

**Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre Certification Limited**  
**Updates of Organic Production, Aquaculture and Processing Standard 2017**  
**(IFOAM and Non-IFOAM Accredited versions)**



**1. New standard**

New standard	Content
3.12 Breeding of organic varieties	<p>Organic plant breeding and variety development aims for new varieties suited for organic production systems, rather than simply use or production of organic seeds from regular (conventional) varieties. It is a holistic approach that respects natural crossing barriers, relies on natural reproductive ability, and always creative, cooperative and open for science, intuition, and new findings, enhances genetic diversity and is sustainable.</p> <p>3.12.1 To produce organic varieties, plant breeders must select their varieties under organic conditions that comply with the requirements of this standard. All multiplication practices except meristem culture must be under certified organic management.</p> <p>3.12.2 Organic plant breeders must develop organic varieties only on the basis of genetic material that 22 Chapter 4 Standards for Aquaculture Production Organic Production, Aquaculture and Processing Standard 2017 (IFOAM Accredited Version) has not been contaminated by products of genetic engineering.</p> <p>3.12.3 Organic plant breeders must disclose the applied breeding techniques. Organic plant breeders must make the information about the methods, which were used to develop an organic variety, available for the public latest from the beginning of marketing of the seeds.</p> <p>3.12.4 The genome is respected as an impartible entity. Technical interventions into the genome of plants are not allowed (e.g. ionizing radiation; transfer of isolated DNA, RNA, or proteins).</p> <p>3.12.5 The cell is respected as an impartible entity. Technical interventions into an isolated cell on an artificial medium are not allowed (e.g. genetic engineering techniques; destruction of cell walls and disintegration of cell nuclei through cytoplasm fusion).</p> <p>3.12.6 The natural reproductive ability of a plant variety is respected and maintained. This excludes techniques that reduce or inhibit the germination capacities (e.g. terminator technologies).</p>

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**2. Revised standards**

<b>Section</b>	3.6 Fertility Management	
<b>Standard version</b>	2015	2017
<b>Content</b>	3.6.11 The use of synthetic fertilizers is prohibited. Exceptions maybe granted by the Certification Board for the use of restricted items as specified in the Appendix (Appendix 7.2.1) only when sufficient evidence of deficiency in a specific micro-nutrient of the farmland is provided.	3.6.11 The use of synthetic fertilizers or fertility amendments rapidly available to the plant is restricted. Exceptions maybe granted by the Certification Board for the use of restricted items as specified in the Appendix (Appendix 7.2.1) only when sufficient evidence of deficiency in a specific micro-nutrient of the farmland is provided and as a necessary complement when other fertility building techniques have been applied and are insufficient.

<b>Section</b>	7.2.1 Materials for Soil Management and Fertilization																				
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- 3. Deleted standard**  
Not applicable.