

## Steps for farmers to organic agriculture certification in Germany

### Problem

Farmers in Germany who want to convert to organic production often lack access to relevant information and guidance.

### Solution

Provide information to farmers about the basic steps to take for conversion and give an overview of actors that can provide assistance.

### Benefits

Enabling farmers to get access to relevant public and private actors and information to support them with conversion to organic farming practices and learning new practices.

### Applicability box

#### Theme

Conversion to organic – standards, regulations, certification and advanced training

#### Keywords

Conversion, control agency, advisory service, further education

#### Context

Germany

### Practical recommendations

I.

#### Initial self-check, information gathering & scope:

- Visit other organic farms, gather information on the certification process and work as certified farm.
- Decide which enterprises you want certified (crops, livestock, processing).

II.

#### Get local advice & check funding options:

- Contact your regional Chamber of Agriculture (Landwirtschaftskammer) or state supported extension services for a farm-specific checklist and possible conversion subsidies.

III.

#### Choose a control body/certifier:

- Take a look and choose from the list of approved control bodies for Germany.

IV.

#### Prepare a conversion plan:

- Create a conversion plan showing crop rotations, fertiliser and pest-management changes, animal feed sources, seed use, and timelines.

V.

#### Submit application to chosen control body:

- The control body will register you and set an inspection date.

VI.

#### Undergo inspection & receive certificate:

- An on-farm inspection checks practices and records.
- If compliant, the control body issues a certificate, and farmers can label products as organic under the EU regulation.

VII.

#### Ongoing compliance & annual inspections:

- Annual inspections and random checks take place/continue.

### Optional

#### Join association or use national Bio-Siegel:

- Associations (Bioland, Demeter, Naturland) have additional standards and marketing channels.
- The national Bio-Siegel is managed by the Federal Agency – useful for consumer recognition.

## Further information

### Useful contacts (Germany) – advisory services, authorities, certifiers & more

#### Federal / national authorities & information

- Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) – Organic farming overview / policy
  - Offices in Bonn & Berlin
  - Links: [General Contact](#) & [BMLEH – Controls in Organic Farming](#)
- Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) – Organic programme pages
  - Bio-Siegel contact: Phone: +49 228 6845-2200 + E-mail: [bio-siegel@ble.de](mailto:bio-siegel@ble.de).
  - [BLE organic pages](#) for information and resources

#### Regional advisory / practical farm advice

- Verband der Landwirtschaftskammern ([portal to Regional Chambers](#)) – central directory for all state Chambers of Agriculture to find your state contact; Website/addresses directory: [Map of organic advisory services](#)
- Ökolandbau.de – [information portal](#)

#### Approved control bodies

Official list of control bodies (Germany) – central list and downloadable documents: (Ökolandbau portal / BLE). Use this to pick a certifier for your product/region: [ListeKontrollstellenEU.pdf](#)

#### Major organic associations & advisory/certification services

- Bioland e.V. (advice, producer support, certification options)
  - Kaiserstr. 18, 55116 Mainz · Phone: +49 6131 23979-0 · E-mail: [info@bioland.de](mailto:info@bioland.de); [www.bioland.de](http://www.bioland.de)
- Demeter e. V. (biodynamic standards, certification/advice)
  - Brandschneise 1, 64295 Darmstadt · Phone: +49 6155 84690 · E-mail: [info@demeter.de](mailto:info@demeter.de); [www.demeter.de](http://www.demeter.de)
- Naturland e.V. (association + advisory)
  - Kleinhaderner Weg 1, 82166 Gräfelfing · Phone: +49 89 898082-0 · E-mail: [naturland@naturland.de](mailto:naturland@naturland.de); [www.naturland.de](http://www.naturland.de)

#### Networks & specialist advisory

Organic advisory networks & portals (training and advisor directories) – e.g., Organic-FarmKnowledge / EU organic advisory networks – good to find regional organic advisors and technical publications; [www.organic-farmknowledge.org](http://www.organic-farmknowledge.org)

#### Weblinks

- Check the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#) for more practical recommendations.

## About this practice abstract and the OrganicTargets4EU project

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