



Module 8

Standard for Wild and Natural Products and Traditional Agriculture

Incorporates:

- Wild and Natural Products
 - Traditional Agriculture
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This document replaces the BIO-GRO New Zealand Organic Standards, 30 April 2001: Module 4.8

The reasons for change are:

- regular review required under IFOAM accreditation;
- incorporation of notified changes since the 30 April 2001 Standards were published;
- incorporation of other changes required for ongoing compliance with the IFOAM Basic Standards, the NZFSA OOAP, and overseas market regulations;
- organic production systems are continuously evolving.

This document may be altered at any time. It was current at the date in the header of each page of the document. It is recommended that anyone intending to use this document contact BioGro or check the BioGro website www.biogro.co.nz to confirm that this is the current version.

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1 Scope and purpose

This BioGro Standard contains the production requirements and audit criteria for the certification of and licensing by BioGro of harvesters of wild and natural products and traditional farmers to use the BioGro trademarks and logos.

This module is followed by all:

- producers of wild and natural and traditional organic products certified by BioGro; and
- producers of wild and natural and traditional organic products licensed by BioGro to use the BioGro trademarks and logos.

All wild and natural, and traditional organic products bearing the BioGro trademarks and logos are produced in accordance with this standard.

Information on BioGro and the use of the BioGro trademarks/logos can be obtained from *Module 1 Introduction* and *Module 3 Certification System*.

Information on the BioGro requirements for processing can be obtained from *Module 13 Processing Standard* and information on the BioGro requirements for distribution can be obtained from *Module 14 Distribution Standard*.

The audit checklists (available from BioGro) may be used for self-audits in preparation for audits by BioGro.

2 References

All relevant regulations and industry requirements must be complied with.

3 Definitions

The BioGro definitions of terms can be found in the BioGro Standards *Module 2 Glossary of Terms*.

4 Wild and natural products

4.1 Introduction

Wild and natural products are any food or fibre products that are harvested or collected in areas which have not been subjected to any significant type of cultivation, grazing by domestic animals or other forms of human management. Examples of wild products include seaweed, fish, natural plant fibres, tropical fruit etc.

Products must originate from native vegetation of this wild area, or from areas that have been left natural or uncultivated for at least five years. No cultural practices, other than such things as very sporadic pruning of trees or mowing of weeds, are permitted in these areas.

No materials or animals may be introduced into the wild area without the prior written approval of BioGro. Any introduction into the area of materials or practices that are prohibited under the BioGro Standards will result in the withdrawal of BioGro certification.

The law operating in that locality, both national and local body laws, always take precedence over the rights of individuals wanting to wild harvest.

4.2 Area demarcation

Produce will only be certified if derived from a clearly defined production area which is subject to the normal BioGro annual audit procedure.

The operator is responsible for issuing instructions to the collectors and any local agents (middlemen), that defines the area of collection and informs them about the standards and other requirements for certification.

The area of production must be properly identified on appropriate maps, and must be large and distinct enough to reduce the risk of commingling with non-certified production.

Operators must take measures to ensure that wild, sedentary aquatic species are collected only from areas where the water is not contaminated by substances prohibited in these standards.

4.3 Sustaining the natural area

Produce will only be certified if derived from a self-sustaining growing environment. Harvesting or gathering the product must be shown to be within the natural regenerative ability of the ecosystem and must be shown not to contribute to the spread of noxious plants or pests.

Where a production system is based on wild harvesting it must encourage intercropping of the wild harvested species and other native species; so as to mimic as much as is feasibly possible the natural ecosystems within which these species have evolved. Such practices must encourage and foster a wide range of flora and fauna such as would naturally occur within such ecosystems.

4.4 Location and contamination

The production area must be:

- i. An area which has not had restricted or prohibited materials applied as defined in these standards; and
- ii. at an appropriate distance from conventional farming; and
- iii. at an appropriate distance from sources of other pollution and contamination.

This distance will be determined in consultation with BioGro on a case by case basis. Written guarantees may be required from neighbouring land-users as to their use of prohibited and restricted substances.

4.5 Management intervention in the area

No inputs may have been introduced into this area during the previous five years, without the prior written approval of BioGro. This includes any form of management intervention such as liming, fertilising, use of pest and disease control products, weed spraying, etc.

4.6 Grazing

The wild harvest area must not be grazed by conventional stock.

4.7 The rights of others

Wild harvest operations must not violate indigenous landholders' rights and interests, nor pose problems to their way of life. Licensees must be aware of royalty rights and other remuneration where these are applicable.

4.8 Operators

The manager of the harvesting or gathering operation must be clearly identified. The manager must exhibit a proven working knowledge and management ability for the region and ecosystems in question.

Where other harvesters or contractors are used, they must be identified. Their knowledge of and compliance with appropriate harvesting techniques is the direct responsibility of the identified manager. The manager must keep records of all collectors, and the quantities bought from each collector.

Any middlemen must be under contract to the operator. "Middlemen" refers to agents or tribal authorities who may act as initial collection or storage points.

4.9 Records

Records of harvest dates, yields, amount harvested by each collector, and areas of collection must be kept and be available for audit by BioGro at any time.

4.10 Labelling and Packaging

Refer to *Module 2 Certification System Section 7.8, and Module 13 Processing Standard*.

4.11 Processing

Any processing of wild harvested products must comply with *Module 13 Processing Standard* and be part of the approved management plan.

5 Traditional agriculture

5.1 Introduction

Traditional agriculture will be accepted by BioGro where it can be authenticated that traditional/indigenous agricultural methods of production and/or processing have been fulfilling all the principles of the BioGro Standards for at least the previous five-year period.

5.2 Rotation

Traditional agriculture systems must be based on non-intensive cropping systems relying on fallowing and rotation of crops with restorative phases to ensure sustainability.

Typically no more than 20 percent of the land should be under crops at any time, with the other 80 percent or more of the land fallow or reverted or in green manure crops. The length of the rotation cycle should not be less than 5 years.

5.3 Location and contamination

The property must be free of previous use of, or contamination by, materials restricted or prohibited by BioGro, and located at an appropriate distance from conventional farming and sources of other pollution and contamination. This distance will be determined in consultation with BioGro on a case by case basis. Written guarantees may be required from neighbouring land-users as to their use of prohibited and restricted substances.

5.4 Operators

The operator must have management control over the entire property.

The operator must exhibit proven working knowledge and management ability for the traditional agriculture production system.

5.5 Records

Records must be kept of all planting dates and locations, all inputs, and harvest dates and quantities. These records must be available for audit by BioGro at any time.

5.6 Application for certification

Full application for certification must be made and the initial audit carried out at least one year prior to the harvest of the first BioGro certified crop.

The operator must supply a map of the property and a written management plan for the operation detailing the crops being grown, the rotation plan, all inputs, and all practices for cultivation, crop establishment, weeding, irrigation, pest and disease control, and harvesting.

5.7 Ongoing audit requirements

Within twelve months of the first audit the operator must apply for certification of the crop and supply updated information on the management plan. The second audit must be carried out before certification can be considered for the crop.

To retain certification the operator must apply each year for renewal of certification and supply updated information on the management plan.

On receipt of the renewal application BioGro will carry out the renewal audit.



BioGro New Zealand Limited

Level 9, 75 Ghuznee Street, PO Box 9693,

Marion Square, Wellington 6141, New Zealand.

T: +64 4 801 9741 info@biogro.co.nz

F: +64 4 801 9742 www.biogro.co.nz

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