

## Public Policy

### Frequently Asked Questions on Organic Certification under Mexico's Organic Products Law

The National Development Plan 2019-2024 states as one of its strategies the comprehensive improvement of the social welfare and economic activities of the population by ensuring the permanent preservation of natural resources, biodiversity, and environmental services, as well as their integration to value chains.

Within this framework, organic agriculture plays an important role in the National Development Plan, since the principles linked with organic practices, such as the social and ecological impact of the production system, the progress towards a production, processing and distribution chain that is socially just and ecologically responsible, as well as the incorporation of small producers, are considered in the Substantive Programs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, such as: Promotion of Agriculture, Rural Development, Social and Sustainable Agro-markets.

#### **What are the benefits of organic production for small and medium-sized producers, for the consumers, and for national production?**

The production process in organic agriculture takes more time and involves the use of a large amount of labor to carry out organic practices such as to enrich soil fertility, increase the plant's ability to cope with diseases, and add biological control for pest management, i.e., reduce the use of external inputs. Therefore, it generates jobs for families and communities, favors the rooting to the land, and contributes to reducing migration to the cities. Moreover, in organic food production areas, the natural biological cycles of production, soil flora and fauna, plants and animals interact, therefore, the genetic

diversity of the production system and its environment are maintained, and sustainability and socially just and ecologically responsible production and processing chain take place.