



PROFESSIONAL DATA MANAGEMENT FOR GROWER GROUPS

Nuremberg, 13th February 2019. Organic Services, the international consultancy firm for the organic food industry, is looking forward to meeting BIOFACH visitors from around the globe at stand 653 in hall 1. The consultancy will award a free implementation worth up to 4.950€ of their internal control system (ICS) Group Integrity, which substantially facilitates group certification processes for small-scale farmers. On Thursday, 15th of February at 12 pm, Organic Services invites all interested parties to learn more about the system at a supporting event in NCC Ost, room Prag.

The important role of small-scale farmers

In our highly industrialised and digitalised world of today, it is difficult to comprehend that one third of the world's population still makes their living from farming. More than **70 percent of all farms worldwide comprise less than one hectare** and are operated by individuals or families. Whilst these farmsteads positively promote biodiversity over monoculture, it remains difficult for small-scale farmers to participate in **national and international markets**, where organisational and quality requirements are often very **complex, time- and money-intensive**.

Group certification: the key for market access

An important measure to facilitate market entry for small-scale farmers is group certification, e.g. for **organic, fair-trade, UTZ, GlobalG.A.P.** and other quality standards. If a group of farmers can prove that they have a **well-functioning and reliable ICS** in place, they could be **certified as a single production unit**. Although group certifications are recognized by the EU Organic Regulation and the American NOP, criticism on the concept's integrity is growing. Therefore, small-scale farmers worldwide are worried that one day, their most powerful tool for market access might be eliminated.

Managing internal control systems with Group Integrity

Luckily, there are solutions to re-establish trust. Group Integrity is an **affordable tool** that facilitates and stabilises the management of a group's ICS. Six years after its launch at BIOFACH 2013, it has helped grower groups worldwide to transform into well-structured, transparent and reliable market entities. With Group Integrity, group compliance with quality standards such as organic or fair-trade can easily be administered, checked and proven to third-party certification bodies. The **online-based** system requires **no installation** and thus **prevents data loss**. It can be adjusted according to its users' needs and is updated on a regular basis – the last update took place in January 2019.

Spreading the wor(l)d: distribution of Group Integrity

Group Integrity can either be implemented directly with **Organic Services** or with one of their worldwide **Implementation Partners (IPs)**. Most IPs are consultants or certifiers who – in their local language and time zone – support and train the grower groups in establishing a professional quality management system with Group Integrity.



BIOFACH special: free implementation of Group Integrity

At this year's BIOFACH, Organic Services awards a free implementation of Group Integrity worth up to 4.950€ to the organisation that most convincingly explains how the tool would help them to improve their quality management. Applicants can send their proposals to Ms. Gemma Julia (g.julia@organic-services.com) or hand them in directly at the Organic Services booth, hall 1, Stand 653. The winner will be announced within a few weeks from the trade show.

About Organic Services

Organic Services is an international **consultancy** firm based in Germany. Its services enhance sustainability, integrity and business success throughout the organic food industry. Since its foundation in 2004, Organic Services has specialised in providing **software-based solutions** which enable producers, processors, traders and CBs to manage **traceability, quality, auditing and certification** processes along the supply chain. Following an interdisciplinary approach, the consultancy also offers strategic and organisational **business development, market research, trade support, project and event** management. As a competent partner, Organic Services has been organising the BIOFACH Congress since 2006 and helped to set up the BIOFACH fairs in China, Brazil and India.

BIOFACH-Events by Organic Services

Ecert Basic as tool for local and small certifiers	13.02.2019 / 11:30 am - 12:30 pm / Room Prag / NCC Ost
Blockchain, remote sensing and non-analytical tools for enhancing integrity in supply chains	14.02.2019 / 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm / Room Oslo / NCC Ost
Promoting excellence and fighting fraud with Check Organic	14.02.2019 / 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm / Room Prag / NCC Ost
Group Integrity as data management tool for ICS grower groups	15.02.2019 / 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm / Room Prag / NCC Ost

Contact Organic Services

Gerald A. Herrmann / mobile: +49 177 5521 460 / g.herrmann@organic-services.com

www.organic-services.com / www.check-organic.com / www.group-integrity.com / www.ecert-basic.com

Our software solutions for the organic sector

