

ADITI ORGANIC NEWSLETTER

Aditi Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd.

1st June 2017/Volume 2017/Issue 1

COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Won the SKOCH “Order of Merit” & “Evergreen Revolution Award” in “Product Certification”
- ✓ Completed 10 - year milestone successfully
- ✓ The company is accredited to offer Fair trade certification apart from certifications according to NPOP standard, NOP/USDA standard, COS/COR standard, Starbucks C.A.F.E. practices standard and bird friendly coffee standard
- ✓ Government of Nepal has recognized & accredited Aditi’s certification services



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Welcome to the inaugural issue of “Aditi Organic Newsletter”. Through this newsletter, we aim to educate everyone on topics related to organic farming and certification, share best practices and also updates on the latest developments happening at Aditi Organics Certifications Pvt. Ltd. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as we enjoyed creating it. Please feel free to share your feedback with us at aditi@aditicert.net and sukanya@aditicert.net

DID YOU KNOW?

What is organic certification?

Certification process is for producers of organic food and other organic agricultural products. It also includes individual farmers, farmer groups, food processors, retailers and restaurants. Substances like GMO’s, synthetic pesticides/fertilizers, sewage sludge, growth regulators, synthetic veterinary drugs and antibiotics, food additives are prohibited. Certified organic products are produced, stored, processed, handled and marketed according to technical specifications (standards). Organic certification bodies certify these products.

“The food you eat can be either the safest and most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison”

What is the purpose of organic certification?

For organic producers/processors/retailers, certification identifies suppliers of products approved for use in certified operations and for consumers, "certified organic" serves as a product assurance

What is an organic label?

Organic label refers to the production process, ensuring that the product has been produced and processed according to the organic standard. The organic label is therefore a production process claim as opposed to a product quality claim. Once conformity with organic standards has been verified by a certification body, the product is afforded a label.

Why is labelling important?

It is taken as an assurance that the essential elements constituting an "organic" product have been met from the farm to the market



“If you think eating organic is expensive, have you priced cancer lately?”

“Every time you buy organic you are persuading more farmers to grow organic”

“A healthy outside starts from the inside”



Can you label a product as organic “without” certification?

If you are not certified by an accredited certification body, you cannot make any organic claim on the packaging of a product nor can you use any organic logos.

What is an organic Scope Certificate?

A Scope Certificate is a certificate issued to an organic operation that complies with the organic standards defined. This certificate has a validity of one year and has to be renewed annually.

What is a Transaction Certificate?

A Transaction Certificate or TC is a document issued by a certification body which is proof that the product in question that is being sold/bought has been grown in accordance with the defined organic standard/s. It is a way of accounting for traceability right from the source. A TC can only be issued to an organic operation after they have received an organic Scope Certificate from the concerned certification body.

FOOD FROM FARM TO TABLE - THE WAY FORWARD!

Are you on the quest for fresh local food that is pure and free of chemicals? If your answer to this question is yes, then “Organic” is your answer.

Organic produce/products are grown without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and hormones with an approach that is both environmentally and socially responsible. In a local farmers’ market or Sunday market, one can find an array of seasonal fresh produce, which is tempting to all the senses. Farmers or producers of organic products come to these markets to directly sell their fresh local produce, thus eliminating the middleman from the equation. Further on, this helps in developing a rapport between the consumers and farmers directly. Consumers get acquainted with their local producers.

Organic products are produced and processed by methods that comply with the standards of organic farming, which vary worldwide. The question that comes to mind is that how does one identify an organic product from its conventional counterpart? The answer to that is “Labelling”. Food products that are produced and processed adhering to the organic standards are always labelled. This label represents the fact that the organic standards used to produce/process the product have been met with and verified by a Certification Body, thereafter the product is afforded a label. For example, when all the ingredients in a product are organic then it is termed as “100% organic”, when 95% or more of the ingredients are organic the product is termed “organic” and the USDA label can be used. When at least 70% of the ingredients used are organic then the product is termed “made with organic ingredients”, in this instance the USDA seal is not used. When less than 70% of the ingredients in a product are organic, then only the organic ingredient list is denoted without the USDA seal. Therefore, it can be surmised that an organic label is a “production process claim” as opposed to “product quality



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claim”. Labelling is key as it is taken as an assurance that the essential elements constituting an "organic" product have been met right from the farm to the table. Consumers are confident in picking products off the shelf, that have an organic label as this is an assurance/guarantee that these products are genuinely “organic”, right from their origin.

According to a online source there has been a dominating demand for organic pulses and food grains in the country since 2015 and it is anticipated that the segment will continue dominating the market through 2021.” Also, “The global organic foods & beverages market is expected to grow at a CAGR of more than 15% from 2017 to 2021. The Sprout Intelligence expert team estimated that the global organic foods & beverages market in 2016 was worth more than USD 80 billion.”

Finally, to emphasize on how important it is to eat the right kind of food; one of the best quotes which is self-explanatory is that of Hippocrates the Greek physician who said “Let food be thy medicine” and that is what we as aware consumers should work towards!

GLIMPSES OF RECENT EVENTS

Aditi Organic Certifications took part in the National Trade Fair-Organics & Millets 2017, which was held from 28th to 30th April 2017 at Palace Grounds in Bangalore.

