



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Federation
of Organic Agriculture
Movements



United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Concept Note

Impact of Equivalence on Competition Among Operators

Work Plan

Element (of strategy)	Action	Status
International Standard	Acknowledge a standard	Decision: recognize Codex Guidelines & IBS
Equivalency	Common regulatory objectives	Proposal
	Guidelines and criteria	Terms of reference
	Influence of/effect on producers	Concept note
	Consumer research	Information note
Certification Body Requirement	International certification body requirement	Proposal
Recognition of & Cooperation among CABs	Organic MLA	Terms of Reference
	Other cooperation	Presentation (PGS)



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Background: ITF Review Phase

Questions about who's interests the standards serve

- Consumers?
- Producers ?

Speculation about the impact of those interests on standards
(Geneva, Nuremberg, Rome)



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Background: Proposal Formulation Phase

Fear of farmers regarding unfair competition (Tunisia)

- could undermine ITF solutions, especially equivalency

Work plan (Tunisia):

- draft a concept note for a study on the impact of producer interests on standards and technical regulations

Steering Committee (April 06)

- Focus the topic on impact of equivalency on operators



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Situation

Operators have been highly influential in developing private standards and government technical regulations for organic
Results are standards applicable to regional situation (and protective of operators?)

Now, impetus for growth and trade, new supply sources.

Stress in the system: growth/trade/supply vs. regional and competitive interests



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Objective

Understand the potential impacts of equivalency on competition among operators

Anticipate resistance to ITF solutions linked to equivalence



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Study

Address concept of fair and unfair competition

Analyze spectrum of effects (of equivalence) on operators

Identify implications for ITF work

Analysis should consider the whole context for competition

- Structural aspects
- Technological aspects
- Market dynamics



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