

CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCE FOR THE LOCAL MARKET

under the Namibian Organic Association's (NOA) Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)



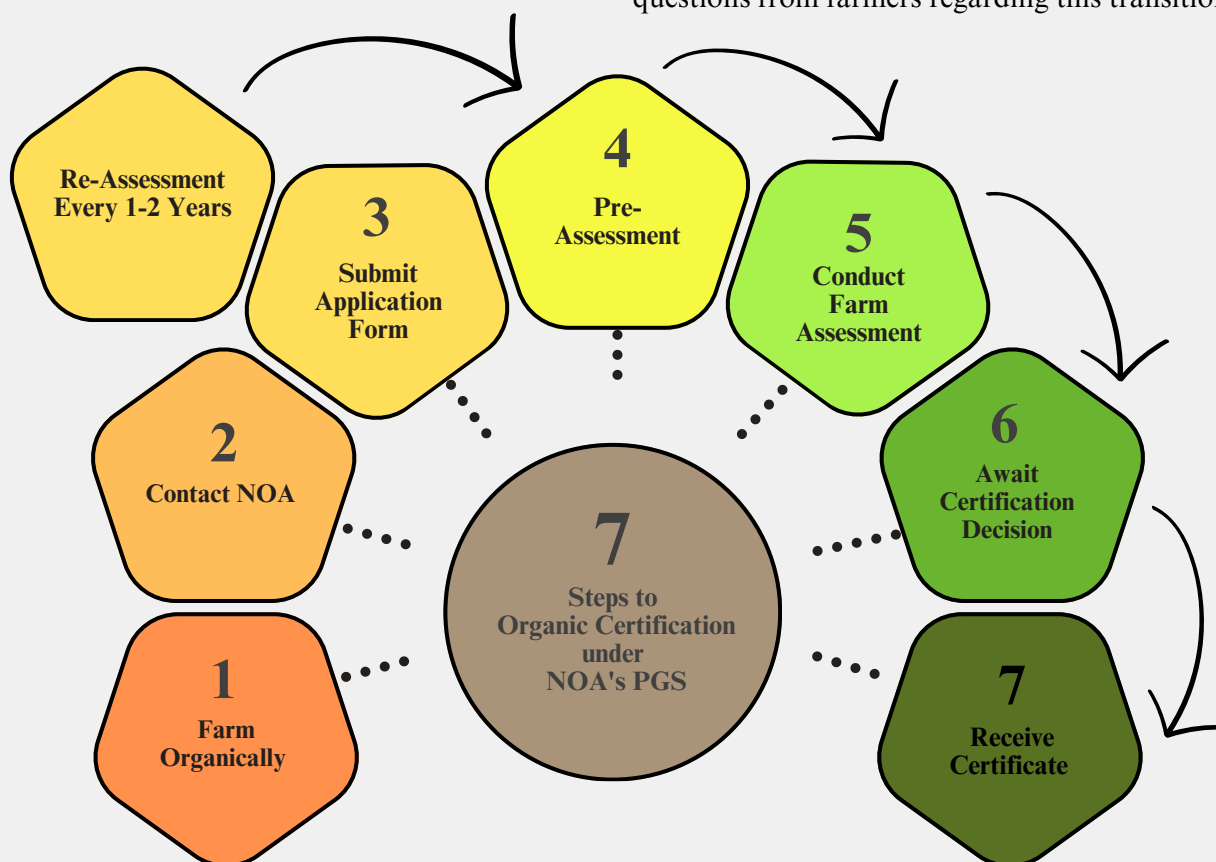
Organic agriculture is based on 4 principles:
Health · Ecology · Fairness · Care

The Namibian Organic Association (NOA) assesses farms according to organic standards based on the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) - Organics International Norms for Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), developed in 2014 and updated in 2019.

As a locally focussed quality assurance system, PGS differs from third-party certification in that it relies on a transparent and equitable inspection where fellow farmers and parties inspect each other and are personally responsible for the outcome. This process relies on volunteers and practical involvement.

IFOAM - Organics International is an international movement that addresses organic production worldwide.

This document specifies the steps it takes to become a certified Namibian organic producer or farmer and aims to answer the most common questions from farmers regarding this transition.



Namibian ORGANIC – producers with full organic status may use this mark on their products. They achieve this after 2-3 years of organic farming and assessment according to the NOA standards.



After 1 year of organic farming and an assessment according to the NOA standard, approved farmers can use the Organic in Conversion mark.



Certified processed products are labelled clearly showing what ingredients are from Namibian certified organic production. Processing is not certified.

1
Farm Organically!

- Start applying organic practices and phase out conventional practices (including use of synthetic chemicals)
- Familiarise yourself with the organic standards (IFOAM Norms for Namibia local certification)

2
Contact NOA

- Become a NOA member
- Join the NOA Whatsapp group
- Link up with other organic farmers in your area/Namibia
- Request assessment forms
- NOA to share relevant documents for assessments

3
Submit PGS Assessment Forms

- Prepare and submit the assessment forms and supporting documents

CHECKLIST FOR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Completed application form
- Soil tests (if applicable: required for the use of restricted inputs)
- Water tests (water tests for irrigation water for first assessment)
- Farm map (includes buildings, fields, water points and farm borders)
- Road map - access to farm
- Samples of labels for processing, handling and retailing
- Own risk assessment of the operation to be assessed
- Payment confirmation of the annual assessment fee

4
Pre-Assessment

- The NOA certification assessment team conducts a pre-assessment based on the submitted documents
- If approved, the applicant pays the assessment fee
- Applicant and NOA assessors schedule the farm assessment
- NOA invites all NOA members to join the farm assessment

5
Conduct Farm Assessment

- NOA assessment team and members conduct the farm assessment
- The team is responsible for:
 - inspecting the gardens, storage facilities and processing areas (livestock & rangelands for organic livestock), and
 - reviewing records and other documentation

6
Assessment Decision

- NOA assessment team finalises the assessment
- Applicant is notified of the certification decision
- If any concerns raised, application needs to address concerns raised by the assessment team and members

7
Receive Certificate

- NOA shares certification certificate with the applicant
- NOA shares the NOA organic label with the applicant
- Applicant is now certified to place organic certified products on the market bearing NOA's organic labels
- Certificate is valid for 1 year, followed by another farm assessment
- Based on a risk assessment, the NOA PGS is able to exempt low-risk, longstanding organic operations from annual assessments, giving these operations a 2-year validity on the certificate



@Namibian Organic Association, 2024
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