



Centurion
UNIVERSITY
Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

Module-1

Organic Certification



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

The certification process

In order to certify a farm, the farmer is typically required to engage in a number of new activities, in addition to normal farming operations:

- Study the organic standards, which cover in specific detail what is and is not allowed for every aspect of farming, including storage, transport and sale.
- Compliance - farm facilities and production methods must comply with the standards, which may involve modifying facilities, sourcing and changing suppliers, etc.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

- Documentation - extensive paperwork is required, detailed farm history and current set-up, and usually including results of soil and water tests.
- Planning - a written annual production plan must be submitted, detailing everything from seed to sale: seed sources, field and crop locations, fertilization and pest control activities, harvest methods, storage locations, etc.
- Inspection - annual on-farm inspections are required, with a physical tour, examination of records, and an oral interview.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

- Fee – A fee is to be paid by the grower to the certification body for annual surveillance and for facilitating a mark which is acceptable in the market as symbol of quality.
- Record-keeping - written, day-to-day farming and marketing records, covering all activities, must be available for inspection at any time.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY
Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

Certification & Product Labelling



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

- Certification is intended to protect consumers from misuse of the term, and make buying organics easy.
- In many countries organic legislation defines three levels of organics.
- Products made entirely with certified organic ingredients and methods can be labelled "100% organic". Products with 95% organic ingredients can use the word "organic". Both may also display organic seal.
- A third category, containing a minimum of 70% organic ingredients, can be labelled "made with organic ingredients".
- Products made with less than 70% organic ingredients can not advertise this information to consumers and can only mention this fact in the product's ingredient statement.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

Certification around the world



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

In some countries, organic standards are formulated and overseen by the government. The United States, the European Union and Japan have comprehensive organic legislation, and the term "organic" may be used only by certified producers.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

- In India, Agricultural Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce is the controlling body for organic certification for export. Till date there are no domestic standards for organic produce within India.
- Although there is no system for monitoring the labeling of organic produce sold within India, this primarily effects the retail public.
- Internationally, equivalency negotiations are underway, and some agreements are already in place, to harmonize certification between countries, facilitating international trade.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

- There are also international certification bodies, including members of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA), and Ecocert.
- Where formal agreements do not exist between countries, organic product for export is often certified by agencies from the importing countries, who may establish permanent foreign offices for this purpose.
- In 2006, India's organic certification process under NPOP has been granted equivalence with European Union. It has also been recognized for conformity assessment by USDA's NOP.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

- In the United Kingdom, organic certification is handled by a number of organizations, of which the largest are the Soil Association and Organic Farmers and Growers. All the certifying bodies are subject to the regulations of the UK Register of Organic Food Standards (UKROFS), which itself is bound by EU legislation.
- In Sweden, organic certification is handled by the private corporation KRAV.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

- In the US, the National Organic Program (NOP), was enacted as federal legislation in Oct. 2002. It restricts the use of the term "organic" to certified organic producers.
- In Canada, the government has published a national organic standard, but it is a guideline only; legislation is in process. Certification is provided by private sector organizations.
- In Japan, the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) was fully implemented as law in April, 2001. This was revised in November of 2005 and all JAS certifiers were required to be re-accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- In China, the China Green Food Development Center awards two Standards: A and AA; while the former standard does permit some use of synthetic agricultural chemicals, the latter is more stringent.