



NOVEMBER 2021

BRIEFING NOTE

IWA 29 SYSTEMATIC REVIEW PROCESS

BACKGROUND

AMEA is focused on accelerating the development of Farmer Organizations and members agreed that the support for the development of a Global Guideline was a priority. During 2017 and 2018 AMEA worked with [NEN](#), the Dutch National Standardization Bureau (NSB), [member of ISO](#) to develop this Guideline using an [International Workshop Agreement \(IWA\)](#) process. This process included regional and country level workshops and input from AMEA members and partners. In 2018, NEN hosted the International Workshop event to achieve consensus on a final document.

In 2019, ISO published the IWA 29. From 2019 until now, AMEA promoted and tested the IWA 29 by reaching out to national governments, farmer organizations, service providers and other stakeholders for recognition and endorsement.

2017	2018	NOV 2018	2019	2019 - 2021	2021	2022 - 2023
AMEA initiates International Workshop Agreement (IWA) 29 process	Eight regional workshops in five continents to collect stakeholder input	NEN hosts an official International Workshop event to finalise the IWA 29	ISO publishes the IWA 29	AMEA promotes and tests the IWA 29	Systematic Review process	Transition to an International Standard

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Input and feedback from over 250 individuals/organizations in the AMEA-organized regional workshops to the draft IWA 29
- Participation of 221 individuals/organizations from 51 countries in the ISO/NEN-organized consultation process
- Publication of the IWA 29 by ISO in early 2019
- Adoption of the IWA 29 as a national standard in the Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Uganda Honduras, and Peru (Ecuador to adopt it in 2022)
- Mapping of all materials in the [AMEA Toolbox](#) against elements of the IWA 29, as well as mapping of additional farmer organization strengthening tools.

GOING FORWARD

Transition to a full International Standard

The transition of the IWA 29 to an International Standard will facilitate stakeholders' access to this common language worldwide. As an internationally recognized guideline, the International Standard of professional farmer organizations will serve as reference to all those working closely with farmer organizations (and to farmer organizations themselves) for more efficient, effective and targeted assistance and services to farmer organizations.

The transition of the IWA 29 into a full International Standard may start as early as January or February 2022. However, first ISO/NEN will consult with stakeholders about their recommendations through a Systematic Review (SR) of the document.

For more information on the reasons for an internationally recognized common language for professional farmer organizations, check our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) at the end of this document.

FIRST STEP

Systematic Review (SR)

The IWA 29 approaches its third (and final) anniversary. As such, NEN will coordinate the SR in **November** through a survey. This is a common procedure for IWAs and is the first time during the process that stakeholders can provide their opinion about what should be done with the IWA in question. At this point, stakeholders have four options:

WITHDRAW

This indicates that you disagree with the IWA 29 and do not see its value. Therefore, you recommend that ISO withdraw the IWA 29.

CONVERT

This indicates that you are recommending the IWA 29 be further developed into a full International Standard, which has no expiration date.

CONFIRM

This indicates that you would like the IWA 29 to have its existence, as is, prolonged by an additional three years. IWAs can only be prolonged once, which means that in three years from now, a new decision will have to be made between Withdraw and Convert.

ABSTAIN

You may also choose to abstain from the SR process.

Please note that if you would like to see the IWA 29 become an International Standard, but would like to propose modifications to the content of the text or to the format it is presented, you can do so in the Systematic Review survey. For this, you should recommend "Convert" and fill in the feedback box that asks for your opinion on changes to the document.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Please look out for an email in November about the Systematic Review.

If you participated in the IWA 29 process in 2018, you will receive an email from NEN to provide your opinion of recommended action.

If you did not participate in the 2018 process, you will receive the email from AMEA, as we will promote NEN's Systematic Review of the IWA 29. You will have one month to respond to NEN's Systematic Review survey so please do not forget to complete it in time as we need your input.

AMEA will then brief you on the results of the survey including the next steps.

QUESTIONS?

We have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Filipe Di Matteo](#).