

# Participative Organic Certification

Frequently asked questions about organic certification under the Mexican Organic Produce Law (LPO)

## **What is participative organic certification?**

According to article 50 of the Organic Produce Law Regulations, participative organic certification is a type of participation implemented through small organized producers or family production. The certified production is intended for direct sale to the final consumers at street markets or farmers' markets.

## **How can I obtain the participative organic certification?**

Do the following to obtain the participative organic certification:

1. Associate with other small producers.
2. Integrate a SCOP (Participative Organic Certification System).
3. Form a participative certification committee.
4. Prepare rules of operations, procedures and forms to record the history of the crops and follow-up the applications of the members that wish to enroll in the SCOP.
5. Train internal inspectors so they schedule accompaniment visits to small producers, and supervise and document the organic activities carried out by the SCOP members.
6. Consider a direct sales point, like a street market or farmers' market.
7. Apply for recognition of the SCOP to the SENASICA.

The SENASICA will follow-up and supervise compliance with the LPO. If you want to be recognized as SCOP, check the [SENASICA-04-044](#) procedure.

## **What items must include the recognition application for the SCOP?**

The application must include the following information:

- Data about the street market or farmer's market.
- Copy of the certificate of incorporation in force or minutes of the assembly formally recorded by a civil-law public notary.
- Copy of the internal regulations.
- Organizational chart (it can be included in the manual of operations).
- List of inspection technical equipment recognized by the SENASICA.
- Description of the infrastructure of operation.
- Description of the supervision and assessment systems for organic operations.
- Operation manuals that include forms and procedures.
- List of operations addressed during the last year and status thereof.
- Declaration under penalty of perjury: All the information and documents submitted are true, and the SCOP in question operates under principles of objectivity, impartiality and without conflicts of interest.

**What is the term of validity of a SCOP recognition?**

The recognition is valid for 5 years.