



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Training: Management of Organic Certification United Kingdom - November 28/29/30th, 2011

The **International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS)** is the foremost accreditation body active internationally with a specific focus on organic agriculture. This gives us an unparalleled perspective on the structure and functioning of certification bodies working in this field and the regulatory environment in which they work.

The IOAS are pleased to announce that its fifth 3-day course for certification bodies on 'Management of Organic Certification' will take place at the offices of the Soil Association in Bristol, United Kingdom.

Course objectives

Participants will expand their knowledge of the operation of inspection and certification bodies involved in organic agriculture and the regulatory environment in which they work and specifically focus on some of the current and key topical issues of the moment (see below). The presented material is based on the long experience of the IOAS in assessment of certification bodies working in organic agriculture throughout the world. Many examples and cases studies will be used as discussion topics to help participants return home with greater insight into the options on management of their own systems.

Target group

The course is specifically aimed at the following individuals from established certification organisations already active in organic agriculture:

- Executive Directors
- Quality Managers
- Certification Managers
- Inspection Managers
- Board and Committee members

There will be a maximum of 20 places on the course.

Subject coverage

- Organic agriculture and its regulatory environment
- National and international norms guiding certification body operation
- Structure and decision making options
- Quality system design
- Quality improvement measures
- Risk assessment in inspection
- Detecting negligence and fraud
- Special inspection situations in organic agriculture

- Certification and certificates
- Dealing with problem cases
- International recognition

Teaching techniques

The course will be delivered using a variety of lectures but with a significant emphasis on case studies and participatory assignments set by IOAS evaluators and staff based on international and national norms including new country regulations of Canada, Chile and Brasil. The course is also designed to encourage an exchange of views and utilise the valuable and varying experiences of the participants. A comprehensive manual will be provided in support of the course. A short assessment will complete the course and all participants attending will receive a certificate. The course will be presented by Ken Commins and David Crucefix, senior staff members of the IOAS..

Course Language

English.

Cost

US\$1200 per participant covers the cost of the course itself, all training materials and coffee/tea breaks and lunch. Registration forms received before end September 2009 will benefit from a 10% discount. Discounts will also be available for multiple participants from the same organisation. We reserve the right to cancel the course in the event of insufficient participants. Please do not make travel arrangements before the course is confirmed (early October). The IOAS will issue an invoice for the course fees with a payment date of October 31, 2011.

Arrival and accommodation

The course will take place at the offices of the Soil Association in central Bristol. A number of recommended hotels will be provided but booking is the responsibility of the participants. Participants will be expected to arrive on Sunday 27th November and not leave before 18.00h on Wednesday 30th November. Out of respect to other participants and the course organisers, no exceptions please.

Registration

Registration forms are available at www.ioas.org/train.htm

Deadline for applications: November 14th, 2011