

What is an organic certification?

It is a certification and control process for organic food producers and other organic agricultural products that allows to guarantee the organic quality of a product, verifying compliance with the organic production standard that corresponds, according to the destination market of that product.

In general, any company directly involved in food production can be certified, including seed suppliers, farmers, food processors, retailers and restaurants.

For the one selling it, it becomes a marketing tool. For the buyer, it is a guarantee of confidence.

What purpose does it have?

The organic certification addresses the growing global demand for organic foods. Its aim is to ensure quality, prevent fraud and promote trade. Consumers should rely on the third-party regulatory certification.

For the organic producers, certification identifies the suppliers of products to be used in certified operations. For consumers, the "organic certificate" serves as product guarantee, similar to "low fat", "100% whole wheat" or "without artificial preservatives".

Both, producers and suppliers of the products involved in the organic agriculture, must be certified as such, in order for their products to be accepted and marketed, and so that they can obtain the economic dividends that this entails.

What are certified organic products?

Certified organic products are those which are produced, stored, processed, handled and marketed in accordance with precise technical specifications (standards), and whose certification of "organic" products is carried out by a specialized entity.

From the legal point of view, every product that claims to be organic must comply with a certification, a document that guarantees that situation. This seems quite logical when it comes to a consumed agricultural product, however, the producers of organic agriculture, in turn, must acquire products that are organically certified for this type of production, so we usually refer to bio-pesticides, bio-fertilizers, bio-stimulants of different manufacturers of bio-products.

It is important to indicate that the organic quality label is applied to the production process, and ensures that the product has been created and produced in a way that the aforementioned products does not harm the environment.

What is the situation in Chile with these certifications?

Last year, the European Union and Chile signed an agreement on trade in organic products. The agreement means that the EU and Chile will mutually recognize the equivalence of their organic production rules and control systems, allowing all the organic products produced and controlled in accordance with the EU standards to be placed directly on the Chilean market and vice versa.

It also provides for a covered product updating system by the respective organic standards, as well as an agreement on cooperation, information exchange and a dispute settlement system for organic trade. The Chilean agreement is also the first bilateral recognition of organic standards with a Latin American country.

This agreement paves the way for other agreements in the organic trade and should contribute to the growth in the global organic food market by supporting employment and development. The EU's organic sector has grown by an average of 5.5% per year over the past 10 years, and almost 6% of the land available and used by agriculture in the EU, is devoted to the organic farming. Although the EU is a net importer of food from Chile, this agreement is expected to help to provide greater opportunities for exports of EU organic food to Chile.

What are the benefits of products with organic certifications?

The benefits of using products with organic certifications, allow the farmers to have better prices and differentiation of their products, compared to conventional products. It also allows them access to growing foreign markets.

On the other hand, due to its holistic nature, the organic agriculture integrates biodiversity, agro-diversity and soil conservation. They also promote the elimination of the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and genetically modified organisms.

Other benefits of products with organic certification are related to human health, as they put at risk the health of the workers applying the harmless products, promote the association and rotation of crops, as a result allows farmers to have a pool of products which reduces the risks derived from monocultures and there are also some studies that show that organic products improve the quality of the products by making them nutritionally richer.

Which companies are leaders in products with organic certifications?

Always at the forefront of agricultural trends, the Stockton Group is constantly striving for new certifications for its products to bring natural and environmentally friendly solutions to more and more farmers around the world.

The Stockton Group has achieved a series of certifications to successfully introduce its star product: Timorex Gold, the natural fungicide registered in Chile in 2011 with great results in the fields of the country and the world. Thus, Timorex Gold is certified as an organic product according to IFOAM, EU, NOP and JAS standards. Timorex Gold is backed by the following certifiers: PPIS, BCS, IBOAA, IMO Control, Control Union, Agrior, BAFS, OCCP, Ecocert, Ceres, Mayacert, OMRI and Argencert.

Timorex Gold is at the forefront of bio-fungicides.

Timorex Gold is a natural preventive and curative fungicide, completely environmentally friendly, that protects the health of the agricultural workers, end consumers of fruit and vegetables, beneficial insects and pollinators. Composed of tea tree oil (*Melaleuca alternifolia*), a plant of Australian origin, Timorex Gold is highly effective against phytopathogenic fungi. It acts directly with multiple mechanisms of action:

wall and cell membrane disruptor, spore germination inhibitor, sporulation inhibitor, cellular respiration inhibitor and as an ion transporter on fungal colonies present in fruits and leaves.

Timorex Gold has been tested in different crops, both in fruit (vines, stone fruits, berries) and vegetables (solanaceous, cucurbit, lettuce, onion, among others). In addition, it has been found to inhibit sensitive Quorum in bacterial infections, and its use for the control of bacterial cancer in cherry trees is in the process of being registered.

Because of its ecological profile it can be used in conventional agriculture as well as in organic production, which has made it a winner of international awards in the use of it in open fields and in protected agriculture. In 2013, Timorex Gold was awarded with the Agrochemical Industry Award for the Best Bio-pesticide (AGB) in Amsterdam (Netherlands). Timorex Gold is registered in more than 30 countries, and expects to be register in Western Europe by 2018.