



Safeguarding Integrity

Importers Perspective



European Importers Perspective

- Many Actors in Value Chain:
 - Growers/ Exporters
 - Importers
 - Control Bodies
 - Accreditation Bodies
 - Regional Authorities
 - National Authorities
 - European Authorities
 - NGO's
 - Consultancy Companies / advisors
- The only actors in the chain with large scale financial exposure
- → Importer has a huge interest in doing things right!



Risk Management by importer

- Supplier approval / vendor assurance taking in product and origination risk consideration
- In-house quality team and agronomists
- Quality control of goods in origin and at arrival
- Huge expenditure on external laboratories
- Play important role in anti-fraud initiatives (Bio-Kap, Bionext)



Our learnings from the Sunflower Cake scandal

- We cannot rely on an organic import certificate
- Only residue analyses is not enough
- We need to further intensify our relationship with grower/exporter
- Through work in progress, a lot of improvements are already made

Our recommendations to the rest of the value chain

- Principle of 1 CB per operator and better monitoring of exported vs certified volumes must be quickly implemented
- Communication within European CB's and authorities should be improved
- CB's should have a faster and more accurate information feed to the importer (information flow should not be a one-way street)
- CB's and Authorities should invest in a uniform interpretation of organic legislation
- Wish for an independent center of experts (assembly of wise men) that can make swift and final rule on organic status of a lot in case of suspected irregularity.



Conclusion

- We all share the same interest and fight for the right cause
- Please regard us as your partner and not your enemy
- Lets work together to make the organic system more robust

THANK YOU

