

Biofach- Feb 25th 2005

Overview of harmonization problems with inputs in organic plant production

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Preliminary results from the project

“Organic Inputs Evaluation”

EU-funded Concerted Action
QLK5-CT-2002-02565

www.organicinputs.org





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What are „inputs“?

In this context:

- Plant protection products
- Fertilizers and soil conditioners



What are the problems with non-harmonised input lists?

- **Unfair** competition among producers within EU and in **3rd** countries
- Confusion and mistrust on consumers side.

Regional variations but harmonized and **justified**



A few examples

Manure and other animal wastes from “factory farming” not allowed, but no clear definition.

UK: plenty of sources, therefore strict interpretation

I or ES: very few sources, less strict interpretation



Examples with PPPs

- **Registration** at national level
- **Simplified** (but not harmonized) **registration procedures** in D (Pflanzenstärkungsmittel), A (mutual recognition with D), PT (simplified reg.) , I (specific Decree), NL (RUB), F (elicitors, planned)...
- *Inerts* (not regulated)



A STEP TOWARDS HARMONIZATION

The project will develop a procedure which has:

- clear, transparent **criteria**
- clear, transparent, defined **decision-making process** ensuring participation of the relevant stakeholders at MS and EU level.

The procedure can be used in any other context such as other countries, private standard setting organizations...



Parts of the procedure

- Format with data requirements (for applicants)
- Guidelines for evaluation, working method, terms of reference (definitions)
- Criteria set
- Composition of evaluation panel
- Defined application, evaluation and decision-making process

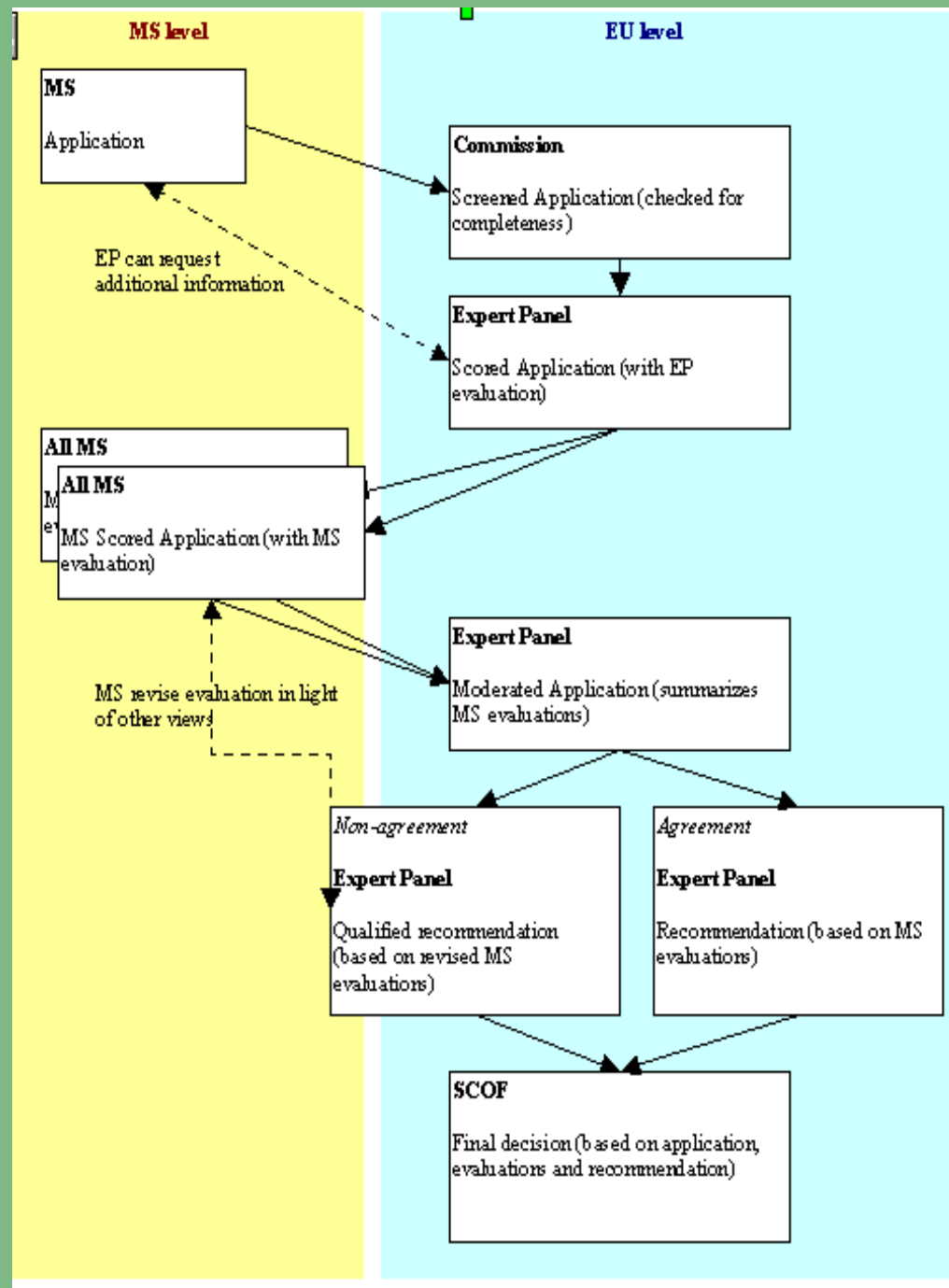


Examples of criteria matrix

3	Origin, manufacturing	
3,01	Origin and production method	
3,02	GMO status	
3,03	Factory farming status	
3,04	Renewable origin status	
4	Use, necessity - fertiliser and soil conditioner (FSC)	
4,01	Use category	
4,02	Traditional use of FSC in organic farming	
4,03	Necessity for FSC	
4,04	Economic importance	
4,05	Likely extent of use	
4,06	Alternative products available	



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Further open questions

- amendment of Art. 6 and 7 of 2092/91;
- Impact of re-evaluation of pesticides (4th stage);
- special regulations regarding “low risk products”



Next steps

October 13th, 2005, Brussels:
Public Conference of the
Organic Inputs Project

- Presentation of drafts
- Public discussion

Your comments are welcome!

For more information see

www.organicinputs.org

