

# A Guide to Buying ORGANIC FOOD

## Know the Labels



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# A Guide to Buying **ORGANIC FOOD** Know the Labels

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# Introduction

The right to safe, healthy, affordable and sustainable food is a fundamental human right. The availability of such food is vital with a growing global population and increasing environmental concerns.

The organic sector is developing rapidly. The organic production combines best environmental practices, a high level of biodiversity and the preservation of natural resources. It is a production method using natural substances and processes. Organic production delivers public goods contributing to the protection of the environment. The application of high animal welfare standards respecting species-specific needs are part of the principles of organic production. These also include the selection of appropriate breeds and husbandry practices as well as the maintenance of animal health by encouraging the natural immunological defense of the animal. The well being of livestock must be ensured throughout the whole production process. It is all about protecting the environment, providing good conditions for animals and boosting rural development.

Organic foods have exploded in popularity over the last two decades. Organic food is now a regular feature at most supermarkets. Today, organic food has become a fad for some, but a serious need to protect their health for most consumers. Emerging data indicate that many diseases like cancer, skin diseases and lifestyle diseases may be due to eating foods loaded with chemicals/pesticides. This knowledge is pushing consumers to look for safer choices, such as organic food. A recent study projected that the domestic organic food market would touch the \$1.36 billion mark by 2020. The organic food market in India is growing at 25-30%, but the awareness about organic food is still low and is limited to consumers in metro

cities. Consumers purchase organic food under the belief that these are a healthier option and also undergo a healthier and more eco-friendly production process.

The National Organic Programme (NOP) of different countries develops the rules and regulations for the production, handling, labelling, and enforcement of all organic products. It sets standards and makes sure that accredited organic certifying agents are properly certifying and overseeing organic operations. They are taking appropriate enforcement actions if there are violations of the organic standards. All organic food label claims are backed by valid certification schemes as per standards of different countries. The organic logo and labelling is a quick and simple way for consumers recognise organic produce. It guarantees that this organic produce meets the highest standards.

“Natural” and “organic” are not interchangeable terms. Other common food labels should also not be confused with organic labels. This book provides the information on organic labels of food products and farms of different countries. All agricultural products labeled organic must originate from farms or handling operations certified by a state or private agency accredited by government authority.

This guide book will help consumers differentiate organic foods and their traditionally grown counterparts. These labels are the shopper's ally by promoting informed choices for organic food. Information relating to food labels enables consumers to make informed choices. The less consumers know, the less they are able to make conscious decisions about the health of their families and the health of the environment.

# Organic labels for farms



**O**rganic farming is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It relies on a number of objectives and principles, as well as common practices designed to minimise the human impact on the environment while ensuring that the agricultural system operates as naturally as possible. Organic farmers who want to use organic labels have to comply with the strict requirements/standards of different countries. An organic label indicates that farmers have followed the processes given in the specific organic standards.

## Apof Organic Certification Agency<sup>1</sup>

The Apof Organic Certification Agency (AOCA) is an independent, not-for-profit NGO accredited by the National Accreditation Body (NAB) of India through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for providing inspection and certification services as per the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). It undertakes individual farm certification of diverse crops after complete scrutiny of farm records and through on-site verification of the farm and the organic practices followed on the farm.



## Biocert<sup>2</sup>

The Biocert International Pvt. Ltd. is an organic certification agency from India accredited according to IFOAM by the International Organic Accreditation Service, USA (IOAS).

### Demeter Biodynamic<sup>3</sup>

The Biodynamics is a complete farm approach that manages soils, crops, and animals on a farm in such a way that the enterprises on a farm strengthen and support each other. Biodynamic farming is free of synthetic pesticides and fertilisers like as certified organic farming. Farms certified under the Demeter Biodynamic Farm Standard and related agricultural products carry the Demeter certification marks – 'Biodynamic', 'Demeter' and 'Demeter Certified Biodynamic'. The Demeter Biodynamic Farm and Processing Standards form a common legal foundation and agricultural framework for biodynamic practice worldwide.



### Ecocert<sup>4</sup>



Ecocert inspects and certifies the farms on the basis of the regulations applicable in the market. Ecocert is accredited by the National Accreditation Body (NAB) authorised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 and its implementing regulations (EC) No. 889/2008 and No. 1235/2008; national or private specifications approved by member-states of the European Union, NOP (National Organic Program) regulations of the USA and JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard) regulations of Japan. It also follows other national regulations like Canada, Korea and Brazil.

### Farm Verified Organic<sup>5</sup>

The Farm Verified Organic (FVO) Standard meets the requirements of the USDA National Organic Program as well as additional international requirements for IFOAM and ISO 65 accreditation. As a USDA NOP accredited certifier, International Certification Services (ICS) verifies that all its clients comply with these standards. ICS certifies all categories of operations: family farms, commercial farms, on-farm processing, contract services, processors/manufacturers and handlers.



### INDOCERT<sup>6</sup>

**INDOCERT** INDOCERT provides organic crop production certification as per National Standards for Organic Products (NSOP), Government of India; European Union regulations for organic production rules equivalent to EC No. 834/2007 and USDA NOP. It also certifies organic production systems of non-EU countries as per their own organic standards - INDOCERT Organic standard for non-EU country operators. INDOCERT is accredited by National Accreditation Body (NAB).

## LACON<sup>7</sup>

LACON GmbH, having locations in Germany, Austria, Eastern Europe, Asia (India) and Africa, offers a wide variety of certifications in the fields of farming and food processing. It certifies companies operating globally as well as small producers and farmers. LACON Germany is accredited by USDA. LACON Quality Certifications (India) Ltd., incorporated as a private limited company in Kerala, is the subsidiary of LACON GmbH, Germany. It is also accredited according to EN 45011 as a control body for product certification and according to ISO/EN 17021 for management system certification. It is also accredited by DAkKS-Germany, BMWFJ-Austria and APEDA.



## National Organics Certification Agro Pvt. Ltd. (NOCA)<sup>8</sup>



NOCA inspects and certifies organic farms, food and fibre. It operates under ISO Guide 65:1996, General Requirements for Bodies operating product certification systems and accredited by APEDA for carrying out inspections and certifications according to NSOP. NOCA is approved for providing Agmark Certification. It is also accredited by NAB. NOCA certifies under NPOP, European, US and Japanese standards.

## National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia (NASAA)<sup>9</sup>

NASAA covers the organic supply chain – from input manufacturers to producers, processors, to wholesale and retail operations – ensuring organic integrity 'from paddock to plate'. NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) is a fully-owned subsidiary of The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia which provides the certification services. NASAA is nationally audited and accredited under the Australian Department of Agriculture (DOA) Organic and Bio-dynamic Program. It is accredited by IFOAM, JAS and USDA NOP.



## National Programme for Organic Production<sup>10</sup>



The Government of India has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). The programme involves the accreditation programme for certification bodies, standards for organic production and promotion of organic farming. The NPOP standards for production and accreditation have been recognised by the European Commission, Switzerland and US as equivalent to their country standards. With these recognitions, Indian organic products, duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India, are accepted by the importing countries.

## OneCert<sup>11,12</sup>

The OneCert is a nationally and internationally operating organic certification agency accredited by APEDA under NPOP. The OneCert Asia is a branch of OneCert Inc; USA. It certifies simultaneously the India-NPOP, US-NOP, European Union-EU 834/2007, charging a single fee. It also certifies as per JAS and Swiss Ordinance.



## Organic Farmers & Growers Certification<sup>13</sup>



Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd. is one of a number of certification bodies accredited by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and is approved to inspect organic production and processing in the UK. The programme is based on the European Organic Regulation (EC 834/2007) which forms the core of the standards to be adhered to by operators across the EU. The labelling and marketing of organic food and feed products is controlled by EC Regulations - EC No. 834/2007 and EC No. 889/2008.

## Soil Association Organic Standard<sup>14,15</sup>

Soil Association is UK's leading campaigning and certification organisation for organic food and farming. It runs an organic standard setting programme to write, update and modify the rules and regulations for organic production and processing. It certifies organic food and farming, organic textiles and organic beauty products. Soil Association Certification is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the organisation. Organic standards use the EU organic regulation as their baseline. They are registered with Defra to certify organic food production and processing under the terms of EU Regulation No. 834/2007. Their certification scheme is accredited to EN45011 (ISO 65) by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Their certifier code is 'GB-ORG-05'.



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# Organic labels for foods



**T**he labels on organic products are often as varied as their ingredient lists. In order to be labelled 'organic', a product must be grown and processed using organic farming methods that recycle resources and promote biodiversity. Crops must be grown without using synthetic pesticides, bioengineered genes, petroleum-based or sewage sludge-based fertilisers, hormones and antibiotics.

The label of a given certification body, therefore, informs the consumer on the type of standards complied with during production and processing as well as on the type of recognition granted to the certification body. Many certification bodies operate worldwide.

## **AB (Agriculture Biologique)<sup>1</sup>**

It is the national logo of France for organic products. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry gives this certification mark to organic foods which contain 100% organic (or at least 95% organic) agricultural products in the case of processed products. Its use, however, is optional. These products are certified by one of the inspection bodies accredited according to EN 45011.



## **Afrisco Certified Organic<sup>2,3</sup>**



Afrisco, the South African organic certifier, established in 2001. It provides an ethical and well-regulated basis for ensuring the integrity of organic production systems and food products in South Africa and neighbouring countries. The scheme is accredited by

IFOAM. Afrisco is associated to Ecocert, licenses organic food production, processing and packaging, and associated non-food products. It also certifies farms as “organic in conversion” during the process of converting from conventional to organic, as this process can take a number of years. It provides organic certification for farmers, processing companies and farm input suppliers. The certification is accepted by the European Union and Switzerland for exports to those areas, and by the Canadian and US authorities for exports to North America.

#### **AIAB (Italian Association for Organic Agriculture)<sup>4,5</sup>**

Italian Association for Organic Agriculture certifies organic products and companies in a broad range of categories, including: food, detergents, farms, cosmetics, stores, and bio-fibres. It is a non-profit association established in 1988. AIAB developed the label “Garanzia AIAB” with a specific standard for Italian Organic Farming. AIAB is specialised in the evaluation and certification of agricultural and organic labels.



#### **AMA Biozeichen<sup>6,7</sup>**



The Austrian label “AMA Biozeichen” established by the Ministry of Agriculture as a unique label for the different organic food producers' associations. There are two versions of the label, one without specification of the origin (black label) and one with the specification of the origin (red label). The label is used for agricultural products and food produced by organic farming and guarantees that only organic raw materials are used. Additionally, the origin of the produced food can be specified (e.g. The raw materials came from Austria). The label is as per the EU regulation 2092/91, 1804/99 and national laws and regulations.

#### **Australian Certified Organic<sup>8,9</sup>**

The Australian Certified Organic (ACO) is a certifier for organic and biodynamic produce. It has over 1500 operators within its certification system. ACO is a not-for-profit fully-owned subsidiary of Australia Organic Ltd. It provides certification services to operators from all sectors of the organic industry. Certification ensures compliance with national production standards and allows the tracing of all products to their origin. ACS conforms to the IFOAM, USDA NOP, Japanese Organic Standard, EU's Organic Regulations and others. It is reviewed every three years.



#### **BioGro New Zealand<sup>10</sup>**



The BioGro is owned by the New Zealand Biological Producers and Consumers Society. It is a registered not-for-profit that works to increase awareness and demand for certified organic products. It is also well-known in wider export markets, including Asia, Europe, Australia and the US. The BioGro certification is internationally recognised and accredited.

### **BIOHellas<sup>11</sup>**

The BIOHellas certifies food companies that cover the whole chain of foodstuffs - from animal farms to food retailers to export industries. It was founded in 2001 and approved by the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food as an inspection and certification body for organic products (European Union code GR-BIO-03). It is a member of IFOAM and is among the top ten inspections and certification bodies worldwide. The BIOHellas Institute provides certification services as per EU Regulation 834/2007.



### **Bioland<sup>12</sup>**



The Bioland is the leading association for organic farming in Germany. Its organic farming standards are continuously maintained, adapted and developed to include all aspects of modern ecological agricultural production, animal husbandry and food processing. Compliance with Bioland standards is inspected (in addition to the legal requirements) as stipulated by the EU-regulation 2092/91 on organic agriculture.

### **Bio Quebec<sup>13</sup>**

The Government of Québec, Canada had set up the Conseil des appellations réservées et des termes valorisants (CARTV) in 2006 to develop and maintain the recognition, certification and inspection of agri-foods. It protects the authenticity of products and of the terms used to identify and promote them through product certification based on origin or on special characteristics associated with a production method. The presence of the Bio Québec logo on products ensures that these products have been certified according to the Québec Certification Reference Manual and guarantees that the products contain at least 95% ingredients of organic origin.



### **Bio Siegel<sup>14</sup>**



Germany is using Bio Siegel as a national logo since 2001 to differentiate organic products from others. This logo can be used only on products that contain at least 95% of ingredients of agricultural origin that are organic. Products and foods with the Bio Siegel logo can be recognised as these are generated, produced and inspected in accordance with the EU legislation on organic farming. In addition to the EU organic logo, producers of organic food also use the German organic seal and signs of private eco-farming associations on labels.

### **Bio Suisse<sup>15,16</sup>**

The Bio Suisse is a Swiss organic growers association established in 1981. It has different standards for agricultural production and processing. The standards are process specific and have special regulations regarding the import of products. The Bio Suisse standard covers the production of plant



and animal products, processing and marketing of foodstuffs as well as auxiliary inputs. To achieve certification, the Bio Suisse definition of a farming operation must be met. This includes adherence to principles, including a whole-farm approach to organic management, no use of hormones, antibiotics or growth promoters, no genetic engineering and an ethologically sound, extensive management of animals.

### **Bird Friendly Coffee<sup>17</sup>**

This certificate is developed by Washington, DC based Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. The logo is verified by a third party for coffee that has been grown using shade management practices that provide good bird habitats. Coffee plants should grow under a minimum of 40% shade cover with 11 species of shade trees and canopy should be at least 12 meters high. Additionally, the coffee must also be certified as being organic. Bird-Friendly certification has the most robust shade/habitat standards of any coffee certification. Its seal of approval ensures tropical 'agroforests' are preserved and migratory birds find a healthy haven when they travel from backyard to faraway farms producing the beans. Producers must be recertified every three years.



### **British Columbia Certified Organic<sup>18</sup>**



The Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) is an umbrella association of organic certifying agencies. COABC is empowered by the British Columbia Organic Agricultural Products Regulation under the British Columbia Food Choice and Disclosure Act to implement an organic certification accreditation province-wide. The certification, accreditation programme is an industry and government partnership. The main objectives are to provide consumer confidence in organic product certification, assist producers to increase market share, and support regional development of organic food production, processing and marketing.

### **California Certified Organic Farmers<sup>19</sup>**

The California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) is accredited as an organic certifier by the USDA and has been certifying products as organic since 1973. It is a full-service organic certification agency. It also provides international trade access for its clients and maintains ISO Guide 65 accreditation with IOAS for EU Equivalency and Canadian Organic Regime accreditation. All organic certifiers must be accredited by the USDA. Only products containing at least 95% organic ingredients may display the USDA Organic seal in addition to the certifier's logo.



### **Canada Organic<sup>20</sup>**

The use of the official Canada Organic Logo is voluntary. It is designed to build on the existing system of domestic accreditation and certification. The Canadian Food Inspection

Agency (CFIA) is the competent authority that oversees the use of the logo. The CFIA enters into agreements with Conformity Verification Bodies (CVBs) which assess, recommend for accreditation and subsequently monitor certification bodies. The accredited CBs are responsible for the organic certification of agricultural products and organic product packaging and labelling certification.



### **Certified Naturally Grown<sup>21</sup>**

The Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) is a non-profit organisation based in Brooklyn, New York, offering certification tailored for small-scale, direct-market farmers and beekeepers using natural methods. Its certification model encourages collaboration, transparency and community involvement. The programmes are based on the highest ideals of organic farming. CNG producers don't use any synthetic fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or GMO seeds, just like organic farmers. Certified Naturally Grown is an independent program not affiliated with the National Organic Program (NOP).

### **Chão Vivo<sup>22</sup>**

The Chao Vivo is an organic food products and production processes label from Brazil providing a guarantee of origin and assurance of conformity of organic products with national and international standards. Its mission is “to promote ecologically-based agriculture through the adoption of conformity assessment systems in order to protect the agro-ecosystem and improve the quality of life of farmers and consumers”.



### **China Organic Food Certification<sup>23</sup>**



The China Organic Food Certification Center is responsible for organic agriculture promotion and engaged in organic-food certification and management under the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. It is approved by the China National Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) (No. CNCA-R-2002-100 for certification) for certification of organic products. It is also accredited by China National Accreditation

Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) (No. CNAS C115-0) as a certification organisation.

### **Control Union<sup>24</sup>**

The Control Union certifies companies all over the world and offers a wide range of certification programmes, some of which can be linked to organic certifications. As a leading international inspection and certification body, Control Union Certifications (CUC) is accredited by USDA NOP, Japanese organic regulations (JAS organic), National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for India and Dutch Council for Accreditation

CONTROL UNION CERTIFICATIONS  
MEMBER OF CONTROL UNION WORLD GROUP



and Organic Korea (MAFRA). It certifies that raw materials originate from organic cultivation and are processed using organic methods. Control Union verifies that products have been cultivated according to sustainable production methods by means of supervising, testing, inspecting, assessing and certifying them as per the regulations EEC 2092/91, NOP of USDA and JAS.

### Danish Ø-mark<sup>25</sup>



The designation 'organic' (økologisk) and the Danish eco-label (the red Ø symbol) may only be used on milk, meat, eggs, cereals and vegetables from farms authorised for organic production. The Department of Organic Farming of Denmark checks that organic farms comply with the rules applicable to both organic plant and animal husbandry. They inspect enterprises producing or marketing organic feeding stuffs, seeds and cereals, fertilisers and other non-food products.

### Ecocert<sup>26</sup>

The Ecocert is an inspection and certification body established in France in 1991 by agronomists aware of the need to develop environmentally friendly agriculture and of the importance of offering some form of recognition to those committed to this method of production. Ecocert is specialised in the certification of organic agricultural products. It is accredited by the Cofrac (French Accreditation Committee), USDA NOP and the MAFF (Agricultural Department) for JAS.



### EU organic products label<sup>27</sup>



This label indicates that a product has been grown by a sustainable farming process. Foods may only be marked as 'organic' if at least 95% of their agricultural ingredients are organic. In non-organic foods, any ingredients which meet organic standards can be listed as 'organic'. To ensure credibility, the code number of the certifying organisation must be provided. The EU regulation on organic farming covers not only production and processing, but also the control and labelling of organic food. Placing the logo – the “Euroleaf” – is mandatory for all pre-packaged organic foods manufactured in the EU. The logo may also be placed on other organic products and products exported outside the EU, but its use is voluntary. However, this is not a binding requirement for organic foods from non-EU countries.

### Hand in Hand<sup>28</sup>

The Hand in Hand is the organic label of Germany-based organisation Rapunzel Naturkost. It is a combination of organic cultivation and fair trade. The company-owned seal can be found on all products that contain at least 51% raw materials from its partners. In addition to the organic certification pursuant to EU Organic Ordinance No. 834/2007, Rapunzel also holds an International Food Standard (IFS) certificate.



## International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA)<sup>29</sup>



The ICCOA promotes ecologically, economically and socially sustainable agricultural systems. ICCOA is associated with international organisations like IFOAM. Its logo is applicable in South Asia.

## IMO Certified<sup>30,31</sup>

Switzerland based Institute for Marketecology (IMO) is an international agency that conducts an inspection, certification and quality control of organic, eco-friendly and socially responsible products. It is part of the international Ecocert group based in France. IMO certifies products as per EU, NOP, JAS, other national standards and private label schemes (e.g. Bio Suisse, Naturland, Demeter). IMO India is duly accredited since 2001 as per the NPOP for carrying out inspection and certification of organic agriculture in India. In fact, IMO India is the first Indian organic certifier to obtain international accreditation under ISO 65 in 2004 for its inspection and certification activities.



## India Organic - National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)<sup>32</sup>



Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has the mandate to regulate manufacture, distribute, sell or import “organic foods” as per the provisions laid under Section 22 of the Food Safety Standards Act, 2006. The Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 will regulate the Organic Foods in the country and will come into force from 1st July 2018. Certification of Organic Foods assures that they comply with the set standards laid out. Organic foods may be certified under NPOP or PGS. FSSAI has launched an “Indian Organic Integrity Data Base” (<http://jaivikbharat.fssai.gov.in/organicdirectory/>), to help consumers verify the authenticity of organic food.

## National Programme for Organic Production

The Government of India has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). It involves the accreditation programme for certification bodies, standards for organic production and promotion of organic farming. The NPOP standards for production and accreditation have been recognised by the European Commission and Switzerland as well as US as equivalent to their country standards. With these recognitions, Indian organic products, duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India, are accepted by the importing countries. It is managed by a government body known as Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

## PGS-India System

PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System of India) is a quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant, emphasize the participation of stakeholders, including producers and consumers and



operate outside the frame of third party certification. It is based on a participatory approach, a shared vision, transparency and trust.

**PGS-INDIA GREEN:** Logo used while marketing on the products produced from the field under conversion.

**PGS-INDIA ORGANIC:** Logo Used while marketing on the products produced from the fields of completely converted into organic.

### Japanese Agricultural Organic Standard<sup>33</sup>

Production and processing of organic products for the Japanese market are regulated by the Japanese Agriculture Standard (JAS). The certified products are identified with the official JAS organic seal of the Japanese government. The JAS organic standard covers agricultural food crops growing in fields, livestock products, fungi, processed food and animal feed. It regulates labelling of agricultural products and is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF). Operators certified by registered Japanese or overseas certifying bodies are able to attach the organic JAS logo to products.



### KRAV<sup>34</sup>



The KRAV is a key player in the organic market in Sweden. The KRAV label has to be accompanied by the name of the producer. KRAV is an accredited control organisation according to IFOAM. Organic products, certified according to EC regulation 834/2007 may be KRAV labelled by a KRAV-certified importer if the production also fulfills KRAV's extra requirements. These extra requirements differ depending on which type of products is considered, but some are relevant for all types.

### 'Luomu' - controlled organic produce label<sup>35</sup>

The 'Luomu' sign denotes controlled organic production. All labelled products conform to organic criteria of EU regulations and are supervised by the Finnish authorities. The products are manufactured, packaged and labelled in Finland. Labelling can be used in agricultural products, food, animal feed, plant propagation material and seeds. The certificate is granted by the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira. However, this is not a product certificate, but a certificate of inspection. After applications have been accepted, applicants accepted into the control system can sell their organic products with labelling indicating organic production methods.



### M-BRIO Organic and Food Labeling<sup>36</sup>



The M-BRIO Organic and food labelling programme in Indonesia is accredited by International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM).

### Naturland<sup>37</sup>

Naturland promotes organic agriculture throughout the world and is one of the largest organic farming associations. It runs on the principle of grassroots democracy. It was founded in 1982 with its headquarters in Germany. Around 40,000 farmers and 600 processors all over the world supply produce conforms to Naturland standards. Certification by Naturland is recognised worldwide and accredited to the standards of IFOAM and of European norm EN 45011/ISO 65. The inspection procedure covers both Naturland's standards and European Council Regulations (EEC) No. 834/2007 and 1804/1999.



### Ø-label-Debio<sup>38</sup>



All organic foods produced in Norway have an approval from Debio. This approval is a prerequisite for being able to say that a product is organic and to use the E-label in marketing. Organic food production is regulated by the regulations set by the Ministry of Agriculture and is based on EU standards. The Food Safety Authority is the supervisory authority and has delegated the responsibility for this audit to Debio.

### ORC-Cert Organic Seal<sup>39</sup>

The ORC-Cert awards certificates of organic certification to producers and processors that meet the 'ORC-Cert – Organic Production and Processing Standard'. There are three grades of standard – Organic Produce or Products with not less than 95% of organic ingredients; Products with not less than 70% but not more than 95% of organic ingredients; and Products produced on farmland that has applied for conversion. The ORC-Cert is accredited by IFOAM. Three kinds of seals are available and comprise of patterns together with Chinese and English characters. These labels are found in China and Hong Kong.



### Oregon Tilth Certified Organic<sup>40</sup>



The Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO) is accredited as an organic certifier by the USDA. Only products containing at least 95% organic ingredients may display the USDA Organic seal in addition to the certifier's logo.

### Organic Farmers & Growers Certification<sup>41</sup>

The Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd. is a certification body, accredited by Defra and is approved to inspect organic production and processing in the UK. The programme is based on the European Organic Regulation (EC 834/2007) which forms the core of the standards to be adhered to by operators across the EU. The labelling and marketing of organic food and feed products is controlled by EC Regulations (EC) No. 834/2007 and (EC) No. 889/2008.



### Organic Food China<sup>42</sup>



The Organic Food Development and Certification Center of China (OFDC) is a specialised certification body that is both nationally and internationally (IFOAM) accredited. OFDC focuses on inspection and certification of organic products. All the products certified can use the OFDC logo. The IFOAM logo can be used in combination with the OFDC logo. Products certified under OFDC organic certification standard include crops, mushroom, livestock, aquaculture, wild harvest, processing and inputs.

### Organic Food Federation<sup>43</sup>

The Organic Food Federation is one of UK's certification bodies operating nationally. Its standards are based on the Council Regulation 834/2007 which is the official, definitive legal standard within the EU. The EU organic logo and accompanying wording (which includes its certification body code - GB-ORG-04) is mandatory for all pre-packed organic goods. In cases where the EU organic logo is not required, its certification body code must still be used. Its logo is a mark of recognition showing compliance with its standards, but is not a mandatory requirement. Producers may only use logo on products if the content is 95% organic or over.



### SGS's organic food certification<sup>44</sup>



The SGS is a Geneva-based inspection, verification, testing and certification company. The SGS Organic Production Standard is a worldwide programme for organic production and processing. The programme has been developed with reference to IFOAM, European Community Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, USDA Rulings, JAS requirements and the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines.

### Skal Eko Symbol<sup>45</sup>

The Skal is an independent organisation for the supervision of organic production in the Netherlands. It is the legal holder of the EKO Quality symbol. This symbol stands for organic production certified by Skal that meets the requirements of the EU-regulation of organic production. SKAL has been assigned by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Food Quality and Nature. It is accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (EC 834/2007) and a member of IFOAM. The symbol cannot be used for agricultural products under conversion to organic production.



### USDA Organic Seal<sup>46,47</sup>

The USDA organic products have strict production and labelling requirements. Only those organic foods are certified which are produced according to federal standards set by the USDA National Organic Program. The labelling indicates that the food or other agricultural product has been produced through approved methods that integrate cultural, biological

and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance and conserve biodiversity. Synthetic fertilisers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering cannot be used. There are three classifications based on the percentage of organic ingredients in the products:



**100% Organic** - Raw or processed agricultural products in this category must meet the following criteria: (i) all ingredients must be certified organic (ii) any processing aids must be organic and (iii) product labels must state the name of the certifying agent on the information panel. It may include USDA organic seal and/or 100% organic claim.

**Organic** - Raw or processed agricultural products in this category must meet the following criteria: (i) all agricultural ingredients must be certified organic, except where specified on National List (ii) non-organic ingredients allowed per National List may be used, up to a combined total of 5% of non-organic content (excluding salt and water) and (iii) product labels must state the name of the certifying agent on the information panel. It may include USDA organic seal and/or organic claim.



**Made with Organic Ingredients** - Multi-ingredient agricultural products in this category must meet the following criteria: (i) at least 70% of the product must have certified organic ingredients (excluding salt and water) (ii) any remaining agricultural products are not required to be organically produced but must be produced without excluded methods (iii) non-agricultural products must be specifically allowed on the National List and (iv) product labels must state the name of the certifying agent on the information panel. They may state “made with organic (insert up to three ingredients or ingredient categories)” but must not include USDA organic seal anywhere.

**Specific Organic Ingredients** - Multi-ingredient products with less than 70% certified organic content (excluding salt and water) don't need to be certified. Any non-certified product must not include USDA organic seal anywhere or the word “organic” on principal display panel.

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### **Consumer Education and Research Centre**

Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC), set up in 1978, is a non-political, non-profit and nongovernment organisation dedicated to the education and empowerment of consumers as well as promotion and protection of consumer interests through effective uses of education, research, the media and law. CERC has three major roles-to make consumers aware of their rights, to help them protect themselves and to make providers of goods and services accountable. Its activities include complaints handling, legal advice and litigation, consumer education and awareness programmes, library and information service, publication, comparative testing of products, advocacy, investor and environment protection.

### **CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has recognized Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC) as ENVIS (Environment Information System) Centre in 2005. The focus of ENVIS is to provide environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers, etc. across the country. ENVIS was conceived as a distributed information network with the subject-specific centers to carry out the mandates and to provide the relevant and timely information to all concerned.

Subject assigned to the CERC- ENVIS Centre is "Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products." The Centre launched the website <http://cercenvis.nic.in/> on NIC (National Informatics Centre) platform with the theme 'Eco-labelling and Eco-Friendly Products'. The website furnishes the information on national and international scenario on this subject.

It publishes theme based quarterly newsletter named "Green Insights". It also circulates bi-monthly e-bulletin "Green Alert". Since Social Media is very popular among youth and to attract them and sensitise them towards eco products, ENVIS Resource Partner has started a page on facebook also (<https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling/>).



**CERC-ENVIS**  
Resource Partner

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