



Ecological Organic Standard for Ghana (EOSG)

Crop Production

1 Conversion period and requirements

How long does it take to convert to organic according to the EOSG.

A minimum of one year, but may be longer, if the land has been under heavy use of pesticides and nature of contaminants. No conversion applies to the land that has been in fallow for at least three (3) years.



2 From conversion and parallel production

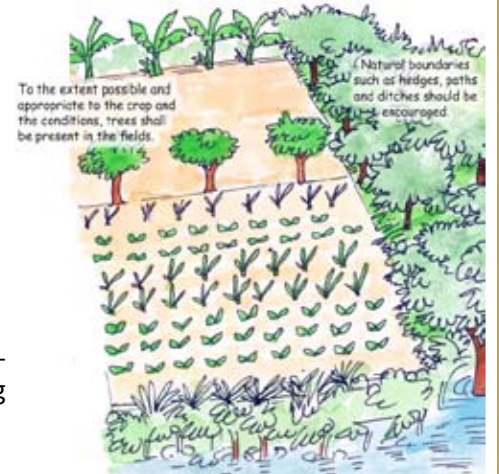
If the whole farm is not converted, the organic, in-conversion and conventional parts of the farm shall be clearly and continuously separated.



Land converted to organic production shall not be alternated (switched back and forth) between organic and conventional production.

2 Biodiversity

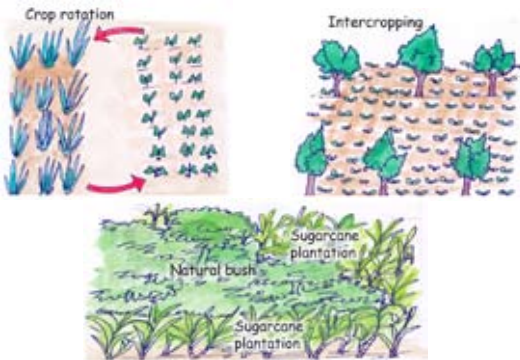
The operators shall demonstrate care for biodiversity throughout the farm holding. Culturally or legally protected primary ecosystems, such as wetlands, shall not be cleared or drained for the purpose of establishing production according to this standard.



NOTE: Older fruiting trees are especially important to insects and birds.
NOTE: Hedges, paths and ditches act as important wildlife corridors through agricultural land, help to maintain a diverse ecology, and provide a habitat for many beneficial animals and insects and shelter for livestock.

4 Farming system diversity

Diversity in plant production, organic matter, soil fertility, microbial activity and soil and plant health shall be stimulated by crop rotation, intercropping, agro-forestry and other appropriate measures.



5 Soil and water conservation, including erosion control

Self conservation shall be an integral part of the organic farming system. In order to prevent erosion by wind and water, the operator shall take measures appropriate to the specific local conditions of climate, soil, slope and land use.

Relevant measures shall be taken to prevent or remedy the salinisation of soil and water. Burning of vegetation shall be restricted and controlled to protect organic matter and biodiversity.



The operator shall not deplete or excessively exploit water resources and shall seek to conserve water resources and quality. Where necessary, the operator shall collect or harvest rainwater.

6 Soil fertility management

Appropriate use and recycling of nutrients, an appropriate crop rotation, and efforts to minimise nutrient losses shall be implemented by the operator. Material of microbial, plant or animal origin shall form the basis of the soil fertility programme.

Fertilizers of mineral origin shall be applied in the form which they are naturally composed and extracted. They shall not be rendered more soluble by chemical treatment, other than the addition of water. Mineral fertilizers may only be used for long-term fertility needs along with other techniques such as organic-matter additions, green manures, crop rotations and nitrogen fixation by plants.

Fertilizers and soil conditions approved for use in organic agriculture according to the IFOAM Basic Standard or CAC GL32 may be used. Fertilizers and soil conditioners of natural origin may be used unless listed in Annex B. Fertilizer and soil conditioners of synthetic origin may be used if listed in Annex A.



7 Pest, disease and weed management

Physical, cultural and biological methods for pest, disease and weed management, including the application of heat, may be used. Inputs for pest, disease, weed or growth management approved for use in organic agriculture according to the IFOAM Basic Standards and CAC/GL 32 may be used. Active ingredients of natural origin in inputs for pest, disease, weed or growth management may be used unless listed in Annex B. Active ingredients of synthetic origin may be used if listed in Annex A.

Non-activated ingredient, such as carriers and wetting agents, shall not be carcinogens, teratogens, mutagens or neurotoxins.



8 Seeds, seedlings, and planting materials

Seeds, seedlings and planting materials from organic production shall be used. If organic seeds, seedlings and planting materials are not commercially available, then conventional, chemically untreated seeds, seedlings and planting materials may be used.

Only if these are not commercially available may chemically treated seeds, seedlings and planting materials be used. The operator shall demonstrate the apparent need for such use. All use of chemically treated seeds, seedlings and planting materials shall be documented.



9 Mushroom production

The culture substrate for mushrooms shall be constituted of organic ingredients such as organic grain, seed-cakes, straw and sawdust.

Where organic substrates are not commercially available in sufficient quality and quantity, ingredients from conventional production or of natural origin which do not pose a risk of contamination may be used. Inputs used in mushroom production shall be in accordance with chapter 6, 7 & 8 of EOSG Standard.



10 Contamination

Where there is an apparent and substantial risk of contamination from adjacent farms, the operator shall implement measures, including barriers and buffer zones, to avoid or limit the contamination.

Machine, equipment and tools (e.g., seeds drills, fertilizer spreaders and spraying equipment used in non-organic production shall be cleaned before they are used in organic production.

Treatment of animals against ticks and other ecto-parasites shall be administered in such a way that the risk of the contamination of crop land is minimised.

Buffer zone of 5-20 metres distance shall separate an organic farm from a conventional farm depending on each farm situation.



11 Draught animals

Draught animals, when used in organic plant production, shall be treated according to the animal management standards in the EOSG.

Working conditions for draught animals shall not be adverse to the health and development of the animal.



12 Water usage

Water should not pose any contamination risk to crops, and humans. Water obtained from gutters, gullies, sewage drains, industrial waste ponds or catchments, or any other water source that may be contaminated with animal or human sewage, industrial waste, municipal waste and effluents is prohibited for use.



More information about organic farming and the practical application of these requirements can be obtained from the addresses below;



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