



## Information Sheet No. TIS3

### Certifying organic produce for export to Europe

*Please note that HDRA is not a certifying body and can only provide information on the process of certification.*

For your produce to enter the European market you must be certified to standards equivalent to the European Union (EU) regulations. This can be achieved in two ways. Your country may be recognised by the EU as being equivalent (see 1 below) or you have to be certified by a certifying organisation that is recognised by the EU (see 2 below).

1. The EU recognises some countries to have equivalent standards and procedures to the EU. To date these include Argentina, Australia, Hungary, Israel, Switzerland and Czech Republic. Several certification bodies in each of these countries are approved.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Certification body</b>
Argentina	Argencert, OIA, Letis
Australia	AQIS, BDRI, BFA, OVAA, OHGA, NASAA
Hungary	Biokultura Association
Israel	Ministry of Agriculture
Switzerland	VSBLO, IMO, FiBL, SQS
Czech Republic	KEZ

*(Addresses available from HDRA)*

2. There is no official list of non-EU certification bodies which are recognised by the EU. European certification bodies are, of course, recognised. International certification bodies include IMO Control (Switzerland), Ecocert (France), SKAL (Holland), Naturland (Germany), Demeter (Germany) and many more. UK certification bodies include Soil Association Certification Ltd and The Organic Food Federation. In most cases, producer groups are certified by European certification bodies as there are very few local certification bodies.

Some non-EU certification bodies are unofficially recognised by different European member states. Setting up indigenous certification bodies is a lengthy and difficult process but should be, in the long term, the aim of each country, for domestic markets as well as for export. Many countries are developing organic standards and trying to develop organic production. The following countries and organisations are recognised by the EU:

- Bolivia      **AOPEB**  
Calle Juan Jose Perez No 268A  
La Paz, Zona Central  
Tel/fax: 591 2 333 331  
Email: [aopeb@mail.megalink.com](mailto:aopeb@mail.megalink.com)  
Website: [www.megalink.com/aopeb](http://www.megalink.com/aopeb)
- Bolicert**  
Casilla 13030 General Gonzales  
1317 La Paz
- Brazil        **Instituto Biodinamico**  
Caixa Postal 321  
18603-970 Botucatu-SP  
Tel: 55 14 8225066  
Fax: 55 14 822506  
Email: [ibd@ibd.com.br](mailto:ibd@ibd.com.br)  
Website: [www.ibd.com.br](http://www.ibd.com.br)
- China        **Organic Food Development Centre, China (OFDC)**  
8 Jiangwangmiao Street  
PO Box 4202  
Nanjing  
Tel: 86 25 5412926  
Fax: 86 25 5420606  
Email: [lizf@njnet.nj.ac.cn](mailto:lizf@njnet.nj.ac.cn)
- Egypt        **Egyptian Centre for Organic Agriculture (ECO)**  
18 Mena Street  
Dokki, Giza  
Tel/fax: 20 2 7618717  
Email: [eco@soficom.com.eg](mailto:eco@soficom.com.eg)
- Mexico      **Certimex**  
H. Esc. Naval Militar num 621-3001  
Col. Reforma, 68050 Oaxaca, Oax.  
Tel : 52 9 5131196  
Email: [certimexsc@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:certimexsc@prodigy.net.mx)
- Nicaragua   **Cenipae**
- Peru         **Bio Latina**  
Av. Arenales 645  
Lima 1  
Peru  
Tel: 51 1 4247773  
Fax: 51 1 4331073  
Email: [biolatin@ideas.org.pe](mailto:biolatin@ideas.org.pe)

Others which are developing include:

South Africa    **Africa's Farms Certified Organic (AFRISCO)**  
PO Box 74192  
Lynnwood Ridge, 0040  
Tel/Fax: +27 (012) 361 5127  
Email: [info@afrisco.net](mailto:info@afrisco.net)

Kenya            **Association for Better Land Husbandry (ABLH)**  
PO Box 601  
Village Market  
Nairobi  
Tel: 254 2 521090  
Fax: 254 2 521482  
Email: [ablh.sec@net2000ke.com](mailto:ablh.sec@net2000ke.com)

Zambia          **Organic Producers and Processors Association of Zambia (OPPAZ)**  
PO Box 34465  
Lusaka  
Tel: 260 1 263 512  
Fax: 260 1 236 141  
Email: [organic@coppernet.zm](mailto:organic@coppernet.zm)

### **Who can help and provide advice?**

#### **Protrade**

Protrade is the trade promotion organisation of GTZ (German technical co-operation). It offers marketing advice to initiatives and companies in developing countries who are already exporting or wishing to export. Local consultants are assigned as well as a short-term consultant who visits the project for 1-2 weeks twice per year. It has been supporting and advising initiatives in several developing countries for the last six years. Protrade has developed a website which aims to link exporters of organic products from developing countries to importers all over the world.

GTZ  
Postfach 5180  
65726 Eschborn  
Germany  
Tel: 49 6196 793172  
Fax: 49 6196 797414  
Email: [marion.buley@gtz.de](mailto:marion.buley@gtz.de)  
Website: [www.gtz.de](http://www.gtz.de)

Protrade website 'Green Trade Net'  
Green Trade Net Office  
Michael Stander, Andrea Richert  
Tel: 49 69 81 12 28  
Fax: 49 69 82 46 84  
Email: [oeekologie\\_marketing@compuserve.com](mailto:oeekologie_marketing@compuserve.com)  
Website: [www.green-tradenet.de](http://www.green-tradenet.de)

#### **EPOPA**

In 1994 the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) initiated the EPOPA programme (Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa). The aim is to develop the export of organic products from Africa. This is achieved by giving producer countries the opportunity to increase and diversify their exports. The EPOPA programme is subcontracted by SIDA to Agro Eco Consultancy in the Netherlands. Projects are initiated in countries in Africa where Sweden is engaged in private sector development. Currently there are projects in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

SIDA  
105 25 Stockholm  
Sweden  
Tel: +46 869 8500  
Fax: +46 820 4731  
Email: info@sida.se

### **ITC**

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a focal point in the United Nations system for technical co-operation with developing countries in trade promotion. It is sponsored by the parent bodies, the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. They are promoting trade in organic products. They:

- Started an export promotion project in Ethiopia.
- Developed a World Bank financed project on empowerment of rural communities to export organic spices in co-operation with smallholder farmer groups and the Spices Board of India.
- Organised a series of export seminars to draw attention to the possibilities of exporting organic produce in Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan in June/July 2000 and French-speaking West Africa at the end of the year.
- Run a Market News Service which provides price and market information on a number of food products. Currently it only covers conventional foods but it is planned to also cover organic produce.
- Are developing an ITC website on organic trade.

Website: [www.itc.org](http://www.itc.org)

### **Other useful websites for export:**

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/agexport/exporter.html>

### **Useful publications**

Neuendorff, J. (1997) Certification of Organic Foodstuffs in Emerging Countries. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Postfach 5180, D-65 726 Eschborn, Germany. 21p.

Rundgren, G. (1998) Building Trust in Organics: A Guide to Setting Up Organic Certification Programmes. International Federation for Organic Movements, c/o Ökozentrum Imsbach, D-66636, Tholey Theley, Germany. 149p.

Augstburger, F. Quality control manual: Organic production in small farmer's associations by. Published by Naturland e.V., Kleinhaderner Weg 1, D-82166 Grafelfing, Germany. USD 33, producer groups get it for the reduced price of USD 18, plus postage 4 USD.

### **Further information**

This information factsheet aims to provide an introductory guide to certification for non-EU countries. For more detailed information please contact HDRA again.

Produced by the Tropical Advisory Service, Updated July 2002.