USDA begins a new phase of oversight with organic farms & businesses in India

In January 2021, USDA announced it was ending its organic recognition agreement in India. This change was made to adapt to the evolution of organic supply chains over time and allows USDA to better protect farms and businesses certified to the USDA organic regulations around the world. With that announcement, operations were given 18 months to transition to a USDA-accredited organic certifier. As of July 12, 2022, all organic operations in India must be certified under the USDA organic regulations by a USDA-accredited certifier to export to the United States. More than 1,100 organic businesses in India successfully achieved USDA organic certification during the transition.

Over the past 18 months, the NOP has taken action to protect the organic market, issuing directives to certifiers in India to assess their accreditation capabilities and to require additional sampling, testing and trace-back audits. We have taken enforcement action against those selling unverified product as organic. We have monitored imports, conducted surveillance activities based on market risks, and held regular calls with USDA certifiers working in the region to verify requirements and assess certification progress during the transition period.

As we enter this new phase of trade with organic farms and businesses in India, the National Organic Program continues to support legitimate trade, while also protecting the integrity of the USDA organic label for our certified businesses and consumers around the world.

Learn more about the National Organic Program: www.ams.usda.gov/Organic

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