



Organic Farming

Certification... what is it about

MCCAA – CONTROL AUTHORITY

- MCCAA is the designated Control Authority carrying out various functions as delegated by the Competent Authority, the Agricultural Directorate.
- These functions consist of
 - Establishing the certification process
 - Carrying out inspections on operators who request certification
 - Registering operators who comply with the requirements of the organic farming regulations
 - Reporting to the Competent Authority on the certification system and operators status

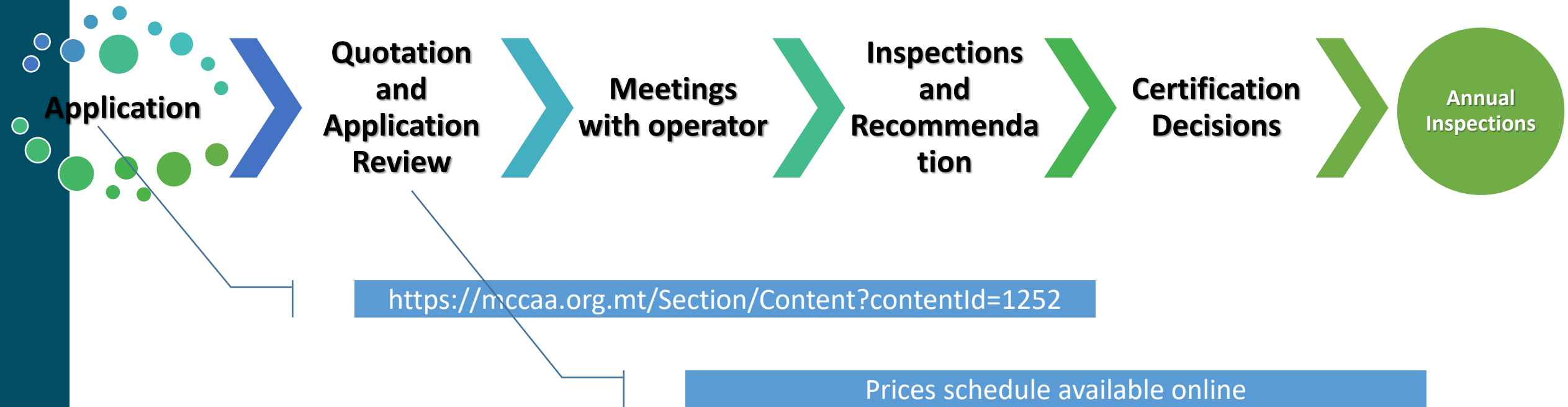
EU Regulations

- The current European organic farming regulation is EC REG 834 of 2007 that sets the principles of organic farming and the requirements for operators to produce and trade food labelled as 'Organic'
- EC Regulation 889 of 2008 sets the implementation rules in applying the main organic regulation.
- The main regulation has been EC REG 834 of 2007 has been repealed by the new regulation EC REG 848 of 2018. This will come into effect from 1st January 2022.

Organic Farming production rules apply to

- **Farm Production**
 - Plant production
 - Seaweed production
 - Livestock production
 - Aquaculture animals production
- **Processed Feed Production**
- **Processed Food Production**

Certification Process



Type of operators

- Producers
- Processors
- Importers (non-EU countries)
- Retailers
- Wholesalers
- Others: Warehousing, Transportation

Producers (Farmers)

During a typical inspection, the following aspects are assessed:

- ✓ Location of site
- ✓ Barriers
- ✓ Use of fertilisers
- ✓ Use of authorised plant protection products
- ✓ Seeds and Seedlings (propagation material)
- ✓ Traditional organic practices
- ✓ Risk assessment on the operator
- ✓ Sampling (soil, leaves, products)
- ✓ Testing for pesticides, GMOs



Processors

During a typical inspection, the following aspects are assessed:

- ✓ Licensed from the Health Authorities. (e.g. HACCP)
- ✓ Established processing processes
- ✓ Use of organic ingredients
- ✓ Final product should not contain more than 5% of non-organic ingredients
- ✓ All suppliers are certified
- ✓ Traceability and mass flow



Importers (from non-EU Countries)

- Regulation 2020/479 amending EU regulation 1235/2008 on the rules concerning import of organic products from third countries.
- Operators shall be registered with MCCAAs as importers prior to importing organic products.
- Operators shall be registered in TRACES
- Each shipment shall be registered in TRACES



TRACES is the European Commission's multilingual online platform for sanitary and phytosanitary certification required for the **importation of animals, animal products, food and feed** of non-animal origin and **plants into the European Union, and the intra-EU trade and EU exports of animals and certain animal products.**

Retailers, Wholesaler and Traders

- Retailers/wholesalers who sell organic labelled products and own a warehouse/storage and/or sell online shall be certified with MCCA.
- Retailers/wholesalers shall make sure that their suppliers are also certified to trade organic products.
- Wholesalers buying in bulk and packaging into small batches shall affix the organic logo. The logo shall contain the unique registration number provided by MCCA.
- Retailers/wholesalers shall maintain records of purchasing and sales of organic labelled products.

The Logo and traceability

- All products claimed as 'Organic' shall bear the organic logo.
- The organic logo shall be used only when the operator complies with the organic regulation requirements and certified by a recognised body.

