

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: January 11,2021

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Report Name: USDA AMS Ends Organic Recognition Agreement with India

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, FAIRS Subject Report, Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

Changing its approach toward organic oversight in India, on January 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) ended the organic recognition arrangement with India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). The previous recognition agreement established in 2006 allowed APEDA to accredit certification agencies to certify farms and businesses in India to the USDA NOP standards. According to AMS, a more active oversight presence in India is needed to directly protect organic integrity. The National Organic Program has provided an 18-month transition period for certified organic operations in India to become USDA-certified.

OVERVIEW:

On January 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) ended the organic recognition arrangement with India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) first established in 2006. Currently, USDA does not have direct visibility or enforcement authority over many organic certifiers and operations in India that sell into the U.S. market. According to AMS, a more active oversight presence in India is needed to more directly protect organic integrity.

According to AMS, this decision starts a transition period which will allow organic operations certified by APEDA-accredited certifiers to apply for direct certification by USDA-accredited certifiers to the USDA organic standards. The National Organic Program has provided an 18-month transition period for certified organic operations in India to become USDA-certified. By July 11, 2021, to continue to export to the United States, current organic operations in India will need to have applied for certification with a [USDA-accredited organic certifier](#). By mid-March 2021, USDA certifiers will be able to list these organic operation applicants in India in the Organic Integrity Database, to help U.S. buyers verify that a farm or business in India has applied for NOP certification. After July 12, 2022, USDA organic certification by a USDA-accredited certifier will be required import organic products from India to the United States.

Further updates will be posted to the [NOP web page for India](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.