



ORGANIC AGRICULTURE & SMALLHOLDER FARMERS a case study from Uttarakhand, India

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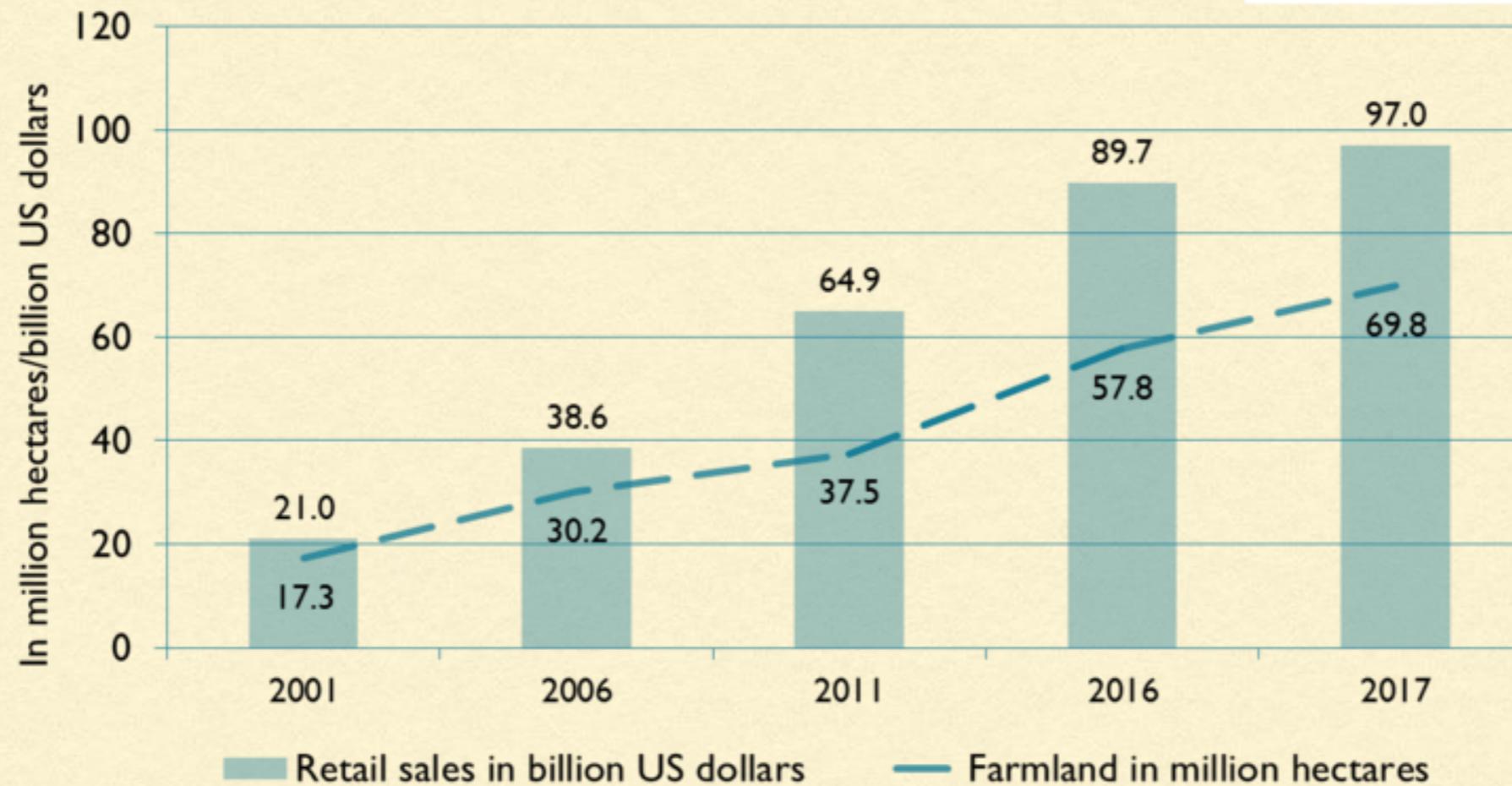
WHAT IS “ORGANIC”?

- Organic agriculture emerged in the early 20th century, in tandem with the growth of industrialised forms of agricultural production and awareness of their environmentally degrading impacts.
 - Forerunners of contemporary organic agriculture in the US and Europe include: permanent agriculture, back-to-the-land movements, biodynamic agriculture, natural agriculture, l’agriculture biologique.
 - Though rooted in more ecologically-attuned (often small scale) modes of agricultural practices, the meanings of organic agriculture are increasingly standardised and regulated within and across national jurisdictions.
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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE'S GLOBAL GROWTH

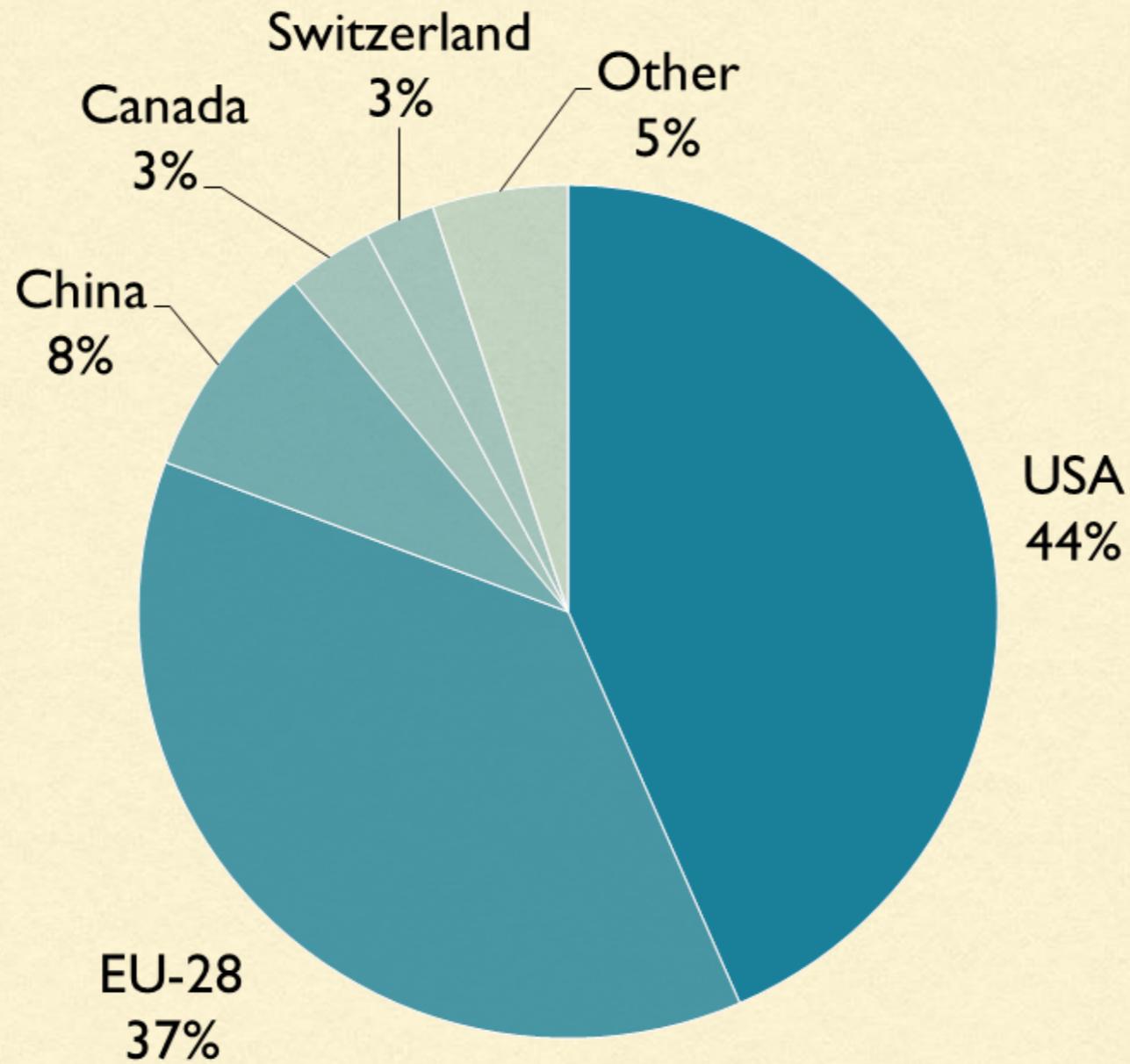
Growth in organic food & drinks sales and farmland, 2001-2017

Source: Ecovia Intelligence 2019



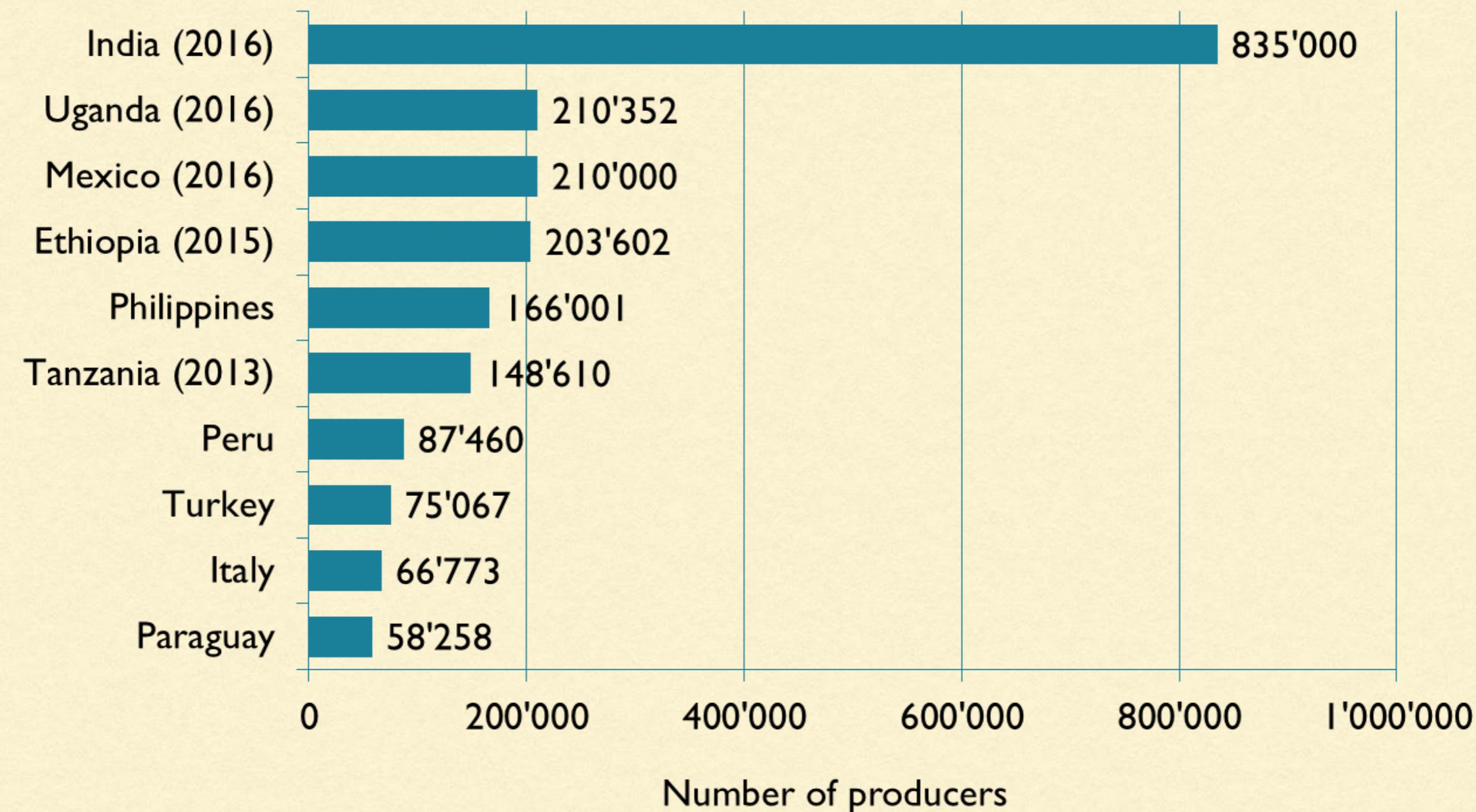
Global market: Distribution of retail sales value by single market 2017

Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2019



The ten countries with the largest numbers of organic producers 2017

Source: FiBL survey 2019



ORGANIC STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

INTERNATIONAL

Codex Alimentarius Commission, Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labeling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods.
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM),
Organic Guarantee System

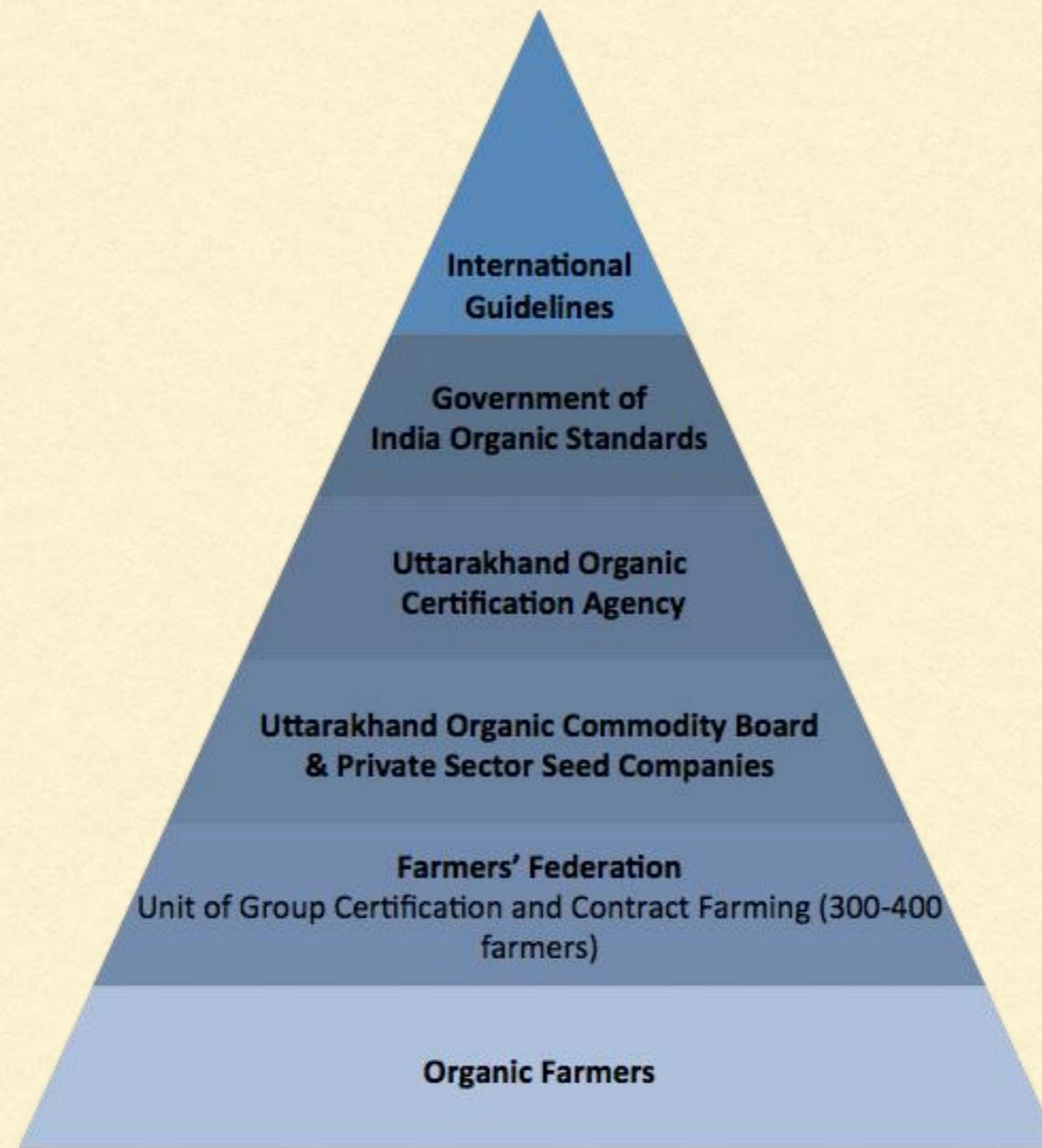
NATIONAL/SUPRANATIONAL

Examples: Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance, USDA Organic, National Program on Organic Production (India), EU Regulation on Organic Farming

BILATERAL

Equivalence agreements between countries mutually recognising organic standards

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CERTIFIED ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN UTTARAKHAND



ORGANIC STANDARDS: PROMISE & POTENTIAL

- Common framework for the definition of organic farming provides clarity on what organic means
 - Enables trade across regions and boundaries
 - May offer producers new or additional sources of income; affords opportunities for new forms of meaning and value to be attributed to agricultural production.
 - Consumer protection, greater trust in the integrity of organic
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ORGANIC STANDARDS: PROBLEMS & PITFALLS

- There are considerable barriers to entry for small or less well-resourced farmers in Global North and South (e.g. capital, literacy, labor).
 - Additional resource and labor demands may exacerbate inequality (intrahousehold, intracommunity, and beyond)
 - Governance and accountability crucial in group certification and contract arrangements
 - Standards prioritise technical inputs over agroecological processes (e.g. emphasis on inputs rather than practices)
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