

Membership

There are three categories of members:

- Effective/Full Members (Individuals active in an inspection and certification system).
- Associated Members (Organic inspection and certification bodies).
- Adherent Members (Individuals or organizations interested in the improvement of organic inspection and certification system).

The person or the organisation wishing to become a member, shall send its written admission demand to the Admission Committee together with all elements allowing to judge whether it is in accordance with the admission criteria.

The Admission Committee studies the application and makes its recommendation to the General Assembly for the decision which mainly depends on their interest and capacity for cooperation. Decisions are taken by the Effective Members, a process that avoids any type of distortion or manipulation of the purposes of the non-profit organization.

The admission criteria to become an Effective/ Full Member are the following :

- Having knowledge and experience in the field of inspection and certification
- Being sufficiently available to participate in the CertiBioNet meetings and activities
- Having no conflict of interest with the association or the Code of Ethics

The admission criteria to become an Associated Member are the following:

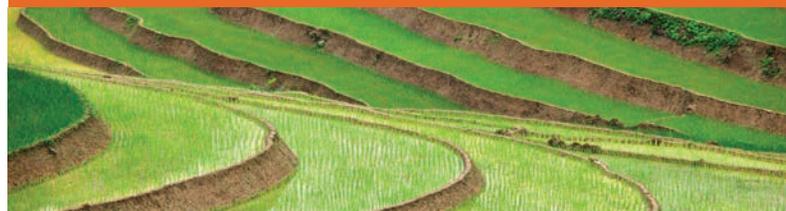
- Being an organic inspection and certification body
- Being either recognized and/or accredited by public authorities
- Being either accredited by the IOAS/IFOAM
- Being either an organization aiming at recognition or in the process of recognition
- Supporting and adhering to the Code of Ethics which means not only agreeing with its principles, but also putting them into practice with the inspection and certification body
- Having no conflict of interest with the association or the Code of Ethics



Activities

CertiBioNet organizes different types of activities such as:

- Meetings where Members share technical information, experience and training.
- Exhibitions where they collaborate in events, such as Biofach in Germany and America, and offer common services and joint participation.
- Audits where they check the quality of each member's service by conducting internal audits between themselves.
- Trainings, Lectures, Communication, Solidarity actions, Others,...



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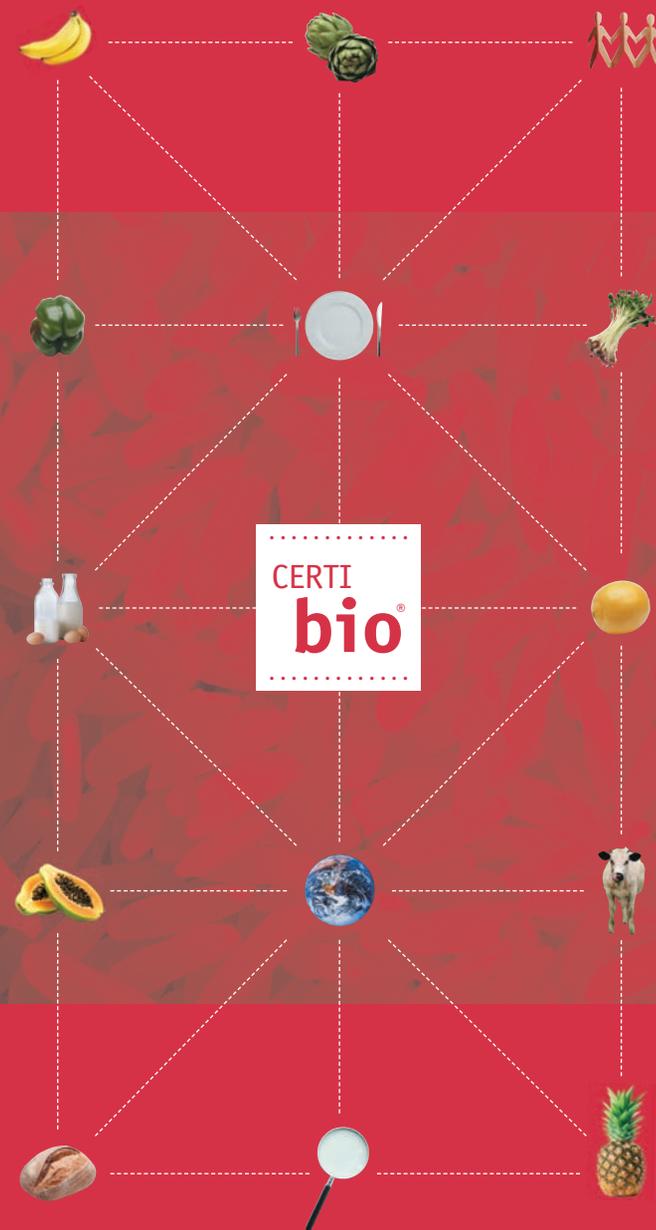
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2013

CertiBioNet^{aisbl}

International association
of inspection and certification
bodies in organic farming



*Networking
and solidarity
between
organic
certification
bodies*

www.certibionet.org

Who are we?

CertiBioNet is an international association of inspection and certification bodies in organic farming.

Founded in May 2003, amongst others, by Laura Montenegro (Argentina), Blaise Hommelen (Belgium) and Fernando Serrador (Portugal), it gathers organic inspection and certification bodies all over the world.

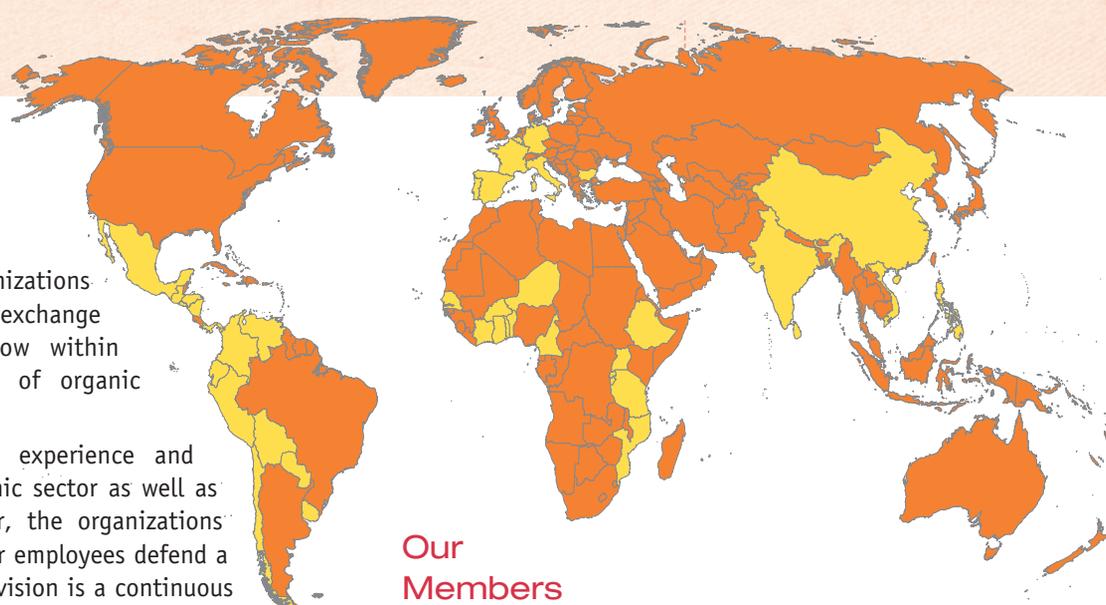
Non-profit making, CertiBioNet is a platform that aims to facilitate the cooperation between its members and to improve the quality of the inspection and certification systems. The resources that result from its activity or from other sources are exclusively allocated to its purpose. The control and certification bodies are the ones that actually carry out the controls.

The governing documents are the Statutes, published in the Belgian Monitor on 23 March 2003, and the Code of Ethics where rights and obligations are described. The association is governed by the Belgian law on international associations (25/10/1919).

Our Vision

CertiBioNet is a network for organizations allowing them to improve and exchange their knowledge, their know-how within an ethical frame in the field of organic certification.

It is characterised by quality, experience and recognition benefitting the organic sector as well as the society in general. Together, the organizations themselves, their clients and their employees defend a deontological Code of Ethics. Its vision is a continuous improvement of member services related to the development of organic farming from the point of view of certification.



Our Members

CertiBioNet is constituted by a General Assembly, an Administration Council, an Admission Committee and members including six Organic Certification bodies active in more than 42 countries.

In Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Italy, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam.

Our Mission

The main purpose of the association is:

- To assemble inspection and certification bodies for organic farming
- To improve the organic inspection and certification systems
- To facilitate the cooperation between its members
- To defend a common Code of Ethics

Secondary, the association also has the objective to:

- To represent the member inspection bodies in institutions and international organizations
- To share common services
- To support the creation of new local inspection and certification bodies
- To communicate and participate in promotion programs

 **Biolatina**
ACTIVE IN CENTRAL AND LATIN AMERICA.
www.biolatina.com

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www.biotropico.com

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www.ecogruppoitalia.it

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ACTIVE IN INDIA.
www.biocertindia.com



Code of Ethics

Organic Agriculture

We advocate the harmonious development of organic farming considering:

- The quality of the products which are certified organic but also meet nutritional, bacteriological, gustatory and commercial quality standards.
- The quality of the environment by respecting and even improving it.
- Social progress for producers and processors thanks to the development of fairtrade relations.

Network

We commit ourselves to an active participation in the CertiBioNet network, as we :

- Share technical knowledge amongst our members.
- Support the development of every member.

Personnel

We advocate that internal working of our organizations should be based on :

- Participative input.
- Continuous training.
- Personal development.

As we are convinced that our staff, their abilities and their motivation are the best basis for our organizations.

Operators

The relationships with our operators are based on :

- Integrity and independence.
- Quality and professionalism.
- Fair price.
- Information and transparency.

Suppliers

We look more particularly for suppliers and products that :

- Share our ethical values regarding sustainable and harmonious development of the environment, social equity and common well-being.

Institutions

Regarding the institutions we wish :

- To be partners for a well-balanced development of the organic farming in the frame of a sustainable development.
- To be partners for the evolution and improvement of the production and processing norms and the inspection and certification systems.
- To participate in the training and popularizing programs.
- To participate in programs giving rise to the autonomy of local inspection and certification systems.

CertiBioNet's trade-mark can be used by members to express the common commitment to its Code of Ethics and mutual cooperation.

