

Best Practices for Organic Policy

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UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF study

- 35 actionable recommendations based on:
 - Case studies of 7 countries
 - Chile
 - Costa Rica
 - Denmark
 - Egypt
 - Malaysia
 - Thailand
 - South Africa
- Other experience

Policy Basics

1. Assess current situation professionally
2. Clarify stakeholders and objectives from the start
3. Link to main agri policies



4. Involve and listen to stakeholders

5. Recognize the diversity in the sector

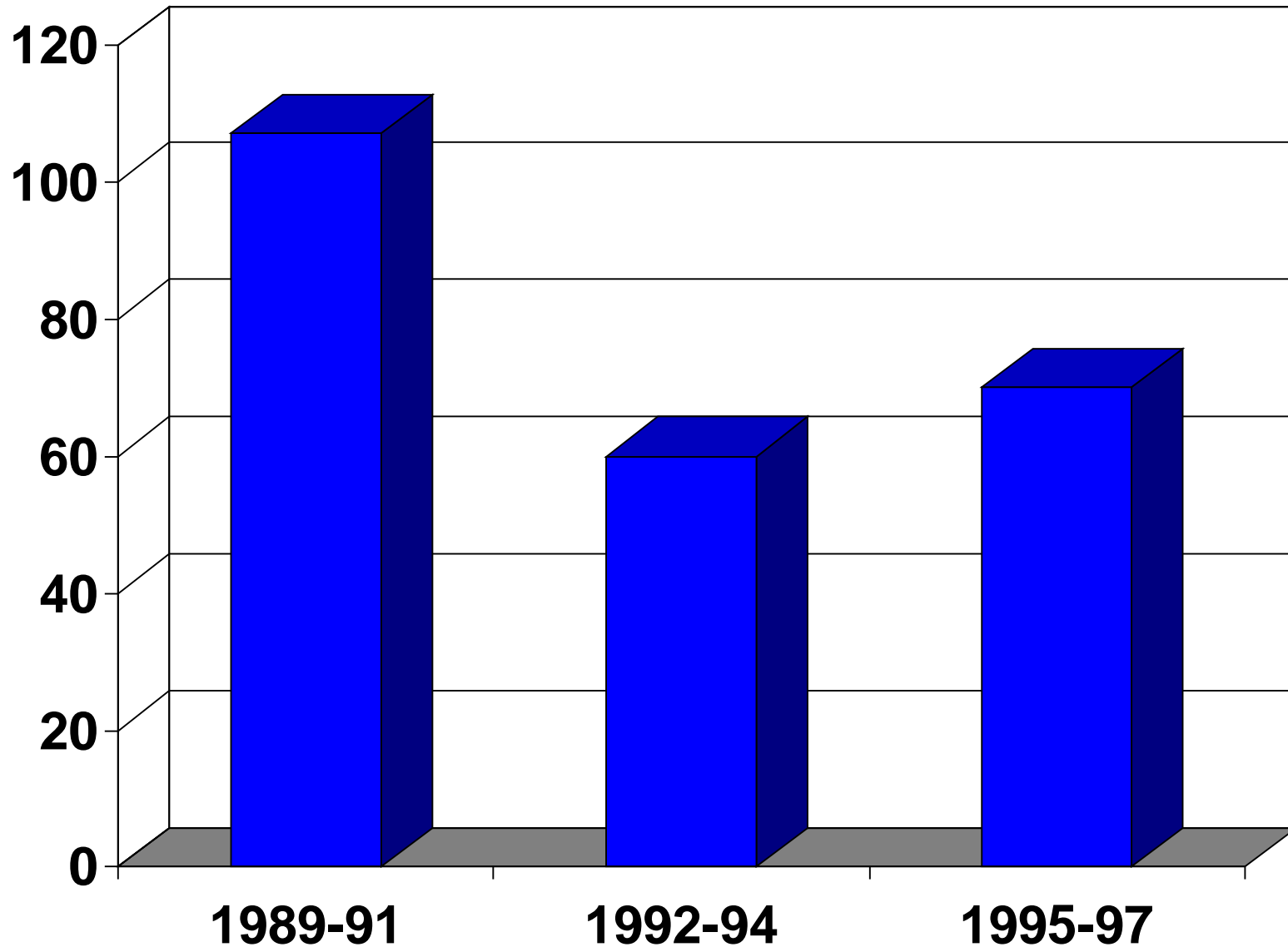
Action Plan

- Follow policy with clear plan
- Formulate clear targets and assign accountability for progress
- Assign lead agency
- Install permanent National Organic Committee
 - Organic stakeholders & government institutions
- Monitor: collect data

To regulate or not to regulate?

1. No regulation
2. Use of general consumer protection / fair trade practices regs
3. Reference international standards
4. Trade friendly i.e. imports
5. Voluntary or Mandatory regulations
6. Pre-mature regulation may hurt sector

EU Organic growth rate pre- & post regulation (1992)



Regulations and Export Markets

- Equivalence is resource demanding
- Access achieved by voluntary arrangements
- For exports it is always quickest to use the standards of the importing countries – this is what is happening today



Certification

- Domestic certification bodies can play key role for domestic market development
- Compulsory certification should be avoided
- Certification process absorbs a lot of resources in the sector.
- Other quality assurance mechanisms can be suitable i.e. participatory guarantee systems

What can governments do I

1. Recognition-credibility
2. Domestic Markets i.e. consumer education, local mkts.
3. Public procurement
4. Promote ONE label



What can governments do II

1. Support farmer transition & certifi.
2. Facilitate farmer organization
3. Support market information systems
4. Protect organic from GMOs
5. Integrate organics into mandate of TPOs

Extension services

- Integrate organic
- Build on traditional knowledge
- Gender relevant

Education

Integrate in curriculum

- agriculture schools
- primary and secondary schools
- higher education in organic
- specialised institutions to drive competency

Research

- Based on priority of the sector
- Participatory
- Integrate traditional knowledge
- Inputs researched and possibly controlled
- Centres of excellence

Removing obstacles and disincentives

- No subsidies for agro-chemicals or GMOs
- In all agriculture policies & programs consider effect on OA
- Consider impact of competing 'light-green' schemes (i.e. consumer confusion)

Regional and international

- Regional cooperation
 - Standards, mkting, R&D, info sharing
 - Pacific & East Africa example

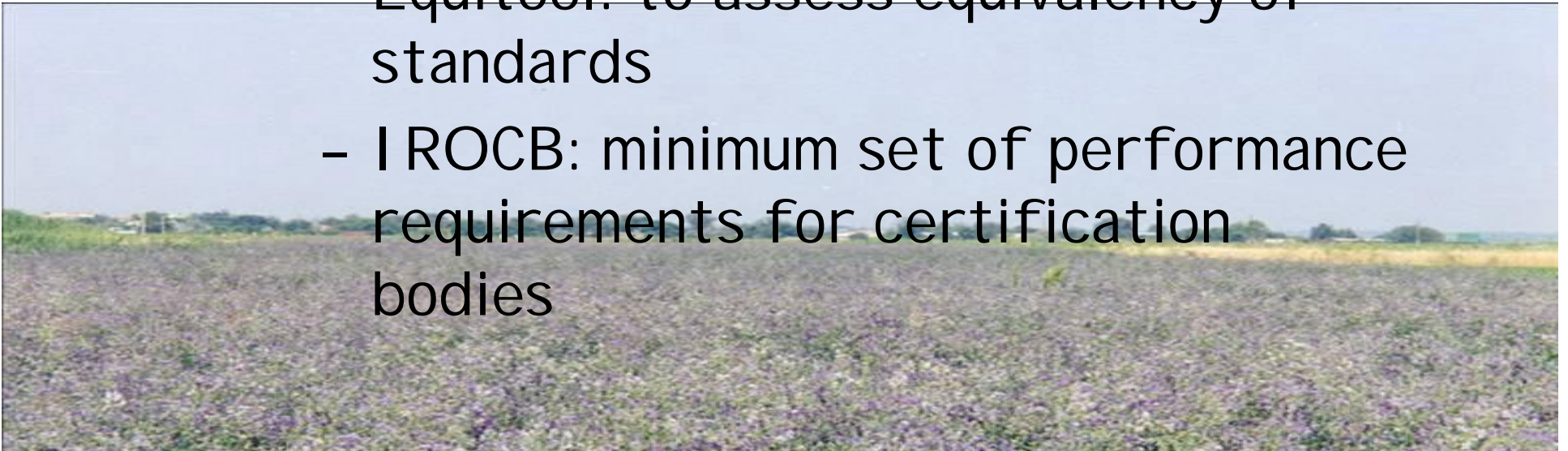
- Participation in Codex, IFOAM



Regional and international

Use I TF rec's and tools:

- import approvals based on intl standards and equivalency
- Equitool: to assess equivalency of standards
- I ROCB: minimum set of performance requirements for certification bodies



Priority-setting
and proper
sequencing

Private sector
participation is
critical

