
Guideline No. P1/2021

Pacific Organic Standard (POS)

1. Purpose

This guideline provides a DEROGATION for the expanded use of Ethylene Gas on organic farms certified to the Pacific Organic Standard.

2. Scope

This guidance applies to all POETCom Approved Certification Partners (ACPs) and Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

3. Background

Excerpt from 16 Nov 2020 Request for Derogation from Mr. Philippe Couraud, Vice President of the of French Polynesia Ministry of Agriculture:

Pineapple is one of the main sectors of fruit growing in French Polynesia and represents 40% of the total fruit production in the country. Its cultivation covers approximately 200 hectares, of which three quarters are on Moorea island. The entire production is sold on the local market as fresh fruit and one third of the production supplies the fruit juice factory of Moorea. Currently, the production amounts to 3,500 tonnes of pineapple annually, less than the absorption capacity of the local market estimated at 5,000 tonnes.

An attempt to start an organic pineapple sector has been made but despite a good adaptability of the local variety (Queen Tahiti) to the pedoclimatic conditions, the sector faces a major issue: the floral induction process which allows the homogenization of the flowering period on the same plot. This issue was the subject of studies and tests at the lyce'e d'Opunohu of Moorea as part of the european project INTEGRE in 1016 and 2017. As a result, a process based on gaseous ethylene injected into water with activated charcoal was developed, allowing increased production and optimising the harvest process. However, unlike european regulations n* 834/2007 and n* 889/2008, or the American standards for organic farming, the POS does not allow ethylene as an agricultural input for floral production of pineapples. Pending revisions to the POS within PROTEGE's framework, French Polynesia respectfully requests a temporary exemption to allow the use of ethylene in the floral induction process of pineapples.

4. Guidelines

Add the following to POS Table 2: Crop Protectants and Growth Regulators: (iv) Others
Ethylene; for the floral induction process in pineapples

5. References

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)

Ethylene is listed under Processing:

7.3 PROCESSING METHODS

7.3.6 **Ethylene gas is permitted for ripening.**

Ethylene is not listed at Table 2 Crop Protectants and Growth Regulators: (iv) Others

European Union Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008

Ethylene: Degreening bananas, kiwis and kakis; Degreening of citrus fruit only as part of a strategy for the prevention of fruit fly damage in citrus; **Flower induction of pineapple**; sprouting inhibition in potatoes and onions

CODEX Alimentarius- Not found

IFOAM Norms (2014)

Not listed at Table 2 Crop Protectants and Growth Regulators: (iv) Others

National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Organic Standard (2012) amended 2016 [NASA]

10.2 FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND HERBS STANDARDS 10.2.1 The following post production practices are approved for all fresh fruit, vegetable and herb products:

10.2.1... **Artificial ethylene gas ripening**

Annex 3 - Substances & Methods Permitted for Pest Control in Storage and Transport Units

Ethylene Gas Ripening of bananas

Not listed in Annex 1 – Products for Use as Fertilisers and Conditioners

USDA National Organic Standards [NOP]

§205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production.

(k) As plant growth regulators. Ethylene gas—for regulation of pineapple flowering.

§205.605 Nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

(b) Synthetics allowed:

Ethylene—allowed for postharvest ripening of tropical fruit and degreening of citrus.

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