

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Taiwan Reaches Organic Equivalency with Japan and Australia

Country: Taiwan

Post: Taipei

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, Country/Regional FTA's, Trade Policy Incident Report, Trade Policy Monitoring, WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

In early February 2020, Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA) announced that it concluded organic equivalency negotiations with Japan and Australia. AFA published two updates to its website notifying that an agreement for organic equivalency had been reached with Australia on January 20, 2020, and with Japan on February 1, 2020. The full text of the Japan-Taiwan agreement was also made available. Australia and Taiwan have yet to publish finalized text.

On October 30, 2019, the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association signed a memorandum promoting cooperation on the import-export of organic foods. This signed memorandum explains that products accompanying an Organic Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) system certificate can be imported into Taiwan and sold as organic. Certified products under the Taiwan organic agricultural product system are also exportable to Japan and marketable as organic in Japan.

An exporter in each respective economy must use a certified inspection body on a negotiated and published list in order to obtain mutually recognized organic status.

The agreement only includes crops and crop related food products. The agreement does not include organic products in transition, ingredients, livestock products, alcohol, seeds, or seedlings.

All imported Japanese organic products must apply to Taiwan's central authority (AFA) for review after being imported. Upon completion of this document review, the product will be provided a number that must also appear on packaging before it can be sold in Taiwan. Any imported Japanese organic products must meet the labeling requirements for organic agricultural products in Taiwan, in accordance with Article 18 of the Organic Agriculture Promotion Law.

Any exported Taiwan organic products to Japan must be fixed with a JAS organic label issued by a Japanese certified body before they can be sold as organic in Japan.

Documents pertaining to the Taiwan-Japan organic equivalency agreement can be found in Chinese here:

https://www.afa.gov.tw/cht/index.php?code=list&flag=detail&ids=548&article_id=45877

Some documents on the page appear in English.

A link to the announcement page for the Taiwan-Australia organic equivalency agreement can be found in Chinese here:

https://www.afa.gov.tw/cht/index.php?code=list&flag=detail&ids=548&article_id=46265

Australia and Taiwan have yet to publish any agreement text or governing documentation.

Attachments:

No Attachments.
