

DG Agriculture - Screening Turkey

Non-exhaustive list of issues and questions to facilitate preparations for bilateral meetings on organic production

1) Please complete the Excel tables attached¹.

See Excel tables attached (**Annex-1**).

2) Is the sector organised, if so in what way?

The sector is organized. Producers get organized in the form of cooperatives and producers unions, while the academicians, producers and merchants organize in the form of associations and the like. There is no legal obstacle to organization.

3) What percentage of land is farmed organically?

According to 2004 data collected by MARA, 0.8% of the total agricultural land is organically farmed. Organic farming is practiced in 209,500 ha area including the areas that are in the transition period.

4) What is the trend both in production and home consumption?

Demand for organic products is increasing parallel to the raised awareness of consumers concerning health and environment. An indication of this is opening of retail stores selling organic products in the domestic market, particularly in metropolises. Developments in this area follow an upward trend.

5) Could you please provide information on the price differential between organic products and their conventional counterparts?

Prices of organic products are higher than those of their conventional counterparts. However, it is very difficult to give a percentage about such price differentials, because the price differential between a product and its counterpart is not the same for every product. On the other hand; price differentials also vary depending on supply and demand by years. In addition, there are significant differences between the wholesale and retail selling prices.

In wholesale purchasing from producers, however, a price differential between 10% and %30 has been observed, and from time to time this differential can exceed 100%. Some recent examples about retail prices of organic products are given **Annex-2**. Sometimes, organic products and their conventional counterparts might be offered in the same prices.

There is no governmental intervention to these prices; they are always fixed in free market conditions.

¹ Currently, Member States of the Community submit these tables annually to the Commission. Candidate countries are invited to provide available information.

6) Is any public support given to organic production or consumption? The latter for example by information campaigns?

Organic producers enjoy general sector wide supports. Direct income support are paid, by their land size, to all producers including all organic producers who have officially applied to the Ministry, additionally an extra payment for organic producers has been planned. In addition, low-interest credit support is extended to producers engaged in or wishing to engage in organic production. There is no support extended towards consumers.

“National, regional, local radio and TV stations broadcasting within the territory of the Republic of Turkey broadcast educational programs to raise awareness of both producers and consumers” pursuant to the second paragraph of article 8 of the Organic Agriculture Law published on 03 December 2004.

7) What fraction of organic production is exported? How much is imported and from which third countries?

Approximately 95% of organic products produced in Turkey are exported. Imports are very few, and baby food is imported from such countries as Germany, France, Switzerland, Czech Republic, England, and Poland. Baby food accounts for 90% of the imports totaling 293 tons.

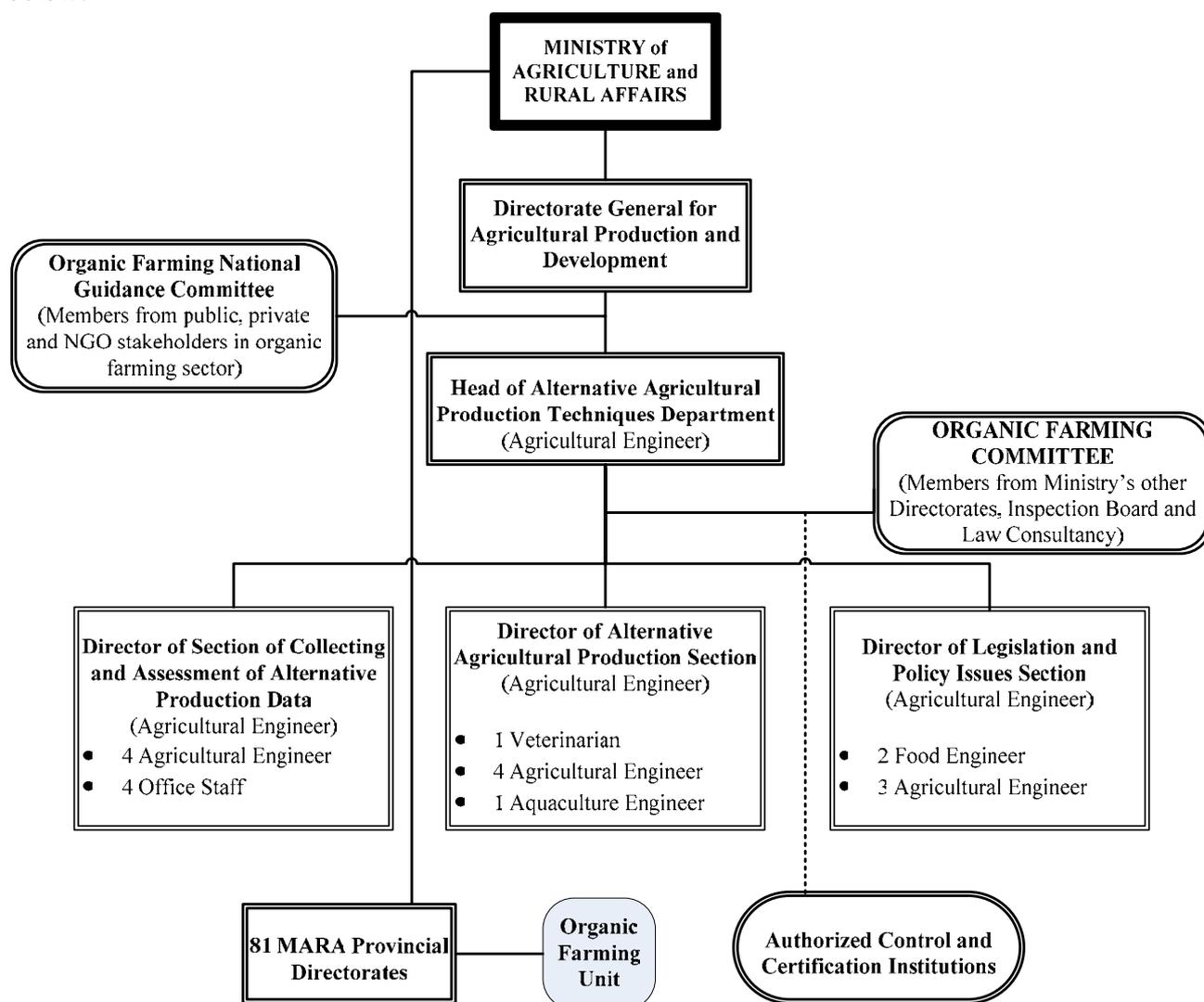
8) Is the sector regulated? If not, are there conformity assessment bodies certifying organic production operating on your territory? If this is the case, are they accredited, if yes, by which independent accreditation board and to which standards?

The sector is regulated according to certain rules. There are relevant Law and By-Law. There are organizations authorized by the Ministry to inspect and certify organic production (please see the answer of question 11).

9) Is there a competent authority responsible for the overall co-ordination of policy on organic production? If ‘yes’, please provide details of the organisation, staffing and operation of this authority.

There is a competent authority responsible for comprehensive coordination of policies on organic production. It is organized in the form of a department consisting of three section directorates within the body of the Directorate General for Agricultural Production and Development (DGAPD) which is one of the main service units reporting to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural affairs. Said Department coordinates the activities related with organic agriculture at national and international levels. Furthermore, there is the Organic Farming Committee (OFC) reporting to the said Department. In addition to OFC, for the purpose to determine strategy and policy on organic farming, there is the Organic Farming National Guidance Committee (OFNGC) (Please see **Annex-3** for more details).

Organizational chart related to organic farming activities at the ministerial level is given below:



10) Is there an authority or body responsible for ensuring that rules on labelling of organic products are enforced? If 'yes', please provide details of the organisation, staffing, and operation of this authority or body.

There is an authority and a body responsible for ensuring that rules on labelling of organic products are enforced. The authority responsible for this matter is the Ministry, and the body responsible for this matter is the OFC (details are provided in the answer to the question 9) (Please see **Annex-4** for details).

11) Is there an authority or inspection body(ies) responsible for ensuring that certified operators comply with the rules on organic production? If 'yes', please provide details of the number, accreditation, organisation, staffing and operation of this authority or bodies.

There are 9 authorized organizations authorized by the Ministry responsible for this matter. Information on accreditation of these organizations is given below, while information on staffing, organizational structure etc. is given in **Annex-5** as examples. Control and certification institution or certification institution is under obligation to provide the criteria

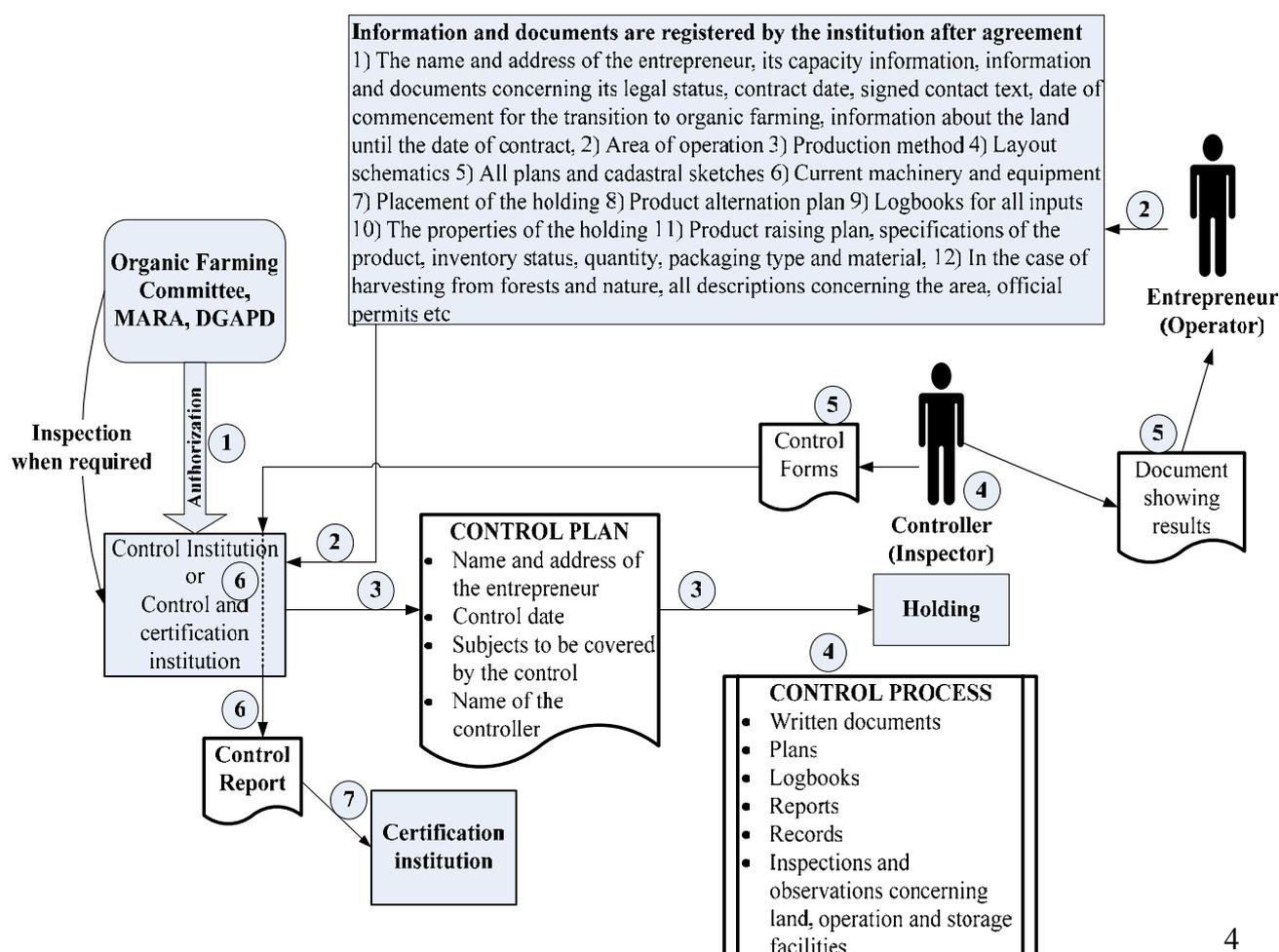
mentioned in the Turkish Regulation and the suitability of the principles of certification, **in compliance with EN 45011 and ISO 65.**

The Ministry is the authority responsible for supervision of all organizations carrying out inspection and certification procedures, and the supervisory body is the OFC. Institutional structure of the Department and of OFC in connection with organic agricultural activities is explained in answer 9.

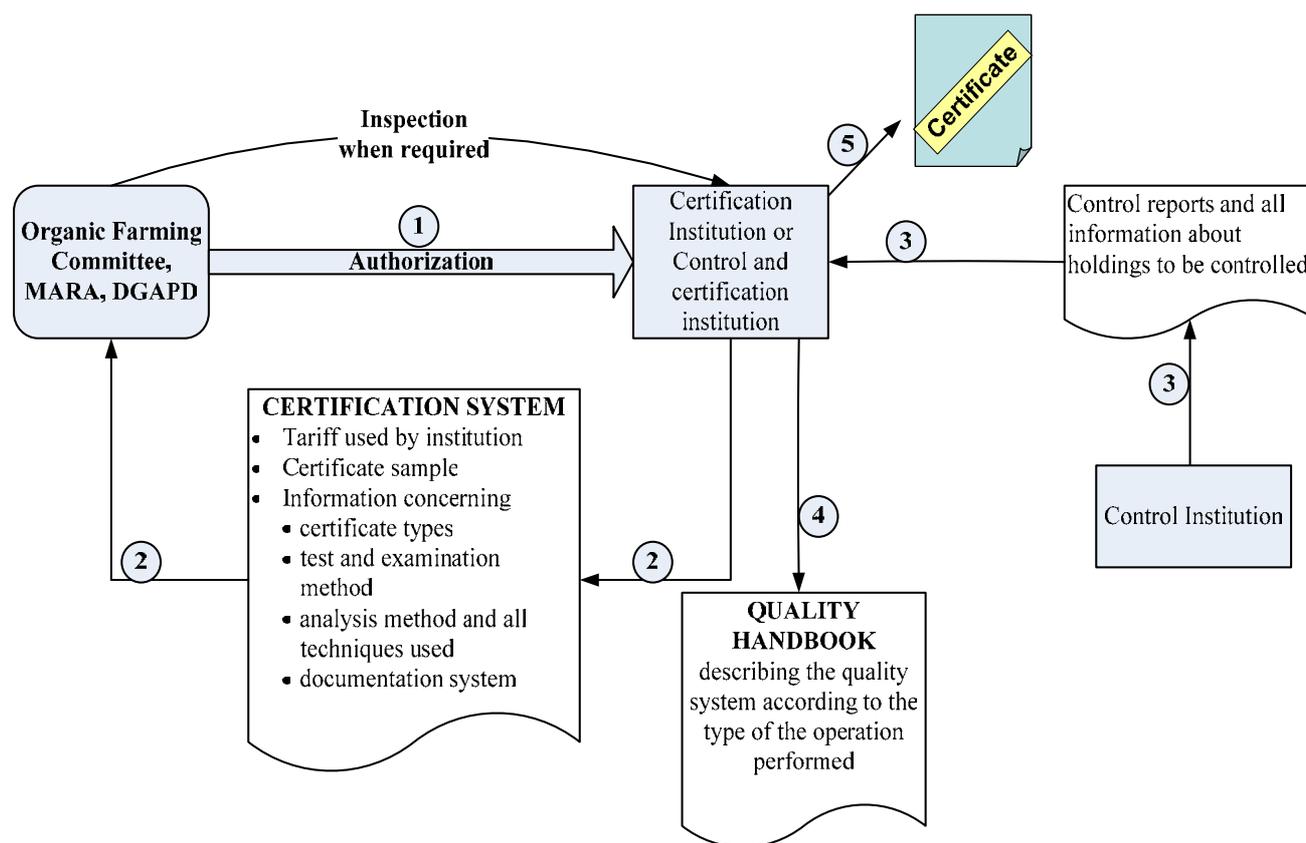
	Name of the Control and Certification Institution Authorized	Name of Correspondent Accreditation Agency
1	IMO	Die SAS (Schweizerische Akkreditierungs Stelle – Sweden)
2	ECOCERT-SA	COFRAC (France)
3	ETKO	OIAS (work in progress)
4	SKAL	RVA (Raad Voor Accreditatie – Holland)
5	BCS	DAR (Deutschen Akkreditierung Rat – Germany)
6	EKO-TAR	TÜRKAK (Turkish Accreditation Agency - Turkey)
7	ICEA	SINCERT (Accreditamento Organismi Sertificazione – Italy)
8	CERES	DAR (Deutschen Akkreditierung Rat – Germany)
9	OR-SER	It was established in 2005, in accordance with the provisions of the Turkish Regulation, it has two year-legal duration for accreditation application.

Control and certification system of authorized institutions are described below as flowcharts (for more details please see **Annex-5**):

Control operations:



Certification operation:



12) Please provide details of inspections of operators carried out over the previous year, broken down by type of inspection or analysis (i.e. what was checked) and by type of operator.

Authorized institutions, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation, control operators (producers) comprehensively whenever required. In doubtful situations such as chemical use, additives, residue, other prohibited input use etc., products are analysed by taking samples in accredited laboratories. Authorized institutions are inspected by the OFC in the Ministry at least once a year.

13) Please provide details of infringements discovered during the inspections described above and the sanctions applied, by type of infringement.

The authority of penalties and their applications only belong to the Ministry. Authorized institutions do not accept production as organic in nonconformity and doubtful cases. In 2004, no penalty was applied. However, in 2005 because of labelling unconformity, according to the related provision of the Regulation, a fine was applied to a holding, additionally; an operator was expelled from organic farming system by the OFC due to inaccurate applications in organic production.

Furthermore, the infringements encountered inspections and the sanctions (including penalties) applied are regulated by the provisions of the “Law on Organic Farming” and the “By-Law on Principles and Application of Organic Farming” (please see Annex-6 for details).

14) How do/will operators in your country get information on the rules for organic production?

Producers can obtain information about the rules of the production from the employees of the assigned team at the provincial organic agriculture unit, at the Ministry, at the Head Office, and can access such information from the web page of the Ministry (<http://www.tarim.gov.tr>). Furthermore, the farmers are informed at the courses and seminars on organic agriculture, arranged in provinces for farmers. Within the framework of the planned farmer training program, 5158 farmers were trained in the year 2004 under 422 training programs. Also, in these particular training programs, producers are informed of the developments on the organic production regulations.

3971 farmers were trained until October in the year 2005 under 290 training programs. Furthermore, as explained earlier, producers are informed through radio and TV according to article 8 of the Law.

ANNEXES:

Annex-1: Excel Tables (3 pages)

Annex-2: Comparison of retail prices (1 page)

Annex-3: Co-ordination of policy on organic farming (2 pages)

Annex-4: Rules on labelling of organic products (6 pages)

Annex-5: Authorized organizations and control - certification system (7 pages)

Annex-6: Provisions Related to Sanctions and Penalties (3 pages)