

SESAME: The IOBC checklist (inspection protocol) and its software

1. Why a standardised IOBC checklist for IOBC endorsed organisations?

With the publication of the new IOBC standards 2004 for Integrated Production it became necessary to revise IOBC inspection protocols. The contents of the IOBC inspection protocol must be included in the inspection documents of IOBC endorsed growers' organisations. The IOBC endorsed organisations can add but not eliminate control points from the standardised IOBC checklist.

2. The structure of the IOBC inspection protocol and its software SESAME

SESAME is software developed by IOBC in close collaboration with its endorsed organisations and consists of 5 parts: Table of contents; checklist for farmers; checklist for inspectors; a database with detailed criteria ("rucksack"); and a visual display of the farm performance ("RADAR").

- The *table of contents* identifies the major inspection areas.
- **The *checklist for the farmer*:** The "50 point checklist" is used each year for the mandatory self-audit by the individual farmer. The evaluation of the farm activities by applying 50 relevant inspection points does allow an adequate assessment of the overall farm performance. The checklist is divided into 15 or 16 red Major MUSTs and 33 or 34 yellow Minor MUSTs for farms with or without livestock, respectively. Farmers or farm managers working successfully at this high level of professional competence know content and significance of each control point. All Major MUSTs and at least 90 % of all minor MUSTs (i.e.30) must be fulfilled. For points not achieved the farmer will prepare a corrective action plan (see control point 1.3).
- **The *checklist for inspectors*:** The same "50 point checklist", as used by the individual farmer, is adapted to the specific needs of inspection. It is expanded into a detailed checklist for inspectors covering the specific needs of a growers' organisation.
- ***Data base ("rucksack")*.** In an excel table each control point is connected by a hyperlink with a document containing a detailed list of criteria to be checked and verified by the inspection body as well as explanations, instructions, methods, procedures. The growers' IP organisation is free to formulate the contents of these detailed "rucksacks" according to their need and philosophy. However, the content must fulfil minimum IOBC requirements and must not violate IOBC principles. Growers' organisation having been certified before by an international food safety standard and then been endorsed by IOBC can adjust their inspection system by filling the "rucksacks" differently as shown in the [overview](#). The SESAME software automatically calculates and prints the status of the entire control point with respect to "achieved" or "not achieved".
- **"RADAR"**. A completed inspection protocol is transferred into a visual display showing the performance of the farm.