



POETCom APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Thank you for your support of POETCom, the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community.

Please fill out the following form carefully after reviewing the POETCom Membership Policy.

Requirements for joining POETCom

Applicant organisations must:

- Endorse POETCom's mission & goals and the Principles of Organic Agriculture and ethical trade
- Be permanently based and registered in one or more of the Pacific Islands countries and territories
- An organisation or department of an institution with at least 3 people employed or active in the organisation.

If you have any questions regarding the membership admission process please do not hesitate to contact the POETCom Secretariat, poetcom@spc.int.

1 Contact Information

Name of organization

Postal Address

Country

Phone

Fax

Webpage

Primary contact for POETCom

Email of primary contact

Secondary Contact for POETCom

Email of secondary contact

2 Information about your Organisation

A. Brief description of your organisation and activities (1000 characters maximum). The information provided will be published in the POETCom e-directory once established.

B. Number of people working in your organization

C. Year of foundation

D. Type of organisation

- a. Semi-Governmental/Governmental
- b. Non-Governmental (NGO) / Civil Society
- c. Company/Private Sector

E. Scope of Organisation

- a. Local
- b. National
- c. Regional

F. Does your organisation have a newsletter/periodical?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes what is the name, frequency and type of newsletter/periodical?

Name

Frequency

Type

G. Does your organisation hold an organic certification license?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, which licenses do you hold and which Certifying Body provides your certification services.

3 Membership Category

Supporter

Member

Focal Point

If your organisation is the Focal Point for your country please explain the process by which your organisation was selected.

In the case of there being only one member in a country that member shall serve as Focal Point by default.

4 Signature

We hereby declare that we fulfill the requirements for Affiliation with POETCom, that our activities are in line with the Definition and Principles of Organic Agriculture and that we are committed to promoting Organic Agriculture on the basis of these values. Furthermore, we have read and understood the POETCom Affiliation Terms & Conditions and will comply with those during the time of our Affiliation to POETCom. We also agree that our contact details (name, address, contact person's phone and e-mail, website and logo) are published in the POETCom Directory and in the Online Listing of Affiliates.

Name

Place Date:

Signature:

POETCom MEMBERSHIP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Next Steps

Thank you for completing the form. Your application will now be evaluated by our Secretariat and sent for approval to the Advisory Board. This process takes usually one month until completion. Once you are formally approved as a POETCom Affiliate, you will receive a Welcome Package including a certificate of POETCom Affiliation, a welcome CD with free resources and a link to your organization will be created in the online listing of Affiliates.

Requirements for Membership

- POETCom Affiliates should endorse POETCom's mission & goals and the Principles of Organic Agriculture;
- Affiliates can be individuals (Supporters), organizations or departments of an institution/ subsidiary (Members);
- Only organizations or departments of institutions/subsidiaries can become Members or Focal Points;
- In the case of organizations, at least three people must be employed or active in the organization applying for membership in POETCom;
- In the case of an organisation, it must work (need to be specified...works to benefit? Supports? Has farmer members?) directly with a minimum of 5 organic farmers.
- To become a Member the applicant organization must be predominantly organic, i.e. dedicate over 50% of its budget/ activities to organic. Those organisations who do not meet this criterion may join as Supporters;
- The completed application form must be submitted.

Application

Submission: Membership applications may be submitted at any time, all year round. Applications are only complete when:

- The POETCom application form is filled out and signed by the legal representative (Organizations) or Supporter;

Approval: The Advisory Board approves new Affiliates (organizations) and their level of affiliation.

Rejection: The Advisory Board may reject applications if it deems the activities of the applicant counter POETCom's mission or goals, e.g.:

- Advocating or supporting the use of GMOs or intentionally using GMOs in organic production systems;
- The use of chemicals that threaten the integrity of organic production and processing, including the production of agrochemicals for such use;
- Cruelty to animals;
- Violation of human and labourers' rights.

Termination of Membership

By the Affiliate: Membership in POETCom is renewed automatically every year. Affiliates may terminate their affiliation at any time by sending a written notice of termination to poetcom@spc.int.

By POETCom: Affiliates' Membership can be terminated by POETCom in case of:

- Non-compliance with the affiliation requirements;
- Engagement in activities, that are counter to POETCom's mission, goals and objectives;
- Misuse of POETCom's name, logo or seal;
- Damage to the image of POETCom, its Affiliates or Organic Agriculture in general;
- Other serious reasons, as determined by the Advisory Board or the General Assembly.

Confidentiality

POETCom guarantees the confidentiality of all the data provided in the application form.

Contact

Membership-related questions: Please address your questions to poetcom@spc.int

Postal Address: POETCom /- Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Private Mail Bag, Suva FIJI

Tel: +679 33370733

Fax: +679 3370021

DEFINITION AND PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Definition of Organic Agriculture:

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.

Principles of Organic Agriculture:

- **Health:** Organic Agriculture sustains and enhances the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.
- **Ecology:** Organic Agriculture is based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them emulate them and help sustain them.
- **Fairness:** Organic Agriculture builds on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.
- **Care:** Organic Agriculture is managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.
- **Culture and traditions:** Pacific organic agriculture recognizes the value of contributions from traditional agriculture and Pacific cultures.

POETCom's VISION AND VALUES:

Vision:

Pacific 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.

POETCom's Values:

- We seek to be guided by spiritual principles.
- We are committed to preparing our populations for the challenges of climate change; and ensuring food and nutritional security and protecting biodiversity.
- We are guided by an understanding of Pacific approaches to decision making and take into account Pacific values, traditions and cultures.
- We seek to ensure equality of access, e.g. by people of different genders and ages and from different countries and sub regions —as well as the principles of fairness, justice and partnership.
- We recognise the value of youth for a productive agriculture sector.
- We recognize the need to support and enhance the quality of people's life —with an emphasis on those who work on the land and future generations as well as respect for the land and broader environment.
- We are committed to networking/positive engagement and communication and the development of increasing self reliance.
- We are committed to the principles of organic agriculture and the holistic approaches it encompasses.
- We are committed to building a more inclusive Pacific community—working together, supported by past traditions and connections with the land —to achieve our vision.

THE POETCom NAME, LOGO, MARK AND EMBLEM

Name & Logo

The POETCom name “Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community” as well as the acronym “POETCom” are registered trademarks.

The POETCom Logo is defined as follows:



The POETCom name and logo cannot be used as a product mark and may be used by POETCom Affiliates (Focal Points, Members, and Supporters) at conferences, events, publications, web pages and other activities only under an agreement to be signed with POETCom in accordance with the requirements of relevant POETCom policies. The POETCom Logo may not be used in any communication materials unless specifically authorized by POETCom. The name may be translated from English to the language of the Affiliate, the acronym “POETCom” may not be translated.

Membership Emblem

The POETCom Emblem is defined as follows:



The POETCom Membership Emblem cannot be used as a product mark and may be used by POETCom Focal Points and Members only. The POETCom Membership Emblem identifies POETCom Affiliates (Focal Points, Members only) who are committed to the POETCom Vision and Values as well as to POETCom’s Principles of Organic Agriculture (Health, Fairness, Ecology, Culture and Care). The Emblem can be used in the Affiliate’s communication materials, as follows:

- Stationery (letterheads, envelopes, business cards);
- Promotional materials (brochures, leaflets, books, posters) which do not refer to any kind of products;
- Web Pages;

- Electronic Communications (email signatures, etc.).

Organic Pasifika Mark

The Organic Pasifika Mark is defined as follows:



The Organic Pasifika Mark can be used as a product mark (labeling of products) only as authorized under the Pacific Organic Guarantee Scheme. POETCom Affiliates are not automatically granted the use of the Organic Pasifika Mark. For more information, contact the POETCom Secretariat.