

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

**Bachelor of Science in Organic Agriculture**

Year 2 Final Assessment: Academic Year 2014/2015  
**Module OA/6: Organic Standards, Regulations and Certification**

Date: Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 Time: 10:00am – 01:00pm

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Read and understand the question before answering*
- *Select and answer any **Four Questions***
- *Do not write anything on a question paper*
- *Start each question on a separate answer sheet*
- *You are allowed **Three Hours** for the examination*

1a). Certification should be an enabling mechanism rather than a technical barrier to market access and/ or trade. According to IFOAM, the system of having a functional Internal Control System coupled with an annual inspection by an independent certification body, offers a sound if not better organic guarantee system. As a consultant in organic certification systems, describe the main elements of a functional Internal Control System, including the merits of having such a guarantee system.

b). Local certification bodies/ programmes have long-term advantages in the development of organic agriculture trade in a country. However, such local programmes are faced with numerous challenges, especially in the starting-up phase. Discuss

2a). Briefly define the following terms as used in organic certification

- i. Operator
- ii. Production System Standards
- iii. Voluntary Standards
- iv. Parallel Processing
- v. Spot-check Inspection

b). Generally, certification of organic production is a 'three tier' approach approval. Discuss

3a). With the development and professionalization of the organic sector accompanied with increased international trade, third party certification has become the norm in most developed organic markets. However, Participatory Guarantee Systems have never stopped to exist, and serve numerous organic producers and consumers eager to maintain local economies and direct & transparent relationships. Although the methodology and processes of these

Guarantee Systems may vary, their key features remain consistent worldwide. Describe these key features.

b). What does an organic inspection cover?

4a). Describe the main elements of an organic certification system

b). Other than being a key tool for creating consumer trust, outline the other benefits of organic certification

5a). Moshi Coffee Estate has ten Arabica coffee blocks. Seven of the coffee blocks are organic certified, while the other three are still being managed conventionally. According to the last external inspection report, the coffee estate lacks a detailed risk analysis to assure the organic integrity of the coffee at the different levels of the product flow. As a recently hired sustainability manager of the estate, develop a detailed risk assessment of the operation, including the appropriate preventative and/ or mitigation measures for all the identified and/ or probable risks.

b). What are the challenges of organic certification in East Africa.

6a). With the aid of examples, briefly define the following terms

- i. International Organic Standards
- ii. Split Production
- iii. Unannounced Inspections
- iv. Commingling
- v. Exemption

b). What are some of the factors considered by certification bodies in computing organic certification fees.

7. (a) Define the term 'Production Flow' as used in organic processing operations.

(b) Using your knowledge of organic processing, describe the production flow of any product of your choice; clearly indicating those critical steps at which the organic integrity of the product might be compromised and the necessary precautionary measures.

**End**