

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. Additionally there are specific requirements for Peruvian operations for RTPO.

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 - All

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.

Wild Harvested Plants Certification Requirements – RTPO

1. The manager of the area must submit to the certification body a management plan for the species that he wishes to collect considering the topography, erosion potential, planting of native fruit and forest trees and other aspects that may be relevant; in addition to other regulations that exist in this matter.
2. The following considerations will be made:
 - a) The maximum annual harvest volumes must be previously estimated and compared with data or information from previous years in order to assess the carrying capacity of the system.
 - b) The external inspection must be carried out during the harvest and transformation season.
3. The collection area must be isolated from any conventional agricultural activity, urban, industrial or mining contamination. Agriculture without the use of pesticides is allowed in the collection area when it is linked to covering the needs of the local population that lives from the collection of wild products.
4. The collection area must be clearly described on maps, indicating the resident human population and its distribution, using geographic references such as watersheds, slopes, peaks, among others.
5. The area must be in the legal jurisdiction and under the responsibility and management of the community/group/organization/company, which must submit an organic management plan for the desired species for collection.
6. The collection cannot be certified as organic in the following situations:
 - a) When signs of environmental degradation are observed, which exceed the carrying capacity limit of the ecosystem.
 - b) Products collected in areas where their satisfactory natural regeneration is not observed according to the parameters that correspond to each species.
 - c) Products whose collection harms the existing ecological structure.
 - d) Burning or drastic pruning of the lower layers of vegetation is not allowed. The work must be restricted to improving the development conditions of the product to be collected, without harming the survival of other species.