



Biocyclic-Vegan Standard
Biozyklisch-Vegane Richtlinien
Standard Biocyclique Végétalien
Πρότυπο Βιοκυκλικής Φυτοπονίας

Press Release (19/12/2017)

Biocyclic Vegan Standard approved by IFOAM-Organics International as part of the “IFOAM Family of Standards”

As of November 9, 2017, by resolution of the World Board of IFOAM Organics International, the Biocyclic Vegan Standard has become an equal member of the [IFOAM Family of Standards](#) as a global vegan organic standard. This decision is based on a successfully completed assessment based on the COROS (Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards) with the help of which the completeness of an organic standard is checked and at the same time the different organic standards worldwide become comparable with each other. This accreditation gives the Biocyclic Vegan Standard the status of a "Stand Alone Standard", which enables producers working in accordance with these guidelines to obtain equivalent and mutually acceptable certifications in addition to a possible membership of an existing growers' association with its own certification.



The Biocyclic-Vegan Standard describes the principles of a sustainable, closed-loop oriented and vegan form of organic farming the implementation of which will enable the agriculture, forestry and food industry to make an effective contribution to protect the environment, to moderate climate change, to enhance biodiversity, to prevent water pollution, to avoid antibiotic residues in crops and to improve soil fertility, as well as it will help to strengthen health aspects throughout the whole food chain and to improve global food security without the use of animals in the sense of traditional livestock husbandry. Soil fertility and productivity are enhanced with the help of purely plant-based inputs. By systematically using mature compost in substrate quality as well as biocyclic humus soil in combination with green manure and mulching of plant materials rich in herbs, the humus content of the soil considerably can be increased on the land cultivated according to the biocyclic-vegan principles.



Initially, the principles of biocyclic farming were developed by the German organic farming pioneer Adolf Hoops (1932-1999) at his horticultural operation "Bio-Modell Walsrode". Existing only on an empirical basis, they were evaluated and systematized by Dr. agr. Johannes Eisenbach and adapted to the Mediterranean region in cooperation with the National Agricultural Research Institute N.AG.RE.F. in Athens and Kalamata / Greece. After the death of Adolf Hoops, the first production guidelines were developed in cooperation with his son Arne Hoops. As "Biocyclic Standards", these guidelines have had a decisive influence on the development of organic farming in Greece and Cyprus up to the present day. Over the past few years, the vegan aspect, which was anchored in the biocyclic idea from the outset, has been particularly worked out in conjunction with initiatives from the fields of vegan organic farming, science and research, consumer education (ProVeg International) and animal ethics (Albert Schweitzer Foundation). This eventually led to the issuing of the present **Biocyclic Vegan Standard** and the ensuing possibility of certification by accredited inspection bodies.

The quality label "from Biocyclic Vegan Agriculture" is awarded by [BNS Biocyclic Network Services Ltd.](#) based in Larnaca, Cyprus, in cooperation with international partners in different countries.

As from this year, the updating and legally binding interpretation of the Biocyclic Vegan Standard has been entrusted to the Biocyclic Vegan Standard and Approval Commission, which is chaired by BNS Biocyclic Network Services and which, in addition to the owners of the label and the representatives of the biocyclic vegan growers' associations, is composed of the inspection bodies mandated for the certification as well as representatives of the organisations that had already participated in the reformulation of the guidelines.

With its inclusion into the "IFOAM Family of Standards" the Biocyclic Vegan Standard is being given a global dimension and offers farmers worldwide the possibility to produce their crops according to purely plant-based principles in a particularly environmentally friendly and resource-saving manner and to be certified accordingly, in order to open up new markets with the quality label "from biocyclic vegan agriculture".

Thus, already around 60 certified smallholder family farms in Greece and Cyprus work according to the Biocyclic Vegan Standard without keeping livestock for commercial purposes and without using any animal manure or other inputs of animal origin. The compliance with the guidelines is controlled and certified by [BIO HELLAS](#) (GR-BIO-03) as part of a supplementary overall audit of the operation that goes far beyond the EU organic inspection. The products of the growers who are associated in the Panhellenic Organic Farm Network BIOCYCLIC-VEGAN NETWORK are sold exclusively through the member



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organisations (organic packhouses) of the [Organic Marketing & Export Network O.M.E.N.](#), which are also controlled and certified according to the Biocyclic Vegan Standard.

Furthermore, producers' associations have been established also in other countries to work according to the Biocyclic Vegan Standard. For the German-speaking countries, for instance, the Growers' and Consumers' Association [Biozyklisch-Veganer Anbau BIO.VEG.AN.](#) was founded in December 2016 with headquarters in Kandel/Palatinate (President: Bernd Kugelmann). Members are controlled and certified by the [LACON-Institute](#) in Offenburg. Simultaneously, the association [Agriculture Biocyclique Végétalienne ABV](#) was established in France. In the near future, organic farms in Austria and Switzerland will also be certified according to the Biocyclic Vegan Standard. Similar projects overseas are in preparation.

With the introduction of the Biocyclic Vegan Standard and the label "from biocyclic vegan agriculture", it has now become possible for suppliers of both, fresh and processed products to label plant-based items with the reference to biocyclic vegan farming and thus transparently communicate the consistently organic and vegan characteristics of these products to a growing segment of customers. For consumers, this provides a complete traceability "from field to table", which enables them for the first time to recognize not only that all ingredients of a product are of purely plant-based origin, but that they have already been grown according to vegan principles.

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