



Outlines of JONA (Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association)

JONA aims to promote organic agriculture through certification of organic foods at all stages from production to consumers.

What is JONA.

A third party certification body to certify organic products

- Registered as a certification body by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery in March, 2006 to certify organic operators under revised JAS organic system.
- Accredited by IFOAM since August 2002 to certify crop production and processing operations according to IFOAM Basic Standard and Accreditation Criteria and also to ISO65.

Non-profit, and non-governmental organization approved as a legal entity by NPO Law implemented in 1999.

1-1 Applicants for the certification.

- i) Producers (family farmers , farmers group, farmers cooperative etc.)
- ii) Processors
- iii) Re-packer
- iv) Importers

*The above-mentioned organic operators are regulated by JAS organic regulations.

- v) Handlers such as traders, warehouseman, transporters who handle organic products can be certified under JONA Standard.

1-2 Scope of Organic certification programs.

JAS certification

- i) Agricultural produce
- ii) Processed food
- iii) Livestock
- iv) Feed

*Organic JAS labeling and certification are mandatory for the operators of agricultural produce and agricultural product processed food (i.e. processed food in which over 95% of the ingredients are organic produce).

The livestock is regulated by JAS, but only in the case the product is labeled as organic JAS, it needs certification by a registered certification body.

JONA International certification IFOAM accredited program

- 1) Agricultural produce
- 2) Agricultural product processed food

- 3) Alcohol beverage from the ingredients certified to the IFOAM Basic Standards

JONA Original certification

- 1) Livestock, and aqua-cultural products.
- 2) Crop and processed products excluded from organic JAS system such as sprout, alcohol beverage from the ingredients certified only to JAS.

*The above are certified under JONA Organic Standards

1-3 Outlines of JONA Standards

- i) Crops harvested on certified organic field can be labeled as organic from the third year from the beginning of organic control
 - Materials allowed to use are listed in the standards.
 - GMO and its derivative and radiation are prohibited.
- ii) Processed products organically produced with ingredients for which over 95% of ingredients are certified organic can be certified as organic.
 - Co-mingling of organic and non-organic products is prohibited.
 - GMO and its derivative and radiation are prohibited.
- iii) Organic agricultural products must be labeled with organic JAS mark after the certification.
 - Products which contain certified organic ingredients more than 70% and less than 95 % can be labeled “made with organic products” but cannot be allowed to bear organic JAS mark.
 - Products which certified under JONA International certification program can be labeled with JONA International mark.
- iv) Organic products excluded from JAS organic regulations can be certified by JONA.
 - Organic products which are excluded from JAS organic regulations, such as organic aqua-cultural products can be certified by JONA, and be allowed to use JONA Original mark.
 - JONA will certify processed food which contains less than 95% but over 70% of certified organic products for ingredients, and is processed organically. The product is allowed to be labeled “made with the ingredients certified by JONA” on the package.

2 . How to get the Certification

The Certification Program clarifies procedures from application to introduction of certified organic products into the market.

The summary from application to certification is as follows.

- i) Applicant
 - An applicant for certification can be a member or a non member of JONA.
 - When an applicant becomes a member, JONA Organic Standards, JONA Certification Program, and application forms will be sent for free.
 - The cost of documents and utilization of JONA’s certification system must be paid by non-members.
 - The agreement for certification must be signed between the applicant and JONA about the contents of certification, confidentiality and violation.
- ii) Submission of Application
 - There are six (6) types of Application forms: Production Process Management Director of agricultural produces (i.e. producer), Production Process Management

Director of processed foods (i.e. processor), Re-packer, Importer and Trader and Warehousing.

- An applicant submits completed forms and required attachments to JONA together with application fee of ¥20,000 (in case of a small family farmer, ¥10,000)
- A manufacturer of input material for agricultural use (such as a fertilizer manufacturer) can apply for confirmation of materials for organic production.

iii) Inspection and Certification

- A competent and qualified person reviews the application documents and decides acceptance of the application.
- After approval of this first review, an inspector is nominated and dispatched for on-site inspection.
- The inspector verifies accuracy of the information on the application by observing the organic fields, crops or processing factory or warehouse, and by hearing from applicant, manager and workers.
- The inspector submits a copy of on-site inspection outcome signed by the applicant and the inspection report to JONA.
- The applicant has to pay inspection fee to the inspector through JONA.
- The Certification Committee will decide approval or denial of the application.

iv) Right and duties after approval

- After approval of certification, JONA issues (a) organic certificate and (b) certificate number.
- JONA requests to the certified operator for (c) submission of draft of labeling of organic products and (d) notice of the day of first shipment.
- In case of pending the decision due to insufficiency of compliance, the applicant can submit corrective actions or consent of improving the given conditions. After approval of such improvement, the same procedure will be taken as that in case of approval.
- In case of denial, the applicant can appeal re-investigation to JONA according to the JONA's reinvestigation procedures.

3. Organization of JONA

- Qualification of JONA's member
Crop, livestock, and/or aquatic producers, food processors, food handlers, scientists and consumers who are interested in the aims and policies of JONA and willing to cooperate are qualified to join JONA's member.
- Annual fee is ¥120,000 for corporation and ¥12,000 for small family farmers.
- Scientists, laboratories and consumers can be qualified as associate members who have no voting right.
- The initial year fee to be a member is ¥50,000 for corporation and ¥5,000 for family farmers and consumers.

4. Operation of JONA

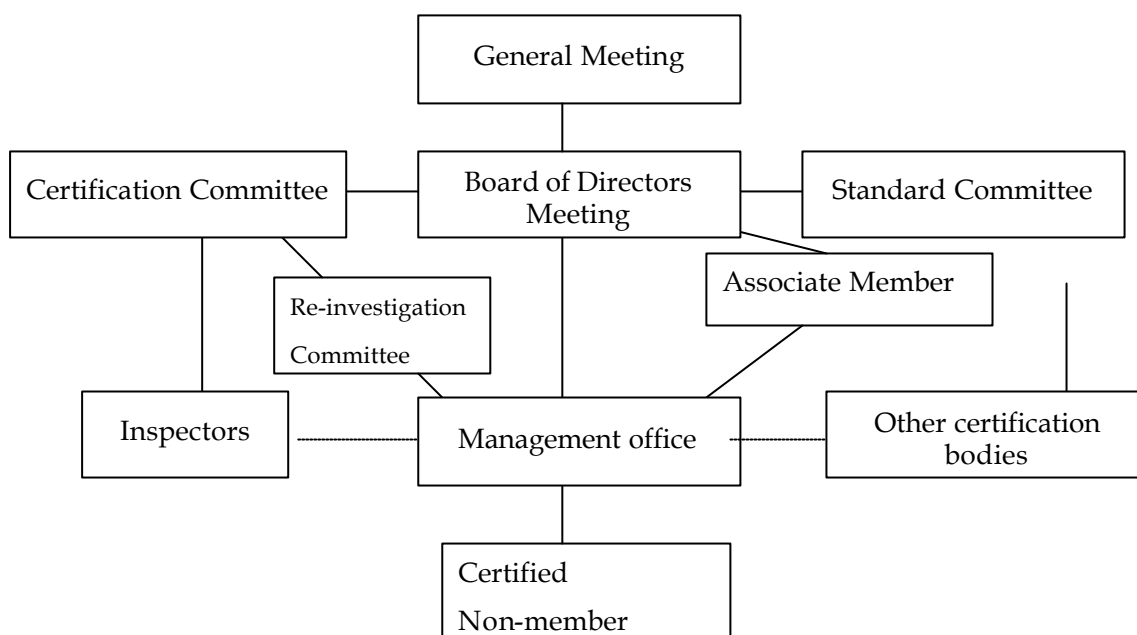
i) Annual General Members Meeting

It is held once a year to approve the previous year's performance and to decide the basic policies of activities and budget of JONA including election of directors and auditor and also revision of the Statute and of Organic Standards for the coming year..

ii) Board of directors meeting

It will instruct and supervise the Management Office which manages daily operation.

iii) Organization Chart



5. What are the strong points of JONA

- One of the most experienced organic certification organizations in Japan.
- The core members of JONA are those who have been engaged in organic agriculture, organic processing and/or marketing organic products for a long time.
- JONA has been paying much attention to Japanese food life and its agricultural products such as rice, soy bean, vegetables, green tea, Japanese noodles etc.
- Even though JONA believes the principle of “local production and local consumption” is the best way for people’s health and ecology of the nature, JONA applies the program to foreign organic operators whether they are in compliance with organic JAS and/or JONA Standards.
- JONA has good relations with the trustworthy certification organizations in foreign countries.
- Due to implementation of organic JAS system, JONA has made the trust agreement with such foreign certification organizations in order for JONA to certify organic products under organic JAS system.
- The certification organizations that JONA have the agreement for JAS inspection with are...

In USA:	WSDA
In South America:	IBD in Brazil, OIA and Argencert in Argentina
In Australia:	NASAA
In Europe:	IMO in Switzerland
In China:	CGFDC, OFDC

*There are other certification bodies that JONA has partnership with in other areas.

6. How organic products produced in foreign countries to be marketed in Japan

There are basically two methods to label products as “organic” in Japan.

- A Japanese or foreign certification organization approved and registered by MAFF can certify a foreign organic operator and register it at MAFF.

For inspection, a Japanese certification organization can utilize inspection report

executed by following JAS regulations by a well established foreign certification in case that the Japanese and the foreign certification organizations have an agreement for this purpose.

- ii) Organic products produced and certified in a country to the state's law regarded as equivalent to Organic JAS system can be exported with the relevant government certificate and be marketed by a certified importer as organic in Japan.

7. Information of JONA

- Address: Takegashi Bldg. 3F. 3-5-3, Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan 104-0031
- Telephone: +81-3-3538-1851 (from foreign countries) 03-3538-1851 (in Japan)
- Fax: +81-3-3538-1852 (from foreign countries) 03-3538-1852 (in Japan)
- E-mail: jonacontact@jona-japan.org
- Homepage: <http://jona-japan.org/>
- Organic Standards and Certification Program of JONA are available upon request to JONA.

JAPAN ORGANIC & NATURAL FOODS ASSOCIATION

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