

Wednesday  
17th March  
2021

# The participatory guarantee system a citizen organic labeling



Organic farming in New Caledonia is based on the Oceanian organic farming standard implemented in 2010 by POETCom (Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community), a service offered by the Pacific Community. It is the result of a concerted effort by the regional working group on organic farming (ROTF).



To ensure compliance with the standard and specifications, the Pacific working group created a certification system accessible to the populations of the Pacific with the establishment of a participatory guarantee system (PGS) for local markets.



In New Caledonia, the SPG has more than 200 members within the Biocalédonia association, which is the organization for the defense and management of the Biopasifika label. Farmers and consumers are divided into 10 groups across the country. The values, control schemes, record sheets, measures of non-compliance and the type of commitment are defined by the association in consultation with all of its members.



The architecture of the labeling chain is determined by all the players involved in the process. The organization is pyramidal and includes the Territorial Certification Committee, who provides coordination and advice which validates the labels and the local groups that bring together producers and consumers.

The objectivity of the system is guaranteed because of:

- 1 the commitment to the association of producers and consumers
- 2 the presence of consumers at different levels of the organization
- 3 the transparency of the organization and access to information for all
- 4 the presence of various players in the sector
- 5 the level of seriousness in monitoring the standard



In addition, a third-party certification system for manufacturers would complement the SPG for farmers. This system responds to the demand of local agri-food companies to gain access to the organic BIO-PASIFIKA farming label. The innovation lies in the ability of the Bio Calédonia association to recognize an external auditor in the participatory system. This is a major step forward for the organic farming sector and a real development opportunity.