

Wild Plants Harvesting Certification Policy

Purpose

To specify management and collection requirements that must be followed to obtain certification of wild plants.

Scope

This policy affects all producers who wish to certify wild crops as outlined in the OCIA International Certification Standards for wild plants, wild sea vegetables, and lake grown wild rice.

Definitions

Manager – Person responsible for the oversight of wild plant collection and organic integrity.

Middlemen – A person or people invested with responsibility to oversee collectors and report to manager.

Wild Harvested – Plants or portions of plants that are collected or harvested from defined sites which are maintained in a natural state and are not cultivated or otherwise managed.

Wild Harvested Plants Certification Policy

1. The certified operation must harvest and own the crop throughout the process until they sell it.
2. All labor must be under the jurisdiction and direct control of the certified entity.
3. The certified operation must control the areas where product is handled and stored, such as drying grounds and storage.
4. If wild plant collection is undertaken by more than the manager, instructions on applicable certification standards which define the collection area must be issued. A sample of these instructions should be submitted with the Organic System Plan (OSP).
5. Any collectors hired must sign statements that they have followed the instructions issued.
6. A list of collectors must be maintained. The list of collectors must be submitted with the Organic System Plan (OSP).
7. Records reflecting the collected yields from each individual must be kept. Audit trail records will be checked during annual inspections.
8. Middlemen must be under contract to the certified entity.
9. Collection areas must be distinct enough so as to ensure organic and non-organic wild plants are not accidentally harvested and commingled. Maps must be submitted for these areas as defined in the Organic System Plan (OSP).

10. All other applicable certification requirements (i.e. storage, transport, audit trail) must be followed to obtain certification.