TanCert
Tanzania Organic Certification Association

Organic Standards for Agriculture Production
Short Standards for Local Market

Adopted by the Organic Stakeholder Meeting
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1 General Introduction

1.1 Scope of the TanCert Organic Standard
Organic agriculture is a whole system approach based upon a set of processes resulting in a sustainable ecosystem, safe food, good nutrition, animal welfare and social justice. Organic production therefore is more than a system of production that includes or excludes certain inputs.

The TanCert Organic Standards is used for certification of organic production in Tanzania. It is by that also the base for the production that can carry the “Hai” logo for organic products.

The TanCert Organic Standards takes into account the specific conditions for organic production in Tanzania and also the stage of development of organic production in the country. Organic production and processing to the TanCert Standards shall also comply with the national legislation. The TanCert Organic Standards is built on the IFOAM Basic Standards and have then through an active stakeholder consultation been developed to be well functioning for Tanzanian conditions. The TanCert Organic Standards make it possible for following a product through the whole production chain until a product is packed and labelled as organic.

1.2 Structure
1.2.1 The Standards
The Organic short Standards here are presented as simple minimum requirements that an operation must meet to be certified to the TanCert Organic Standards particularly for internal market.

1.2.2 Definitions
Definitions are technical terms and are explained in the section on definitions below for the purpose of these organic standards.

1.2.3 References
In appendix 1-3 of the TanCert Organic Standards there are lists of permitted inputs for fertilisation, soil conditioning and crop protectants as wells as for additives and processing aids to be used in organic food processing.

The IFOAM Basic Standards can be found on www.ifoam.org

1.2.4 Revision
The TanCert Organic Standards is a work in progress and as organic production is developing in Tanzania the TanCert Organic Standards will have to be revised. As this is the first version of the TanCert Organic Standards there will also be a need for revision as practice always brings more aspects than can be foreseen. Revising the TanCert Organic Standards will be done through broad stakeholder consultation.
1.2.5 **Question and comments**

Questions and comments about the TanCert Organic Standards can always be brought forward to TanCert. All input on the TanCert Standards are appreciated.

2 **Definitions of terms**

**Certification**
The procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a clearly identified process has been methodically assessed, such that adequate confidence is provided that specified products conform to specified requirements.

**Conventional**
Conventional means any material, production or processing practice that is not certified “organic” or “organic in-conversion”.

**Conversion period**
The time between the producers start implementing organic management and the certification of the product as organic.

**Crop rotation**
The practice of alternating the species or families of annual and /or biennial crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence so as to break weed, pest and disease cycles and to maintain or improve soil fertility and organic matter content.

**Exception**
Permission granted to producer by TanCert to be excluded from the need to comply with normal requirements of the standards. Exceptions shall be granted on the basis of clear criteria, with clear justification and for a limited time period.

**Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)**
This is referred to all plant, animal, or microbe that is transformed by genetic engineering.

**Labelling**
Any written, printed or graphic representation that is present on the label of a product, accompanies the product, or is displayed near the product.

**Producer**
An individual or business enterprise, that is responsible for ensuring that products meet the certification requirements.

**Organic**
“Organic” refers to the farming system and products described in the TanCert Organic Standards and produced and certified in compliance with these Standards.

**Organic product**
A product, which has been produced, processed, and /or handled in compliance with these standards.

**Organic seed and planting material**
Seed and planting material that is produced under certified organic management

3 The General principles and Standards

3.1 General principles

3.1.1
The producer has to be registered with TanCert.

3.1.2
The producer has to follow the *Short Standards for organic production in Tanzania* and TanCert general requirements for certified production.

3.1.3
The production and the production area must be clearly defined. This includes sketch maps and field register of all organic and non-organic fields.

3.1.4
TanCert has the right to get the needed information about the production. TanCert may not certify the production due to deficiency in documentation and information of the production.

3.1.5
TanCert may at any given time make an inspection. Fields, grounds, greenhouse, stables, storages, warehouses and other places for production should be made accessible to TanCert.

3.1.6
The producer should keep a record book over the production concerning quantities and sources, raw materials and production materials, which are used for production. A written documentation of sold quantities of organic certified products should also be kept. Record keeping for the production and other kinds of documentations shall be available for TanCert.

3.1.7
Violations of these standards, committed purposely or accidentally, by the producer or other persons, have to be reported to TanCert.

3.1.8
Violations of the standards may result in disapproval of a product, a production process or a producer.

3.1.9
TanCert may disapprove a product due to high contents of any undesired substances, such as residues of pesticides or too high concentrations of heavy metals.

3.1.10
The producer shall act in accordance with the national legislation.
3.2 Standards
3.2.1 Agricultural production

3.2.1.1
Producers who are associated to organic are expected to show consideration for environment, nature and culture. They are expected to avoid any environmentally threatening activities in their production. Usage of non-environmental friendly products should be limited.

3.2.1.2
Cultivation must be carried out in such a way that negative consequences to the environment and crop quality are avoided. This includes measures against soil erosion and air pollution as well as proper water management.

3.2.1.3
Land preparation by burning vegetation shall be restricted to the minimum

3.2.1.4
Economising and recycling of nutrient substances, a well-planned crop rotation and intent to minimise nutrient leaching are all conditions for certification by TanCert.

3.2.2 Agricultural holdings

3.2.2.1
Normally the whole holding should be devoted to organic agriculture. Exceptions from this can be made in special circumstances, depending on control aspects and the production system.

3.2.2.2
The conversion period is one year for all crops.

Where the producer can prove that no non-allowed inputs have been used for the last three years TanCert can retroactively certify the land. TanCert determines the necessary documentation and fee for retroactively conversion. At any case the operation shall be monitored during a minimum of 6 months before certification is possible.

3.2.2.3
The conversion period may be extended by TanCert on conditions such as past use of the land.

3.2.3 Practical standards for agriculture

3.2.3.1
Organic fertiliser

- The following fertilisers are allowed:
  - Manure, straw, rice husks, green plant material and similar materials
  - Algae, seaweed, Azolla.
• Domestic waste and waste from parks, gardens, slaughter houses, food industry-and forest industry, unless additions and processes of these have made the waste unsuitable
• Animal urine

3.2.3.2
Inorganic fertiliser
Mineral fertilisers may only be utilised if they are in their natural conditions that is without any kind of further processing to make them more soluble, with the exception of composting or grinding. Allowed minerals are the following:
• Rock meal
• Natural phosphate
• Apatite
• Limestone meal
• Calcified seaweed
• Dolomite
• Gypsum

In addition to the minerals, the following may be used:
• Wood ash
• Bone meal
• The following are not allowed:
• Artificial fertilisers
• Kainite, patent kali (sulphate of potash) and other potassium salts
• All other substances, which are not mentioned above are not accepted.

3.2.3.3 Plant protection inputs
The following inputs are allowed for plant protection and weed control:
• Pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides etc.) extracted from herbs, animals, micro organisms, insects etc
• Gelatine
• Pheromones, Pheromone traps or other catching devices
• Hot water and steam
• Water glass (Sodium silicate)
• Sodium bicarbonate
• Soap
• Ethanol
• Thermal and electrical weed control
• Pure paraffin oil
• Pure sulphur
• -Products allowed as fertilisers

Chemical plant protection agents, which are not mentioned above, are not accepted.

4.2.3.4 Seeds, seedlings and planting materials
Seeds, seedlings and planting materials from organic production shall be preferred when available. Seeds may not be chemically treated (coated). Seedlings and planting materials are not allowed to be treated with chemical pesticides. Exceptions for this
can only be when untreated seeds, seedlings and planting materials are not available. All use of treated seeds, seedlings and planting materials shall be documented.

3.2.3.5
GMO
The use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) or their derivatives in organic farming systems or products is prohibited. This shall include seed, propagation material and farm inputs such as fertilizers, soil conditioners or crop protection materials.

3.2.3.6
Farm machinery and equipment
Seed drills, fertiliser spreaders, spraying equipment etc. must be well cleaned if they have been used in a production, which is not certified as organic.

4 Animal Husbandry

4.1
Animals shall have access to fresh air, water, feed and be handled according to the need of the animal. They shall have access to protection from direct sun, excessive noises, high temperature, rain, mud and wind to reduce stress.

4.2
Animals shall be able to have sufficiently free movement according to their needs.

4.3
Housing conditions shall ensure enough lying and resting area according to the natural needs of the animals. For cattle, sheep, goats, pig’s natural bedding material shall be provided when housed. Poultry, rabbits, pigs and guinea pigs shall be kept in accordance to recommended animal husbandry practices.

4.4
Extensive mode of livestock management is allowed on natural land.

4.5
Tethering is allowed if it does not affect the well being of the animal. The animal shall have access to feed, shade and water when needed and shall be given possibilities regularly movement. The tethering shall not give the animals wounds.

4.6
Animals may be fed with carried fresh fodder where this is a more sustainable way to use land resources than grazing. Animal welfare shall not be compromised. Animals shall on regular basis be allowed to move.
4.7
Animals on the farm when converting to organic production shall undergo a one time conversion period according to the following:

- Meat 1 year
- Dairy 3 months
- Eggs 45 days
- Poultry and rabbits 20 days

4.8
Animals shall be raised organically from birth. When organic livestock is not available, conventional animals may be brought in according to the following age limits:

- 2-day-old chicks for meat production.
- 18 week old hens for egg production.
- 2 weeks old for any other poultry.
- Piglets 4 months old.
- Dairy calves up to 3 months weeks old (before sold as organic one year of organic management is needed)

4.9
Mutilations are prohibited, except for the following cases and only when the animal suffering is minimized and anaesthetics used where appropriate.

- Castration
- Ringing
- Dehorning – only of young animals
- Disbudding

4.10
Animals shall be fed on organic feeds. If organic feed is of inadequate quantity or quality, the maximum percentage of non-organic feed is 40%.

4.11
More than 50% of feed shall come from the farm unit itself or be produced in cooperation with other organic farms in the region.

4.12
The following products shall not be included in feeds

- Farm animals by products (e.g. abattoir waste) to ruminants
- Amino acid isolates to solvent extraction e.g. hexane or the addition of other chemical agents
- Urea and other synthetic nitrogen compounds
- Synthetic growth promoters or stimulants.
- Antibiotics in animal feeds
- Preservatives, except when used as a processing aid
- Synthetic appetizers
- Artificial colouring agents
• Genetically engineered organisms or products there of

4.13
Animals may be fed vitamins, trace elements and supplements from natural sources.

4.14
Young stock from mammals shall generally be raised on organic whole milk.

4.15
The operator shall take all practical measures and preventive animal husbandry practices to ensure good health and well-being of the animals.

4.16
If an animal becomes sick or injured the animal shall be treated promptly and adequately.

Chemical veterinary drugs and vaccines can be used if:
• preventive and alternative practices are unlikely to be effective to cure sickness or injury
• they are used under the supervision of a veterinarian, and
• withholding periods shall be double of required by legislation, or a minimum of 48 hours, whichever is longer the treatment is legally required

4.17
Animals shall be handled calmly and gently during transport and slaughter
The animals should be provided with conditions that minimize the adverse effects of:
• Hunger and thirst
• Temperatures and relative humidity
• Stress
• Mixing different groups and sexes

5  Bee keeping

5.1
Hives shall be situated in unpolluted, natural areas or organically managed fields. The areas shall be chosen so that the honey will not be polluted from any source. The areas should ensure access to water, honeydew and nectar/pollen that will meet the nutritional needs of the bees.

5.2
After the harvest hives shall be left with reserves of honey sufficient for the colony to survive for the coming dearth period.

5.3
Bee colonies may be converted to organic production. Introduced bees shall come from organic production units when available.
If organic colonies are not available bee products may be sold as organic when these standards have been complied with for one year.

5.4
The health and welfare of the bee colonies shall be kept in proper hygiene and apiary management.

5.5
In pest and disease control the following are permitted:
- Oxalic/ acetic acid
- Sulphur
- Bacillus thuringiensis
- Lactic/ formic acid
- Natural essential oils e.g. (menthol, eucalyptol, camphor)
- Steam, direct flame and caustic soda for hive disinfections
- Plant preparations

5.6
Where preventive measures fail preference shall be given to natural medicine, e.g. phyto-therapeutic and homeopathic treatment aid. If veterinary medical products are used the bee products shall not be sold as organic for two consecutive harvests.

5.7
The destruction of bees in the combs as a method of harvesting of bee products is prohibited.

5.8
During honey harvesting the use of minimum smoke is allowed. Smoking materials shall be of natural products e.g. dry leaves.

6 Processing and handling

6.1
All ingredients in organic processed products shall be organically produced. In cases where an ingredient of organic origin is unavailable in sufficient quality or quantity, TanCert may authorize use of non-organic ingredients.

6.2
Water and edible salt may be used in production of organic products.

6.3
Minerals (including trace elements) and vitamins are not allowed

6.7
Preparations of enzymes and micro-organisms used in food processing may be used with the exception of genetically engineered micro-organisms and their products.
6.8 Techniques used to process organic food shall be biological, physical or mechanical. Additives and processing aids shall be in compliance with the list of Appendix 3 of the TanCert Export standards.

6.9 Extraction shall only take place with water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

6.7 Storages and rooms for processing shall be well cleaned to prevent pests. Chemical pesticides are not allowed.

7 Labelling
7.1 Mixed products where not all ingredients are of organic origin (percentages in this section refer to raw material weight).

- Where a minimum of 95% of the ingredients are of TanCert certified origin, products may be labelled “certified organic” and can carry the TanCert mark

- Where less than 95% but not less than 50% of the ingredients are of TanCert certified origin, products may not be called "organic". The TanCert mark should be used; the indication of proportion of organic ingredients shall be displayed close to it.

- Where less than 50% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, the indication that an ingredient is organic may appear in the ingredient list. Such product may not be called "organic".

7.2 All ingredients shall be listed on the product label in order of their weights percentage. It shall be apparent which ingredients are of TanCert organic origin and which are not. All additives shall be listed in full names.

8 Handling and storage
8.1 All handling shall be done so that no mixing with conventional production is possible.

8.2 Storage rooms, containers, sacks, boxes etc. used for certified products shall be properly labelled.

8.3 Certified products shall be kept and handled in such a way that they are not contaminated with undesired substances from the environment, the storage, the container or the wrapping.
8.4 Certified products may not be stored in boxes, sacks, containers etc. where conventional products have been kept, unless the boxes, sacks, containers are carefully cleaned.

9 Labelling of products

9.1 The TanCert logo shall only be used on certified products.

9.2 The logo shall be accompanied by the name of the responsible producer.