



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# Organic Certification As a Path To Exporting

## Jim Pierce

### POETCom Coordinator





Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# Program Agenda

- \*SAFE Pacific Project:**
- \*Understanding Certified Organic:**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Regulated**
  - PGS Unregulated**
- \* Strategies to minimize certification costs:**
- \*Future of Organic:**
- \*Q&A**



Pacific Community  
Communauté du Pacifique



# POECom

Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community



*Organics and ethical trade: the key contributor to sustaining our cultures and communities; improving farmer livelihoods, people's health and the environment in the Pacific.*





Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# Facilitate access to Certification

- **Pacific Organic Guarantee System**

- ✓ Development of *Pacific Organic Standard* (POS)
  - Suits local conditions
  - Fairtrade, GESI Climate Change components
  - Recognised by regional Governments
- ✓ National/regional & export certification
- ✓ Partner Certification Bodies
- ✓ Organic Pasifika Marks





Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# SAFE PACIFIC

- PRISE has six main outputs and will be implemented via four separate contribution agreements
  - Output 1.1 Trade facilitation and border/customs procedures are improved.
  - **Output 1.2 Sanitary and Phytosanitary services are improved;**
  - Output 1.3 Capacity for regional aid-for-trade projects is strengthened.
  - Output 2.1 Measures to strengthen the business enabling environment and investment climate gender-responsively supported
  - Output 2.2 Improved climate-smart business support services.
  - **Output 2.3 Strengthened competitiveness of sustainable agricultural value-chains in the Pacific**



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# SAFE PACIFIC

## 2.3.2 Strengthen access to market certification (environmental, sustainable, organic etc.).

- Develop and sustain a network of **locally based advisors and auditors**, and **assist businesses meet requirements for certifications**.
- Training and technical assistance.
- Horticulture, Agriculture, and Seafood.
- Focus on selected high-value products (Kava, Coconut, Coffee, and Turmeric).
- Implemented in 15 Pacific ACP Countries



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# SAFE PACIFIC

- Tentative voluntary certification programmes that will be focused on by the project.
- Organic
- Food safety
- Fairtrade
- Rainforest Alliance
- Sustainable Fisheries – Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC)



SAFE Agricultural Trade Facilitation through economic integration in the Pacific Project (SAFE Pacific) project.

Final Report  
*Assessment of priority market certification programmes*

Prepared By  
Jon Mathew  
Managing Director  
The AgriBusiness Group  
P.O. Box 85006  
Lincoln University, Lincoln, 7647  
New Zealand  
Website [www.agribusinessgroup.com](http://www.agribusinessgroup.com)  
Email [info@agribusinessgroup.com](mailto:info@agribusinessgroup.com)

August 2022

**SAFE  PACIFIC**  
Safe Agricultural trade Facilitation  
through Economic integration in the Pacific



# What is Organic

- Organic agriculture is **a production system** that sustains the health of **soils, ecosystems** and **people**.
- It **relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles** adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects.
- Organic agriculture combines **tradition, innovation and science** to benefit the shared environment and promote **fair relationships** and a good **quality of life** for all involved.



# What Is Certified Organic ?

- Application of Consistent Production and Handling Standards.
- Development of a Mandatory Production and/or Handling Plan.
- Use of only Approved Inputs.
- Verification Through Certification and On-Site Inspection.
- Every Step of the Value Chain

# Key Concepts

- **Healthy Soil=Healthy Plants=Healthy Animals=Healthy Planet**
- Certification should be demand driven
- Your market determines what certification and standard(s) you require
- Continuous Improvement
- There are costs
- Recordkeeping is essential
- Permission not forgiveness!



# Standards/Norms/Rules

## Scopes:

- **Crops** – Food, Fibre, Flowers
- **Livestock**
- **Aquaculture** (Seaweed)
- **Wild Harvest**
- **Apiculture** - Bees
- **Processing/Handling**

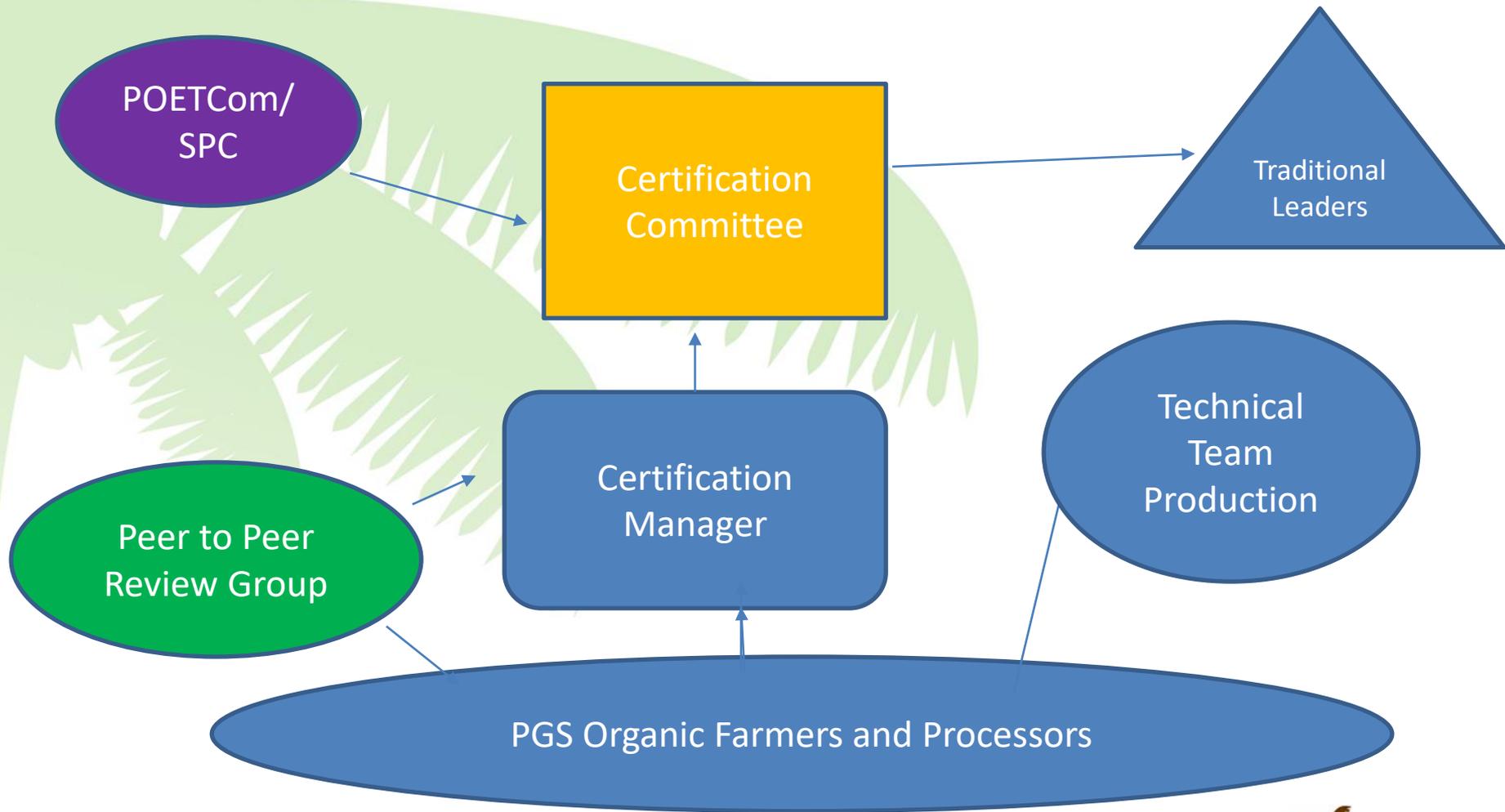
## Approved Inputs List



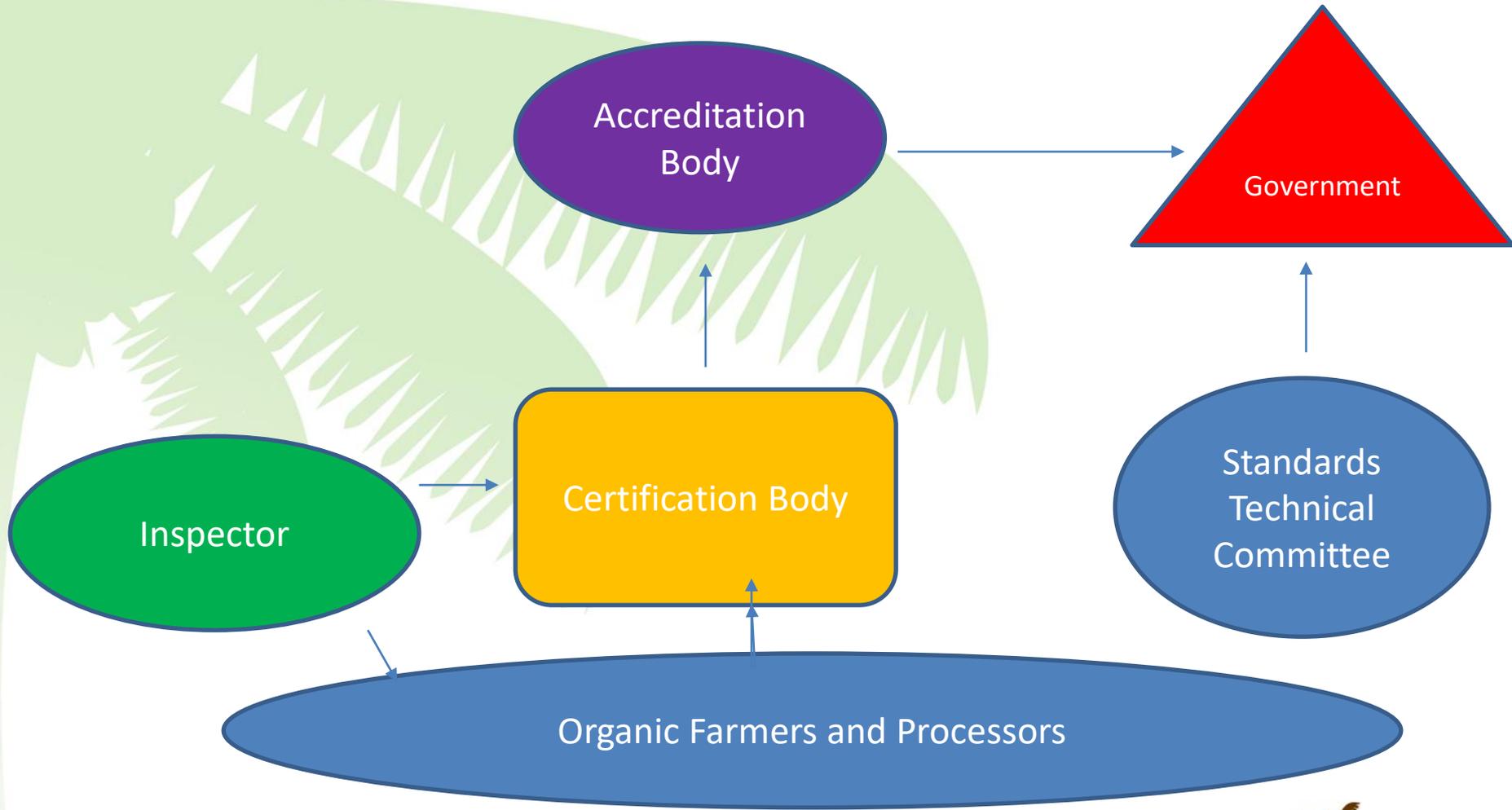
# Organic Marks



# PGS System Structure



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification Structure

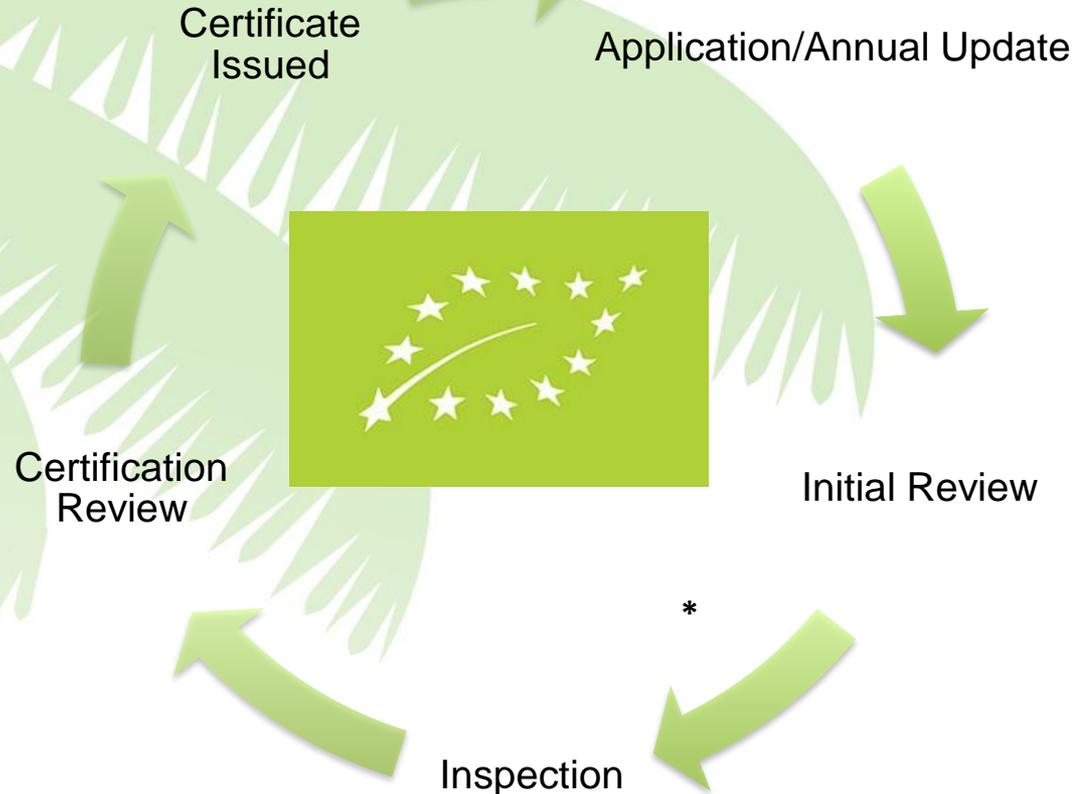




Pacific Community  
Communauté du Pacifique



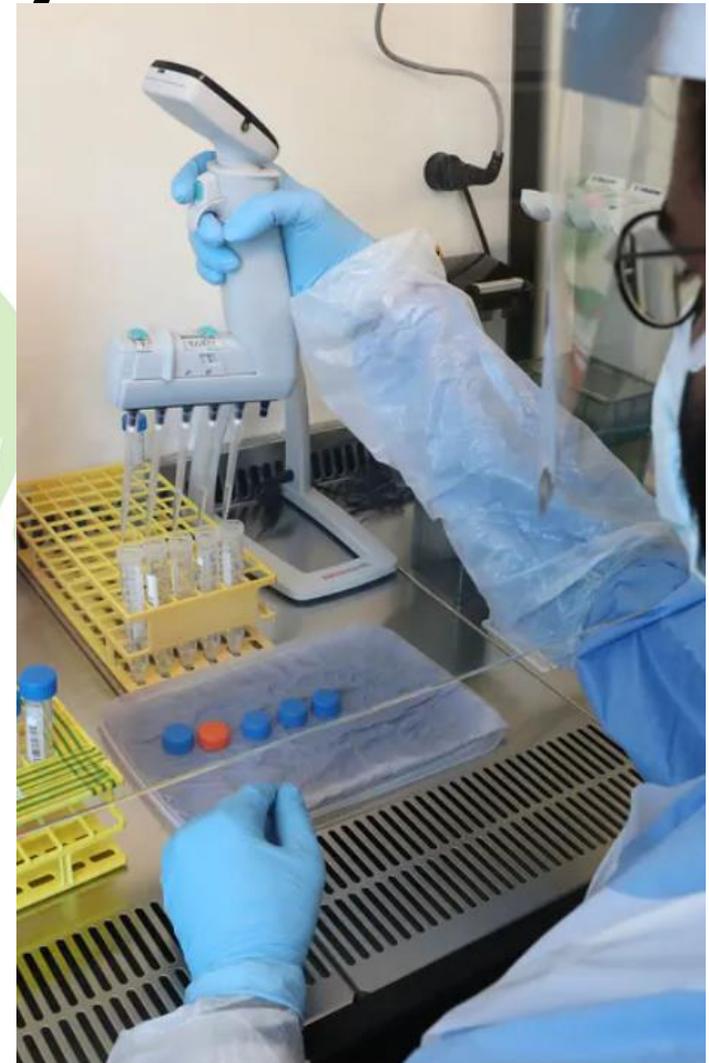
# Annual Process



**\*Every Farm, Every Processor, Every Year**

# Residue Analysis

- Certifying agent may require pre- or post-harvest testing for prohibited substances or GMOs based on risk, complaint or random
- Residue levels are much stricter than what is established for non-organic but not Zero.
- Variable tolerance levels for GMO contamination.



# Choosing a Certifier

- Regional presence
- Expertise:
  - Scopes, Products, Countries, Schemes
- Customer Service
- Technical abilities
- Reputation
- Cost!



# Cost: 3<sup>rd</sup> Party v PGS (\$AUD)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Party

- Application: \$0-25
- Certification fees: \$250-1000
- Inspection: \$250-800
- **Travel/Accommodation: \$5,000-10,000**
- Additional Scopes, \$250
- Testing: 0-200-800
- Consultants: \$1000-5000

Total: \$5500-\$15,000 Per Year

## PGS

- Training/Set up: \$5000-\$10,000
  - Application: \$0
  - Certification Fees: \$250-\$500
  - Inspection: \$0
  - Travel: \$0
  - Additional Scopes: \$0
  - Testing:
  - Consultants:
- Total \$0-\$500

Thank You  
Taki Mai



Jim Pierce – POETCom  
[jimp@spc.int](mailto:jimp@spc.int)  
[www.organicpasifika.com/](http://www.organicpasifika.com/)

