



## When is an OFO not an OFO ? (draft 3, Lagos Nov 2015; draft 2, Jan 2012; draft 1, Feb 2010)

### CRITERIA for EVALUATING & CATEGORISING OFOs & other bodies involved in the OA movement

INOFO only exists to allow specifically the farmers groups to be identified, and to supply the missing links for them to think & speak together, in IFOAM or elsewhere, as professional producers or semi-subsistence peasants, insofar as they think independently of other categories, such as traders, certifiers, processors, public & private service providers, agronomists, development workers.. Many organisations are hybrids including farmers more or less vertically integrated, usually managed by other professional interests. In these and in mixed umbrella organisations, INOFO concerns only the farmers group. Where farmers are identified as *organic, biological, ecological* (or legal or linguistic variants), this only refers to their mode of production and its codified technical standards, private or public, whatever the type of guarantee. Other aspects can be noted, such as markets, or any affiliation to larger regional or international organisations (IFOAM, LVC, WFO etc.). In any case the term NGO is too vague to be useful in this mapping.

Organisations can be categorised as follows. Descriptive codes are in bold capital letters.

More categories may arise in special situations. Please let INOFO Council know how you are getting on. These codes are intended to be useful when constituting mailing lists for precisely targeted categories.

- 0~**OFO** or federation of OFOs, constituted, owned & operated by organic, traditional or semi-subsistence farmers;
- 1~**COOP**: cooperative trading company: =TRADE (6) but collectively owned & operated only by producers;
- 2~**CLIENTS**: groups of client outgrowers in individual or collective contract with COOPs or TRADE companies;
- 3~**UNION**: general farmers union, with or without distinct section for organic & converting farmers, ex LVC;
- 4~**INTERPRO**: inter-professional umbrella covering divers distinct sectors (in formal collegial structure);
- 5~**MULTIPRO**: multi-prof. umbrella covering divers categories, all confused together (no collegial structure);
- 6~**TRADE**: privately owned trading company: collectors, packers, processors, for export &/or national market;
- 7~**CERT**: certifiers: private company or public service, certifying farms, for export &/or national market;
- 8~**RES-DEV-PROM**: Resrch & Devpt &/or Promotion, Foundation, Agronomist, NGO “*working with*” farmers;
- 9~**REL**igious, **TRIB**al, **LOC**al- **REG**ional- **NAT**ional- **GOV**t body or **POL**itical party... “*working with*” farmers.

#### NOTES:

- **0--5**: For each distinct group of farmers, please either name the contact person (specify: proposed or mandated), or simply note that the organisation is not ready or has not yet consented to participate in active relations.
- **0, 1, 2, 3 & 6**: Many primary producers exercise secondary or tertiary activities. Some own one or more farms, estates or plantations, or buy, process or trade goods produced by others, including family. There can be extended families or self-help groups, or COOPs owned by farmers, also trading in goods produced by others. In all cases, please verify that all producers have collective forum & voice and freely elect delegates.
- Informal groups of individual farmers can organise to elect a delegate, or join an existing OFO or COOP.
- **In 4**: please establish contact directly with the farmer's college, requesting they appoint a contact person.
- **In 5**: please distinguish OFOs within the one big happy family (=IFOAM =NOAM =ROAM).
- **6-to-9**: These cannot represent farmers in INOFO, but Convenors can contact farmers via these structures. Delegates of OFOs with mixed functions (like inspection or trade) can learn to wear only the farmers hat.
- **PGS** is not here a separate category, being simply one of the farmers options, involving other parties.
- In borderline cases, reserve the right to modify category after evaluation. There exists a questionnaire in INOFO archives (IFG 2003) which could be resuscitated later for Convenors to adapt to their situations.