



**ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA
DE AGRICULTURA BIOLÓGICA**

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COPY

Fax to Bernward Geier

Fax nº 0049 6853 30110

Date: 16.01.93

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bernward,

Thank you for your fax dated 10/2.

We are very concerned with what is happening in Portugal. In July 92 we stopped the certification of the export company SENDA. This was the result of 6 month of discussions concerning: 1. the refusal of SENDA to give us informations necessary to our control work (they did not accept inspection visits to several farmers) 2. several irregularities detected in farms selling to SENDA.

So in July SENDA had already prepared their own certification scheme. Because this was not accepted by foreign importers, they created a new organization called APPA (Associação Portuguesa de Produtores Agrobiológicos) which is now certifying their productions. But until October, SENDA continued to use illegally AGROBIO's symbol.

SENDA refused an independent evaluation by ECOCERT and finally APPA was evaluated by the french traders organization UNITRAB in which administration is ARCADEA France, the french importer of SENDA. Even so, the conclusions of this evaluation are: - an inspection and certification system not sufficient - practise of biologic agriculture without conversion period.

But the economic pressures are so big (Carl Haest and UNITRAB gave all the support) that they could continue to export. SENDA pressed the portuguese government and manage to be recognized on the last days of December, just in time to be in the Brussels list.

We know very well SENDA so it is not a surprise for us the informations you received from Mr. Jansen. For us what is happening is really a scandall. Now how can we deal with this situation? Could you please give us the contact of Mr. Hugo Jansen and a copy of his report. We would like very much to contact him. What can IFOAM do? Something has to be done at Brussels level, don't you think?

The trade pressures are so big (Belgium, UK, France) that it is difficult to stop false organ. Only BNN in Germany had a firm position not acceptin APPA.

Please Bernward be in contact with us about this subject.
Friendly yours,

Angelo Rocha

