

LAW N^o 2025/013 OF 17 DEC 2025

TO LAY DOWN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING
ORGANIC FARMING IN CAMEROON



*The Parliament deliberated and adopted,
the President of the Republic hereby
enacts the law set out below:*

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

I - PURPOSE AND SCOPE

SECTION 1: (1) This law governs organic farming in Cameroon. As such, it outlines the principles and rules governing organic farming and related activities.

(2) It seeks to:

- promote the findings of research on organic farming;
- professionalize and protect operators in the organic farming industry;
- ensure the quality of organic farming products;
- protect consumers from counterfeit;
- lay down conditions for the production, transportation, preparation, labelling, storage, inspection, certification and marketing of organic farming products;
- lay down the conditions for using the label "*organic product*" on the domestic market;
- specify the monitoring and certification system for organic products;
- provide conditions for promoting and developing organic farming.

SECTION 2: (1) The provisions of this law shall apply to organically produced natural or processed products derived from plants, animals, aquaculture, beekeeping and non-timber forest resources.

These include:

- unprocessed plants and plant products, livestock and livestock products;
- processed plant and livestock products for human consumption;
- products obtained from harvesting or gathering of plants or parts of wild plants that grow naturally, in forests and agricultural areas.

(2) The following are excluded from the scope of this law:

- products derived from fishing, wildlife hunting and forest fishery resources;
- genetically modified organisms.

SECTION 3: Organic farming shall be carried out under the supervision of the State, which shall lay down the technical standards in the sector.



II – DEFINITIONS

SECTION 4: Within the meaning of this law and its subsequent implementing instruments, the following definitions shall apply:

“Accreditation”: procedure whereby an authorized body certifies an organization’s technical competence and impartiality for specific tasks.

“Animal feed additives”: Products used in animal nutrition for their effects on the feed itself, on the animals, on the food products derived from animals consuming the additive, or on the environment.

“Sworn official”: Any individual, who has been sworn in, designated by the competent authority to inspect or monitor organic products.

“Organic agriculture or farming”: an agricultural production system for plants, animals, aquaculture and forestry resources, compliant with all the regulations under this law, whose uniqueness lies in the implementation of practices that preserve natural balance, by greatly reducing the use of synthetic chemical inputs, avoiding the use of genetically modified organisms, and promoting sustainable farming methods that preserve biodiversity and uphold the principles of equity.

“Competent Authority”: Ministry responsible for regulating and monitoring activities relating to organic agriculture, or any other authority entrusted with this responsibility.

“Technological aids”: any substance, not consumed as food, used in the processing of raw materials, foodstuff, or their components to achieve a specific technological purpose during treatment or processing, and which may lead to the unintentional yet technically unavoidable presence of residues or derivatives of the substance in the final product, provided such residues pose no health risks and have no technological impact on the finished product.

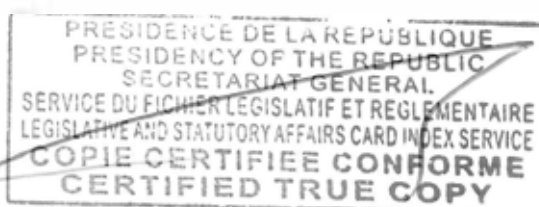
“Terms of reference”: set of requirements approved by the competent authority outlining the rules for the production, transportation, preparation, storage, processing, labelling and marketing of organic products.

“Certification”: issuance of a certificate of compliance following inspection of products derived from organic farming.

“Contamination”: the existence of harmful organisms in goods, storage facility, transport means, container, or other regulated items, even without the occurrence of an infestation.

“Control”: monitoring and checking the implementation of organic farming regulations and standards.

“Conversion”: the shift from conventional to organic farming during a given period, where the provisions of this law and the requirements of the terms of reference shall apply.



“Labelling”: any words, information, trademarks, brand names, images or symbols, associated with a product, that appear on packaging, documents, notices, labels, rings or neck tags accompanying organically produced goods.

“Farm”: any unit that produces or prepares organic products.

“Components”: any substance used to manufacture or prepare the products, and which are still present in the finished product, but in a modified form.

“Inputs”: living organism or organic element introduced to farmland or livestock facilities, to optimize production.

“Animal health product”: any substance known for its preventive or curative properties with respect to animal diseases, including any product administered to animals to restore, modify or correct their organic function, diagnose diseases or modify their physiology.

“Operator”: any natural or legal person that produces, gathers, prepares, transports, stocks, or sells products referred to in Section 2 above.

“Certifying agency”: body apart from producers, importers and sellers in charge of certifying that plant, animal and forest products or those gathered from a natural environment, comply with conditions for production, gathering, picking, preparing and tagging laid down by organic farming standards and specifications.

“Compliance assessment body”: body responsible for assessing operators' compliance with conditions for production, gathering, picking, preparing, and tagging laid down by organic farming specifications, based on a control plan. This could be, as per each case, a certifying agency or a Participatory Guarantee System.

“Genetically modified organisms (GMO) and their by-products”: any plant or animal organism or micro-organism apart from humans, whose genetic material has been modified in a way other than multiplication and/or natural recombination.

“Preparation”: conservation or transformation operations of organic products or those under conversion, including the conditioning or modifications relating to the presentation of the organic farming process added to the nomenclature of natural, conditioned or transformed products.

“Conventional production”: non-organic farming.

“Hydroponic production”: method of growing plants which do not naturally grow in water by placing their roots in nutrient-rich solutions solely or in an inert medium to which is added nutrients.

“Organic products”: produce of certified organic farming.

“Non-timber forest products”: plant forest products other than timber from forests, farm woodlands or non-forest trees.



“Residues”: toxic chemical substances or mixture of chemical substances that may remain on food meant for human or animal consumption due to phytosanitary treatment during cultivation or after harvesting.

“Participatory Guarantee System”: quality assurance system based on the active participation of locally-based producers, preparers and consumers which guarantees, that agricultural, animal, fishery and forest products or those gathered from their natural milieu comply with production, gathering, picking, preparation, and tagging conditions fixed by organic farming specifications.

“Traceability”: ability to identify the origin of a product and track its course from production to consumption.

“Production unit”: set of means put together for production in areas such as parcels, pastures, in-land or maritime water bodies, fish hatcheries, aquaculture ponds, hatcheries, livestock building, preparing facilities, facilities for the conditioning and stocking of plants, plants or animal products, ingredients or any other useful input to the production concerned.

CHAPTER II

COMMON PROVISIONS OF ORGANIC FARMING

I - GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC FARMING

SECTION 5: Organic farming shall constitute a sustainable management system based on the following general principles:

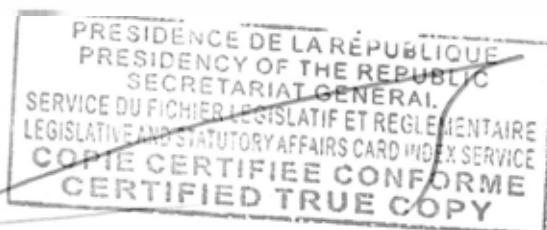
- health principle;
- eco-friendliness principle;
- equity principle, and;
- precautionary principle.

SECTION 6: (1) Health principle stipulates that organic farming shall be a system of production under which sustainable improvement of soils, plants, animal and human health are one and indivisible.

(2) Eco-friendliness principle stipulates that organic farming must be based on living ecological cycles and systems, not to be altered but copied and maintained.

(3) Equity principle stipulates that organic farming must equitably take into consideration shared environment and life opportunities.

(4) Precautionary principle stipulates that organic farming shall be conducted in a careful and responsible manner to protect the health, environment and well-being of current and future generations.



II - PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC FARMING

SECTION 7: The State may grant financial, tax, customs, land and logistics incentives in order to:

- foster private investment;
- bolster training in agrobiological and transformation of certified organic products;
- foster interprofessional cooperation and boost attractiveness;
- promote the dissemination of organic farming;
- enhance the growth of organic farming;
- invest in organic farming research and innovation.

SECTION 8: (1) Government or technical and financial partners may provide the private sector with aid, grants and subsidies to develop organic farming.

(2) The promotion and development of organic farming shall be funded with shares of revenues from:

- authorization fees;
- control and certification royalties;
- crop declaration charges;
- trademark registration fees;
- proceed of fines;
- any other type of royalty derived from organic farming activities.

SECTION 9: Conditions governing the collection and management of the revenue referred to in Section 8 above shall be fixed by the budget.

III - PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION AND PREPARATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

SECTION 10: (1) Any operator that produces, gathers, picks, transports, stocks or prepares animal, apian, fishery or non-timber forest organic products under organic farming conditions, shall keep such products away from non-organic products.

(2) The organic farming operator must identify the organic products in every step of the preparation phase so as to avoid mixing them with non-organic products and/or contamination from unauthorized substances in organic farming.



SECTION 11: (1) Stocking and holding unauthorized inputs for this system of production in units reserved for organic farming with respect to applicable specifications shall be forbidden.

(2) When an operator practices organic and conventional systems of production, inputs of organic farming must be separated from those of conventional production. Thus, each operator shall hold a ledger under forms and conditions laid down by regulation to ensure the effectiveness of this separation.

SECTION 12: The following products or their by-products shall be forbidden in organic farming:

- genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or their by-products;
- products, animal feed or their ingredients which have undergone ionizing radiation;
- products derived from hydroponic production.

SECTION 13: (1) Switching the production of agricultural, forest, animal, apiarian or fishery products from non- organic to organic farming systems, shall require a transition period called "*conversion period*".

(2) Such conversion period shall start once the operator has declared its activity to the competent authority and the body responsible for control and certification.

(3) Throughout such period, the operator shall abide by the provisions of this law, its subsequent implementing instruments and specifications applicable to the type of activity conducted.

(4) Where a farmland or a unit shall be half organic farming and half conversion, the operator shall separate products of organic farming from those of conversion, including animals or shall ease such separation and hold a ledger to attest thereto.

(5) Conditions and periods of specific conversions shall be defined by regulation.

IV - PROVISIONS RELATING TO ORGANIC FARMING STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION 14: (1) Any person wishing to produce, gather, pick or prepare agricultural, animal, apiarian, fishery or non-timber forest products under the organic farming system must comply with the production, preparation, control and tagging conditions of these product laid down in this law. Such person must also apply the activity-related standard specifications.

(2) The exercise of production and preparation activities under the organic farming system shall be subject to declaration to the competent authority, under conditions laid down by regulation.

SECTION 15: (1) The competent authority, in collaboration with the stakeholders in the organic sector concerned shall issue activity-related standard specifications following the opinion of the National Organic farming Committee.

(2) any standard specification established for the organic farming of an agricultural, animal, fishery or forest product, must state its category and indicate among others the:

- production and/or preparation processes;
- duration of conversion period;
- authorized inputs;
- authorized animal feed supplements and manufacturing aid;
- Authorized products used to clean and disinfect places, structures and transportation means used for the production and preparation of products concerned;
- required environmental standards;
- conservation, conditioning and stocking mode(s), including those for maintaining product quality.

(3) Any prescription specific to a category of agricultural, animal, fishery or non-timber forest products subject to organic farming, must feature in the corresponding standard specification.

(4) A special instrument signed by the Prime Minister shall lay down the organization and functioning of the National Organic farming Committee referred to in (1) above.

SECTION 16: The conditions for drafting products standard specification, their content and dissemination, shall be laid down by regulation.

V - LABELLING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

SECTION 17: (1) Any agricultural, animal, aquaculture or non-timber forestry product derived from the organic production method must, when marketed as an organic product, bear a label in accordance with the regulations in force.

(2) Such statements must be visible, easily legible and indelible. They shall be affixed to the product or its packaging, as the case may be, without prejudice to any other information required by the legislation in force on the labelling and presentation of foodstuffs and, where applicable, by any other specific provisions applicable to the product concerned.

SECTION 18: (1) The affixing on an agricultural, animal, beekeeping, aquaculture or non-timber forest product of the words "*organic product*" and/or the related logo, shall certify that the product has been obtained in accordance with the provisions of this law.

(2) The logo model shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 19: The logo or the words "*organic product*", shall be a controlled and protected designation, including a trademark or a drawing suggesting that the said product or one of its ingredients is an organic product.

VI - CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

SECTION 20: Any operator wishing to produce, prepare or market the products referred to in Section 2 of this Law under the organic label must:

- declare their organic production to the competent authority;
- submit their organic production to the control and certification process provided for by this law and its implementing texts;
- keep a record of production units.

SECTION 21: (1) The task of controlling organic production activities shall be carried out by the competent authority.

(2) The task of certifying products derived from organic production shall be carried out by the body responsible for certification and any other body approved by the competent authority.

(3) The certification and control mechanisms and procedures referred to in (1) and (2) above shall be defined by regulation.

SECTION 22: Compliance assessment bodies, including certification bodies and participatory guarantee systems issuing organic certificates or any other document serving as such on national territory, shall be approved by the competent authority by regulation.

SECTION 23: (1) In order to be approved as a control and certification body for organic products, the applicant must:

- meet the requirements set by the administration in terms of technical expertise and human and material capacity necessary to carry out the control and certification operations provided for in the standard specifications for organic production;
- provide every guarantee of impartiality, independence and objectivity with regard to the operators subject to its control and certification.

(2) The conditions and procedure for the issuance, renewal, suspension or withdrawal of compliance assessment approvals as well as

those for terminating the suspension measures, shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 24: To be approved as a participatory guarantee system, the applicant must:

- meet the conditions for the operation of participatory guarantee systems defined by regulation;
- be able to provide statistical data and information on certified operators at the request of the competent authority.

VII - CONDITIONS FOR THE TRANSPORT AND MARKETING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

SECTION 25: Products derived from organic production methods must be transported in sealed packaging or containers, regardless of their destination, in order to prevent substitution of their contents or mixing with conventional products. They shall be labelled in accordance with the provisions of this law.

SECTION 26: (1) Only products meeting the following conditions may be sold on the national market as organic products:

- imported products, certified organic in accordance with regulations recognized as equivalent by the competent authority;
- domestic products certified in accordance with the organic standard specifications by an approved certification body;
- domestic products guaranteed in accordance with the standard organic specifications by an approved participatory guarantee system.

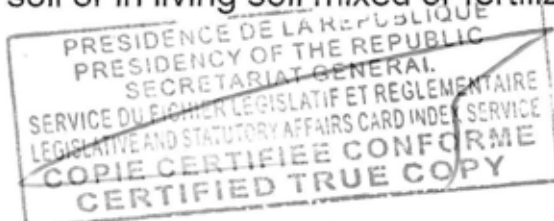
(2) The conditions for recognizing the equivalence referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 27: The places reserved for the marketing of organic products and the means of transport for such products shall be cleaned and disinfected using products authorized in the standard specifications.

CHAPTER III **SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR ORGANIC FARMING**

I - RULES APPLICABLE TO PLANT PRODUCTION

SECTION 28: (1) With the exception of those that grow naturally in water, organic crops shall be grown in living soil or in living soil mixed or fertilized with



materials and products authorized for organic farming, in connection with the subsoil and bedrock.

(2) Hydroponic production is prohibited.

(3) All crop and fodder production techniques used must prevent or minimize any contribution to environmental contamination.

(4) Permission to use in-conversion material or a non-organic method of plant reproduction, shall be obtained prior to sowing the crop, including fodder crops.

SECTION 29: (1) For plants, plant products and fodder to be considered organic products, the production rules must comply with the specifications.

(2) In the event of contamination of the land by products or substances not authorized for use in organic farming, the competent authority may decide to extend the conversion period.

(3) In the event of treatment with a product or substance not authorized for use in organic farming, the competent authority shall require a new conversion period.

SECTION 30: (1) Control authorities or conformity assessment bodies may authorize operators to use in-conversion material or non-organic means of plant and fodder reproduction in an organic production unit.

(2) Authorization to use in-conversion material or non-organic means of plant reproduction may be granted only on an individual basis, and for one season at a time.

(3) The competent authority responsible for issuing authorizations shall list the quantities of plant reproductive material authorized.

SECTION 31: For mushroom production, substrates may be used if they include only the components authorized by the specifications.

SECTION 32: (1) Organic crop and fodder production shall use tillage and cultivation practices that preserve or increase soil organic matter, improve soil stability and biodiversity, and prevent soil compaction and erosion.

(2) Soil fertility and organic activity shall be preserved and increased by multi-annual crop rotation, including legumes and other green manure crops, and by the application of livestock manure or organic matter, preferably composted, from organic production.

(3) The use of biodynamic preparations shall be permitted.

(4) Fertilizers and soil improvers may be used only if they have been authorized for use in organic farming.

(5) The use of mineral fertilizers shall be prohibited.



(6) The prevention of damage caused by pests, diseases and weeds shall be based mainly on the protection of natural predators, the choice of species and varieties, crop rotation, cultivation techniques and thermal processes, and approved bio-pesticides.

(7) In the event of a proven threat to a crop, plant protection products may be used only if they have been authorized for use in organic farming.

(8) For the production of products other than seed and vegetative propagating material only organically produced seed and propagating material shall be used.

II - RULES APPLICABLE TO ANIMAL AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

SECTION 33: The rules applicable to animal and aquaculture production shall cover origin, breeding, husbandry practices, housing conditions, feeding, disease prevention and veterinary treatment.

SECTION 34: (1) Organic livestock must be born and raised on organic farms.

(2) However, for breeding purposes, non-organic animals may be introduced onto a farm under specific conditions. Such animals, as well as the products derived therefrom, may be considered organic once the conversion period has been completed.

(3) Animals kept on the farm at the start of the conversion period, as well as products derived therefrom, may be considered organic once the conversion period has been completed.

SECTION 35: (1) Organic aquaculture shall be based on the rearing of fingerlings from organic broodstock and originating from organic farms.

(2) However, where fingerlings from organic broodstock or farms are not available, animals from non-organic production may be introduced into a farm under specific conditions.

SECTION 36: (1) Livestock farming practices, including stocking density and housing conditions, must minimize the negative effects of the operation on the environment, including the escape of livestock.

(2) The number of livestock shall be limited in order to minimize overgrazing, soil compaction, erosion or pollution caused by the animals or by the spreading of their manure.

SECTION 37: (1) Organic livestock shall be kept separate from other livestock.

(2) Any suffering, including mutilation, shall be minimized throughout the animal's life and at the time of slaughter.

SECTION 38: (1) In the field of beekeeping, apiaries must be located in areas offering sources of nectar and pollen consisting mainly of organically produced crops.

(2) However, beehives may be located not far from wild flora, forests, or crops harvested in a non-organic manner to which only treatments with a low impact on the environment are applied.

(3) Beehives must be located far enough from sources that could contaminate beekeeping products or harm the health of bees.

(4) Beehives and the materials used in beekeeping must be made primarily from natural materials.

SECTION 39: (1) Animal and aquaculture reproduction must use natural methods.

(2) It shall not use treatments based on hormones or similar substances, except in the context of veterinary treatment applied to an individual animal, in accordance with the regulations in force.

(3) However, artificial insemination shall be authorized.

SECTION 40: For animal and aquaculture reproduction, suitable breeds must be selected.

SECTION 41: Any operator engaged in livestock and/or aquaculture production must obtain feed mainly from the farm where the animals are kept or from other organic farms.

SECTION 42: (1) Farm animals shall be fed organic feed that meets their nutritional needs at various stages of their development.

(2) Unweaned mammals shall be fed natural milk, preferably their mother's milk.

(3) However, part of the ration may contain feed from farms in conversion to organic production.

SECTION 43: (1) Non-organic feed materials of plant origin, feed materials of animal and mineral origin, feed additives, some products used in animal feed and processing aids may be used only if they have been authorized for use in organic farming.

(2) The plant-based component of food must be produced organically, and food derived from aquatic and terrestrial animals must come from sustainable fishing and organic farming.

SECTION 44: Any illness must be treated immediately to avoid causing the animal any suffering.

SECTION 45: (1) Any farm that shall start organic production must observe a conversion period.

(2) Such period shall start at the earliest when the operator has declared its activity to the competent authorities and has subjected its operation to the control system.

(3) Specific conversion periods shall be defined for each type of crop, livestock or aquaculture production.

SECTION 46: (1) In a farm or unit that is partly organic and partly in conversion to organic production, the operator shall separate organic products from products in conversion, separate the animals or ensure that they can be easily separated, and keep records to prove such separation.

(2) In order to determine the abovementioned conversion period, a period immediately preceding the start date of this period may be taken into consideration under certain conditions.

III - RULES APPLICABLE TO NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

SECTION 47: The harvesting of non-timber products growing spontaneously in natural areas, forests and agricultural areas shall be considered an organic production method, provided that:

- such areas have not been treated with products other than those authorized for use in organic production for at least 3 (three) years prior to harvesting;
- the harvesting does not affect the stability of the natural habitat or the preservation of species in the harvesting area.

IV - RULES APPLICABLE TO FOODSTUFFS FROM ORGANIC FARMING

SECTION 48: (1) The production of processed organic foodstuffs must be separated in time or space from non-organic foodstuffs to avoid any contamination.

(2) The preparation of processed organic foodstuffs shall be carried out under the following conditions:

- the foodstuff shall be manufactured mainly from ingredients of agricultural origin;
- only additives, processing aids, flavourings, water, salt, preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes, minerals, trace elements, vitamins,

amino acids and other micronutrients intended for particular nutritional uses may be used in foodstuffs, provided that they have been authorized for use in organic farming;

- non-organic agricultural ingredients may only be used if they have been authorized for use in organic farming;
- an organic ingredient must not be present at the same time as the same non-organic ingredient or an ingredient from in-conversion production;
- foodstuffs produced from crops in conversion shall contain only one plant ingredient of agricultural origin.

(3) To be considered an “*organic product*”, a processed plant, aquatic animal or bee product must consist of at least 95% products or ingredients obtained in accordance with the provisions of this law.

CHAPTER IV **OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

I - INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF OFFENCES

SECTION 49: (1) Without prejudice to the prerogatives granted to Criminal Investigation Officers with general jurisdiction, some public servants may be designated to investigate, record and prosecute offences against the provisions of this law and its implementing instruments.

(2) The public servants referred to in (1) above shall be Criminal Investigation Officers with special powers. They shall take an oath at the behest of their Ministries in accordance with the provisions of ordinary law.

The following shall be the oath wording: “*I, (full name), Criminal Investigation Officer, do solemnly swear that I will discharge my duties as (specify) with loyalty and that I will comply, in all circumstances, with the obligations and responsibilities that they impose on me*”.

(3) The oath referred to in (2) above shall be taken with the right hand raised and bare.

(4) Public servants from the relevant Ministries services may enlist the support of law enforcement services in order to carry out their duties.

(5) Public servants shall record offences, apprehend perpetrators and seize the evidence, as well as any objects used in the commission of such offences.

SECTION 50: (1) Any infringement observed shall be recorded in a report. The investigation and recording of offences shall be carried out by 2 (two) public servants who jointly sign the report. Such report shall be *prima facie* evidence.



(2) The report thus drawn up shall be countersigned by the perpetrator. Where the perpetrator refuses, this shall be recorded in the report. A copy thereof shall be given to the perpetrator.

SECTION 51: (1) Sworn public servants shall forward their reports to the competent authority.

(2) Any report of an offence shall be notified to the perpetrator by any means leaving a paper trail. The perpetrator shall have 20 (twenty) days with effect from the date of notification to contest it. Thereafter, no further claims shall be entertained.

(3) The claim shall be addressed to the competent authority, which shall rule within 15 (fifteen) days of receiving the request. Thereafter, the request shall be deemed to have been granted and the offence report shall become null and void.

(4) Where, upon examination of the claim by the competent authority, the request is well-founded, it shall be granted and the report of the offence shall be closed. Otherwise, the competent authority may take legal action in accordance with the laws in force.

SECTION 52: The following activities shall be considered to be violations of the provisions of this law:

- refusing to submit to quality control of organic farming products;
- selling products below the requirements of current national standards;
- counterfeiting the products;
- issuing non-compliant certificates;
- carrying out activities in violation of the provisions of this law;
- carrying out certification activities without authorization or prohibited certification as provided for in this law;
- validating the requirements of any authorized certification body that has not complied with the requirements of this law;
- using, counterfeiting or falsification of the logo, the label "*organic product*", the trademark, the design or the print of an organic product;
- possessing, distributing, marketing or using the abovementioned logo, with the label "*organic product*", trademark, design or print of an organic product without authorization;
- distributing, selling or using such items obtained unlawfully;
- forming artificial reproduction such as cloning, embryo transfer, artificial polyploid induction, artificial hybridization and the production of single-sex strains, using hormones;

- using growth factors and synthetic amino acids;
- using substances and techniques that restore properties lost during the processing and storing organic foodstuffs, correcting the effects of errors made in the processing of these products, or likely misleading consumers as to the true nature of the product.

II - ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

SECTION 53: In the event of non-compliance with the provisions of this law, the competent authority may, after hearing the perpetrator, impose one of the following penalties:

- warning;
- suspension of certificate;
- withdrawal of certificate;
- prohibiting marketing the farm's products under the label "*organic products*" until the causes for the prohibition have been remedied.

SECTION 54: Without prejudice to the operators' right to compensation, the competent authority may, after consulting the National Organic Farming Committee, impose one of the following penalties on the certification body:

- suspension of accreditation in the event of non-compliance with the provisions of this law;
- withdrawal in the event of a further offence.

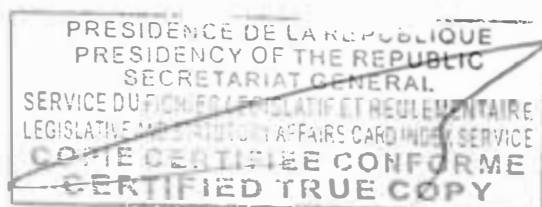
III - CRIMINAL PENALTIES

SECTION 55: (1) In carrying out the abovementioned activities, whoever:

- refuses to submit to quality control of organic farming products;
- sells products below the requirements of current national standards;
- carry out activities in violation of the provisions of this law,

shall be punished with 1 (one) to 3 (three) months imprisonment or a fine of from CFAF 50 000 (fifty thousand) to CFAF 2 000 000 (two million), or both such imprisonment and fine.

(2) In the event of a further offence, the penalties provided for in (1) above shall be doubled.



SECTION 56: Whoever falsifies products or issues or causes to be issued non-compliant certificates shall be punished with 1 (one) to 6 (six) months imprisonment or a fine of from CFAF 100 000 (one hundred thousand) to CFAF 10 000 000 (ten million), or both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 57: Any accredited certification body failing to comply with the requirements of this law shall be punished with 2 (two) months to 2 (two) years imprisonment or a fine of from CFAF 1 000 000 (one million) to CFAF 5 000 000 (five million), or both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 58: (1) Whoever uses, counterfeits or falsifies the logo, the label "*organic product*", the trademark, the design or the print of an organic product shall be punished with 6 (six) months to 5 (five) years imprisonment or a fine of from CFAF 200 000 (two hundred thousand) to CFAF 10 000 000 (ten million), or both such imprisonment and fine.

(2) Whoever imports, possesses, distributes, markets or uses the abovementioned logo, the label "*organic product*", trademark, design or print on an organic product without authorization, shall be punished with the same penalties as those provided for in (1) above.

(3) Whoever, distributes, sells or uses such items obtained unlawfully shall be punished with the same penalties as those provided for in (1) above.

CHAPTER V **MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

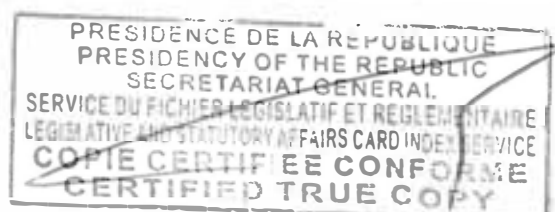
SECTION 59: (1) Breaches of this law and the implementing regulations thereof may be subject to compromise between the competent authority and the perpetrator, where the latter so requests.

(2) Such compromise shall take place prior to any legal proceedings.

(3) The amount of the compromise may not be less than the minimum fine incurred.

(4) The abovementioned compromise shall be recorded at the expense of the perpetrator.

(5) Once the compromise has been approved by the competent authority and paid in full by the perpetrator, the public prosecution shall be terminated.



SECTION 60: The various parties engaged in organic farming shall have 18 (eighteen) months to comply with the provisions of this law.

SECTION 61: Separate instruments shall lay down, where applicable, the procedures for implementing this law.

SECTION 62: This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

