

Use of experimental inputs in Dutch organic production

Version: 20 June 2024

1. Aim and purpose

The procedure for 'Use of experimental inputs in Dutch organic production' was developed by FiBL and Skal. It was established with the aim of facilitating research on organic farms, while safeguarding that all relevant production rules are complied with.

Contacts

- For questions regarding the evaluation and approval of experimental inputs: netherlands@inputs.eu.
- For questions regarding the certification of organic farms where experimental products are used: landbouw@skal.nl.

2. Conditions

The following conditions apply:

- The experimental input is part of a research project on Dutch organic farms;
- The input is not a plant protection product;
- The product is not listed on the Dutch Input List;
- The experimental product may only be used on organic fields after the evaluation is completed and the applicant has received a confirmation of conformity;
- The researcher is responsible for ensuring that the experimental conditions presented in this document are met during the experiment.
- Once an experimental product is approved, the composition and manufacturing process must not be changed during the experiment;
- If a change in the composition or manufacturing process is desired, this must be re-submitted under a new denomination;
- If the applicant wishes to involve more than five farms, this must be explained during the application;
- Experimental products should be tested during a maximum of one year. If the applicant wishes to prolong the testing beyond this period, he may re-apply for a new permit.

3. Process

Application

The following documents must be submitted to the Dutch Input List team:

- The questionnaire at the end of this document;
- The normal application forms for the Dutch Input List¹;
- The experimental design;
- A list of organic farms with Skal-numbers, names and addresses involved in the experiment.

Evaluation and confirmation document

- The Dutch Input List team will evaluate the experimental product according to the admission criteria for the Dutch Input List.
- After a positive evaluation, the applicant receives a confirmation of compliance.
- Experimental products will *not* be shown in the Dutch Input List.
- Experimental products may only be applied on the farms and fields mentioned in the experimental design.

Carrying out the trial

- *Before* the beginning of the experiment, the applicant must send the confirmation of compliance to all organic farms where the experimental product will be used.
- During inspection, the organic farm has to show the confirmation of compliance to the inspector.

Transition to a regular listing

If the applicant decides to place the product on the market, the experimental approval will terminate. If the applicant wishes to have the product included in the Dutch Input List, he should proceed as follows:

- If the composition and manufacturing process remain unchanged, the applicant can notify FiBL with the 'changes form'.
- If the composition or manufacturing process is changed, a new application is required.

¹ download from <https://netherlands.inputs.eu/submit-products.html>

Timelines

Applications for experimental products are handled outside the timelines for regular updates of the Dutch Input List. Applicants are reminded to submit requests at the earliest convenience, to allow sufficient time for evaluation.

Fees

- For evaluation of experimental products, the same fees apply as for regular submissions for the Dutch Input List.
- Transitions to regular listing in case of unchanged composition and manufacturing process are handled free of charge.

4. Questionnaire for applications

General information

Applicant Company	
Name of contact person	
Phone of contact person	
E-mail of contact person	
Denomination of the experimental product	

Information of trials

Describe the question to be investigated in these trials	
Crops	
Other information, comments	
Start of experiment	
End of experiment	

Annexes

The following information should be provided as annexes:

- Annex 1: Experimental design (showing size of plots, number of plots and precise geographical location)
- Annex 2: A list of organic farms with Skal-numbers, names and addresses involved in the experiment
- Annex 3: Product application form for the Dutch Input List
- Annex 4: Other forms required for the Dutch Input List in the particular case (e.g. distributor registration form, non-GMO declaration, declaration of sustainability for marine-derived materials)