

To: National Standards Bureaux of: Australia, Botswana, China, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe

Sent by email 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Subject: Introduction and request for national adoption of ISO 18716 Professional farmer organization - Guidance**

AMEA (Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance) is a global network of like-minded organizations, whose mission is to transform the systems that support farmers organizations and agri-SMEs to create value for farmers. AMEA is registered in the Netherlands but works primarily through Local Networks who have been established in 9 countries in Africa and Latin America. As of September 2024, the AMEA Network had 36 members and partners:

- A Glimmer of Hope
- ACDI/VOCA
- Aceli Africa
- ADC Uganda
- AFAP
- Africa Turnaround Ltd
- AgNexus Africa
- AGRA
- Agriterra
- Argidius
- Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)
- Christian Aid
- CIAT
- CNFA
- Cordaid
- Corus International
- Farm Africa
- FUNDER
- Goldstone ECT
- Grameen Foundation
- iCRA
- IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Kilimo Trust
- Mont Horeb
- NAAC
- NCBA/CLUSA
- Nuru International
- SCOPEinsight
- Self Help Africa
- SOCODEVI
- Rikolto
- Small Foundation
- TechnoServe
- TREE Consulting
- World Vegetable Center

A key AMEA strategy has been to promote standardized approaches to support farmer organizations and agri-SMEs. This led to AMEA Global and Local Networks supporting the development of [ISO 18716](#) under the ISO committee ISO/TC 34 (Food products) which was published on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024. This support allowed the standard development process to be highly consultative which led to 27 countries voting for the draft standard and zero voting against (see Annex 1). There is therefore strong, broad-based support for this new Standard from Agricultural sector stakeholders.

ISO 18716 offers a commonly understood and accepted international language for professional farmer organizations and those that work with them that is intended to:

- Provide guidance to improve the professionalism of farmer organizations, leading to improved performance and access to finance and markets
- Support members and staff of farmer organizations to supervise and hold their organization and leadership accountable
- Increase the understanding and confidence of buyers, suppliers, investors, and others doing business with professional farmer organizations
- Give direction to the actions organizational and business development service providers

- Align the vision and interventions of stakeholders in their efforts to professionalize farmer organizations
- Encourage active engagement with broader stakeholders

As your NSB country vote was YES for the draft we would like to now support the process to enable national adoption of ISO 18716. For example, The Netherlands has already undertaken this process (<https://www.nen.nl/en/nen-iso-18716-2024-en-328861>). Please can you let us know whether you also intend to nationally adopt this ISO standard. If needed I would be happy to provide additional information or to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to your response.

Your sincerely,



**Mark Blackett**  
**Network Director**  
**AMEA**  
**Email: [blackett@ameaglobal.org](mailto:blackett@ameaglobal.org)**

Votes by members					
Country	Member	Status	Approval	Disapproval	Abstention
Argentina	IRAM	P-Member			X
Australia	SA	P-Member	X		
Bahamas	BBSQ	P-Member			
Belgium	NBN	P-Member			X
Benin	ANM	P-Member	X *		
Botswana	BOBS	P-Member	X		
Brazil	ABNT	P-Member			X
Brunei Darussalam	NSC	P-Member			
Burkina Faso	ABNORM	P-Member			
Canada	SCC	P-Member			X
Chile	INN	P-Member			X
China	SAC	P-Member	X		
Colombia	ICONTEC	P-Member	X		
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	OCC	P-Member	X		
Costa Rica	INTECO	P-Member			X
Côte d'Ivoire	CODINORM	P-Member	X		
Cuba	NC	P-Member	X		
Denmark	DS	P-Member			X
Ethiopia	IES	O-Member			X
France	AFNOR	Secretariat			X
Germany	DIN	P-Member			X
Ghana	GSA	P-Member	X		
Greece	NQIS ELOT	P-Member			X
Hungary	MSZT	P-Member	X		
India	BIS	P-Member			X
Indonesia	BSN	P-Member			X
Iran, Islamic Republic of	INSO	P-Member	X		
Iraq	COSQC	P-Member			X
Ireland	NSAI	P-Member			X
Israel	SII	P-Member			X
Italy	UNI	P-Member			X
Jamaica	BSJ	P-Member	X		
Japan	JISC	P-Member	X		
Kazakhstan	CTRM	P-Member	X		
Kenya	KEBS	P-Member	X		
Korea, Republic of	KATS	P-Member	X		
Malaysia	DSM	P-Member			X
Mali	AMANORM	P-Member			X

<b>Mauritius</b>	MSB	P-Member	X		
<b>Mexico</b>	DGN	O-Member	X		
<b>Mongolia</b>	MASM	P-Member	X		
Morocco	IMANOR	P-Member			X
Namibia	NSI	P-Member			X
<b>Netherlands</b>	NEN	P-Member	X *		
New Zealand	NZSO	P-Member			X
<b>Nigeria</b>	SON	P-Member	X		
Norway	SN	P-Member			X
Pakistan	PSQCA	O-Member			X
Panama	DGNTI	O-Member			X
<b>Peru</b>	INACAL	P-Member	X *		
Philippines	BPS	P-Member			X
Portugal	IPQ	P-Member			X
Romania	ASRO	O-Member			X
<b>Russian Federation</b>	GOST R	P-Member	X		
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	SASO	P-Member	X		
Senegal	ASN	P-Member			
Singapore	SSC	P-Member	X		
Spain	UNE	P-Member			X
Sri Lanka	SLSI	P-Member			X
Sweden	SIS	P-Member			X
Switzerland	SNV	P-Member			X
Togo	ATN	P-Member			
<b>Tunisia</b>	INNORPI	P-Member	X		
Turkey	TSE	P-Member			X
<b>Uganda</b>	UNBS	P-Member	X		
Ukraine	SE UkrNDNC	P-Member			X
United Arab Emirates	MoiAT-STR	P-Member			X
United Kingdom	BSI	P-Member			X
United States	ANSI	P-Member			
<b>Uruguay</b>	UNIT	O-Member	X		
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	SAZ	P-Member	X		
<b>P-Member TOTALS</b> Total of P-Members voting: 27			27	0	32
<b>TOTALS</b>			29	0	36
(*) A comment file was submitted with this vote					