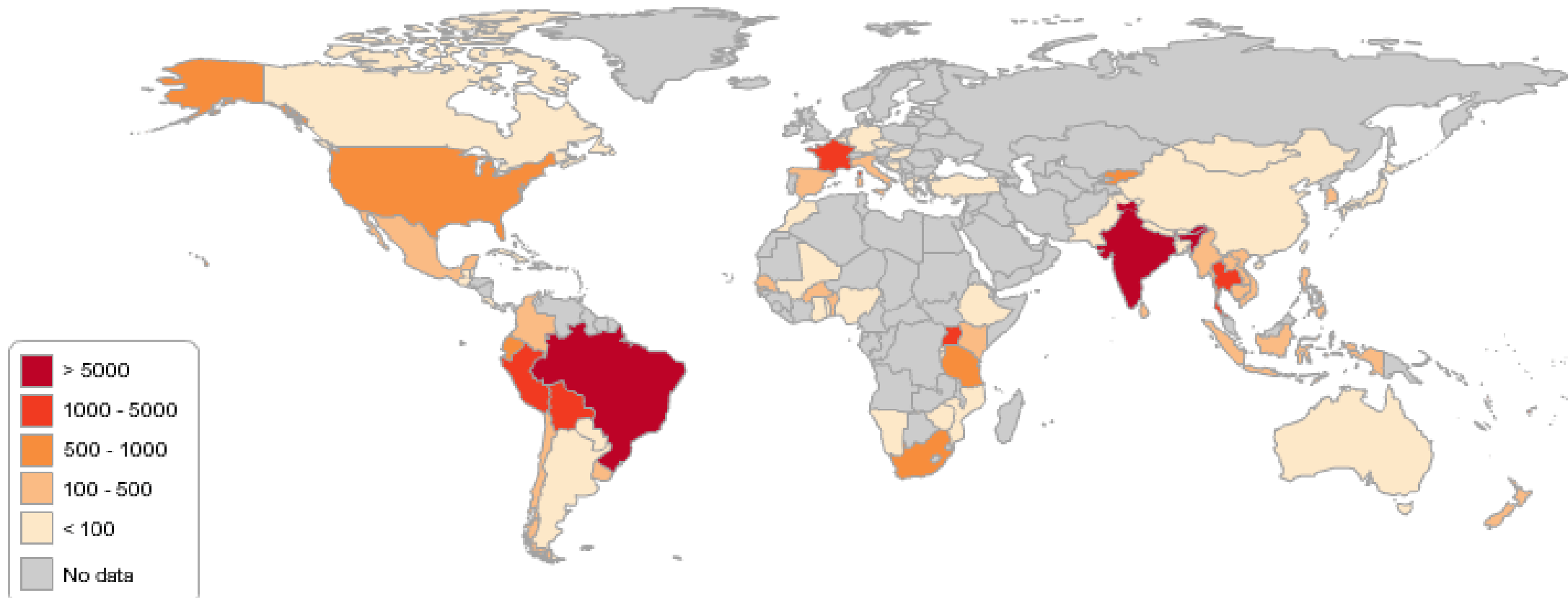
Since 2004 steady growth in number of initiatives

Number of functional PGS initiatives worldwide



Latest global figures

To date, we have recorded in our PGS database **223** PGS initiatives in **76** countries, with at least **567'142** producers involved and **496'104** producers certified.



Strengths of PGS

- Producer-consumer relationship / Market access
- Quality assurance/certification for small producers
- Learning and community development
- Ownership and responsibility (empowerment)
- Favours diversified production system
- Promoting strong organic values

Challenges of PGS

- High degree of dedication / voluntary engagement
- Long-term investment in capacity building
- Complex social organization
- Lack of government recognition in some countries
- Less applicable for long distance/anonymous marketing

Examples PGS Logos



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Thank you for your attention!

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