

Conversion Requirements

- There shall be a period of organic management, meeting all the requirements of the standards before the resulting product may be considered as organic.
- The start of the conversion period shall be calculated from the date of application to the certification body or, alternatively, from the date of the last application of unapproved inputs provided the operation can demonstrate that standards requirements have been met from that date.
- A full conversion period shall not be required where full standards requirements have been met for at least three years, and where this can be independently verified.
- Plant production from annual production shall only be considered organic when a conversion period of at least 24 months has elapsed prior to sowing/planting. In the case of perennials (excluding pastures and meadows) a period of at least 36 months prior to harvest shall be required.

Choice of Crops and Varieties

- Organic seed and planting materials of appropriate varieties and quality shall be used. Where they are not commercially available, JOAM approved time limits

for the use of non-organic seed and plant materials shall apply.

- When organic seeds and plant material are not available, conventional materials may be used provided that they have not been treated with pesticides not otherwise permitted by these standards.
- Treated seeds may be cultivated in an area separated from the organic operation by suitable buffers, to produce organic seeds for use in the organic operation. Treated seeds shall not be planted in areas demarcated for organic production.

Diversity in Crop Production

- Diversity in plant production and activity shall be assured by minimum crop rotation requirements and/or variety of plantings. Minimum rotation practices for annual crops shall be established unless the operator demonstrates diversity in plant production by other means.

Soil Fertility and Fertilization

The fertility and the biological activity of the soil shall be maintained or increased, by:

- Cultivation of legumes, green manures or deep-rooting plants in an appropriate multi-annual rotation programme;

- Incorporation of livestock manure from livestock production in accordance with the provision of these standards;
- Incorporation of other organic material, composted or not, from holdings producing the same in accordance with these standards.

Raw animal manure shall be composted unless:

- applied to land used for a crop not intended for human consumption;
- incorporated into the soil not less than 90 or 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with the soil surface or soil particles.

Pest, Disease and Weed Management including Growth Regulator

Operators shall use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds and disease. These shall include:

- crop rotation and soil and crop nutrient management practices
- sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds, and habitat for pest organisms
- cultural practices that enhance crop health

The operation shall employ measures including barriers and buffer zones to avoid potential contamination and limit contamination in organic products.

Split Production and Parallel Production

- Where the whole farm is not converted (split production) the organic and conventional parts of the farm shall be clearly and continuously separated and this shall be verified by inspection.
- Simultaneous production of organic and non-organic crops or animal products (parallel production) shall only be permitted where such production is undertaken with clear and continuous separation of all product claimed as certified or certifiable as organic.
- Where farms engage in split (including parallel) production the use of genetically engineered organisms is prohibited in any production activity on the farm.

Maintenance of Organic Management

- The operator shall demonstrate that the production system does not involve continuous switching between organic and conventional management

Record Keeping

- Records should be kept by the operator to demonstrate that the standard requirements have been met.

Practices not allowed in Organic Agriculture

The operator shall not use:

- synthetic pesticides
- any fertilizer or composted plant and animal material that contains a synthetic substance
- sewage sludge (bio solids); or
- ash from burning of a plant or animal material, except wood ash
- burning as a means of disposal for crop residues produced on the operation: Except that, burning may be used to suppress the spread of disease or to stimulate seed germination.



Requirements of JOAM Organic Standards

Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

For a production system to be considered organic it must follow guidelines outlined in organic standards. These vary from country to country and producers should follow organic standards of the country in which they intend to sell their produce and become certified by an agency accredited to certify produce to be sold as organic in that country.

CONTACT US:

**The Jamaica Organic Agriculture
Movement**

P.O. Box 5728, Kingston 6

Email: joam@joamltd.org

Website: www.joamltd.org

**Chairman: Raymond Martin
858-9342**

rdmartinja@gmail.com