

Researchers of S. Seifullin KATIU developed scientifically grounded proposals for harmonizing documents in the field of organic production and circulation

Researchers of S. Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical Research University developed scientifically grounded proposals for harmonizing regulatory legal acts and standardization documents in the field of production and circulation of organic products with requirements at the international, regional and interstate levels.

The research was carried out within the framework of the scientific and technical program BR22885418 “Scientific support for the technological development of organic production of agricultural products in the Republic of Kazakhstan”. The scientific supervisor of the Program is Professor, Candidate of Agricultural Sciences Sh.O. Bastaubayeva; the Project leader is Associate Professor, Candidate of Agricultural Sciences B.K. Bulashev.

The work is aimed at forming a coherent national regulatory system capable of simultaneously supporting the development of domestic organic production, consumer confidence and comparability with external certification systems.

In the study, harmonization is considered not as a mechanical copying of foreign legal structures, but as achieving functional comparability. National documents should provide a comparable level of control, traceability, evidence of product origin, risk management and consumer protection, while remaining consistent with the legislation and agricultural practice of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The work included analysis of:

- the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Production and Circulation of Organic Products”;
- the Rules for production and circulation of organic products;
- registers of producers, seeds and farm animals;
- the List of permitted inputs;
- the Rules for subsidizing conformity assessment costs;
- national standards ST RK 3455-2023, ST RK 3110-2023, ST RK 3111-2023 and ST RK 3942-

2023;

- new standards on group certification, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and products from wild-collected raw materials.

The EU Regulation 2018/848 and its related delegated and implementing acts, Codex Alimentarius, IFOAM and COROS documents, as well as the interstate standard GOST 33980-2016 were used as external reference points.

The study found that the current national system of documents requires further improvement in terminology, conformity assessment procedures, traceability, record keeping, recognition of foreign certificates, use of permitted inputs and functioning of collective forms of conformity assessment.

The researchers proposed to:

- develop a full-fledged system for accounting and traceability of organic products based on existing regulatory legal acts, registers and information systems, ensuring their mutual integration;
- establish a transparent procedure for recognizing foreign certificates and conformity assessment results;
- update the Rules for production and circulation of organic products;
- ensure integration of registers of producers, seeds and farm animals;
- introduce regular scientific and expert updating of the List of permitted inputs;
- review basic national standards and bring them into line with current legislation;
- ensure practical implementation of standards on group certification, ICS, PGS and wild-collected raw materials;
- prepare standard record forms, methodological materials and training programs for operators and inspectors.

An important feature of the study was the use of practical certification materials for organic production. The experience of “A.I. Barayev Scientific and Production Center for Grain Farming” LLP, “North Kazakhstan Agricultural Experimental Station” LLP and S. Seifullin KATIU made it possible to assess the practical feasibility of the current requirements.

The practical materials demonstrated the importance of a functioning register of organic seeds, unified record keeping, control of product batch movement, documentation of precautionary measures, establishment of buffer zones and rapid response to risks of external contamination.

As a result of the work, a three-stage plan for implementing the proposals was developed. The first stage provides for eliminating the most significant regulatory gaps, updating basic standards and launching special standards. The second stage includes integration of registers, development of digital data exchange, preparation of standard forms and improvement of state support measures. The third stage provides for regular monitoring of law enforcement practice, training of specialists and institutional consolidation of the national regulatory model.

The developed proposals may serve as a scientific basis for further adjustment of regulatory legal acts, revision of national standards, preparation of methodological documents and expert support for the development of the organic agriculture system of the Republic of Kazakhstan.