Organic Production
Requirements: Crop production and animal husbandry in general
3.1 CROP PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN GENERAL

3.1.1 CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS

3.1.2 MAINTENANCE OF ORGANIC MANAGEMENT

3.1.3 LANDSCAPE
3.1.1 Conversion Requirements

- **General Principles**
- Organic agriculture means a process of developing a viable and sustainable agroecosystem.
- **The time between the start of organic management and certification of crops and/or animal husbandry is known as the conversion period.**
- The whole farm, including livestock, should be converted according to the standards over a period of three years.
**Recommendations**

For a sustainable agro-ecosystem to function optimally, diversity in crop production and animal husbandry must be arranged in such a way that there is interplay of all the elements of the farming management.

Conversion may be accomplished over a period of time. A farm may be converted step by step.

The totality of the crop production and all animal husbandry should be converted to organic management.
There should be a clear plan of how to proceed with the conversion. This plan shall be updated if necessary and should cover all aspects relevant to these standards.

The certification programme should set standards for different farming systems so that they can be clearly separated in production as well as in documentation, and the standards should determine norms to prevent a mix up of input factors and products.
• **Standards**

• 3.1.1.1. The standards requirements shall be met during the conversion period. All the standards requirements shall be applied on the relevant aspects from the beginning of the conversion period itself.

• 3.1.1.2. If the whole farm is not converted, the certification programme shall ensure that the organic and conventional parts of the farm are separate and inspectable.
3.1.1.3. Before products from a farm/project can be certified as organic, inspection shall have been carried out during the conversion period. The start of the conversion period may be calculated from the date of application of the certification programme or from the date of last application of unapproved farm inputs provided it can demonstrate that standards requirements have been met from that date of implementation.

For the length of conversion periods, please refer to sections 3.2.2 and 3.3.2.
3.1.1.4 Simultaneous production of conventional, organic in conversion and/or organic crops or animal products which cannot be clearly distinguished from each other, will not be allowed.

3.1.1.5. To ensure a clear separation between organic and conventional production, a buffer zone or a natural barrier should be maintained. The certification programme shall ensure that the requirements are met.
3.1.1.6. A full conversion period is not required where de facto full standards requirements have been met for several years and where this can be verified through several means and sources. In such cases inspection shall be carried out with a reasonable time interval before the first harvest.
3.1.2 Maintenance of Organic Management

- **General Principles**
  - Organic certification is based on continuance.

- **Recommendations**
  - The certification programme should only certify production which is likely to be maintained on a long-term basis.

- **Standards**
  - 3.1.2.1. Converted land and animals shall not get switched back and forth between organic and conventional management.

Organic production requirement: CPAH
3.1.3 Landscape

- **General Principles**
  - Organic farming should contribute beneficially to the ecosystem.

- **Recommendations**
  - Areas which should be managed properly and linked to facilitate biodiversity:
  - Extensive grassland such as moorlands, reed land or dry land
  - In general all areas which are not under rotation and are not heavily manured

Organic production requirement: CPAH
• Extensive pastures, meadows, extensive grassland, extensive orchards, hedges, hedgerows, groups of trees and/or bushes and forest lines
• Ecologically rich fallow land or arable land
• Ecologically diversified (extensive) field margins
• Waterways, pools, springs, ditches, wetlands and swamps and other water rich areas which are not used for intensive agriculture or aqua production
• Areas with ruderal flora.
• The certification programme shall set standards for a minimum percentage of the farm area to facilitate biodiversity and nature conservation.

**Standards**

• 3.1.3.1. The certification programme shall develop landscape and biodiversity standards.
Thanks