

Wild Collection

Summary from: **SRS Organic Standard**

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Based on

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007, as amended
COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008, as amended

The collection of wild plants or their parts, growing naturally in natural areas, forests and agricultural areas is considered an organic production method if following conditions are fulfilled.

Collection Areas

Organic wild collection can only take place in **well-defined collecting areas**. The collecting areas must **not have been treated with any non-allowed inputs for at least three years**. The collecting areas need to be **free of possible contamination sources**, i.e. some areas within the collection area may not be suitable for organic collection and must be excluded (human settlements, cultivated fields, close to major roads, close to waste deposits).

Sustainability

The collected plants need to be **naturally grown**. Organic **wild collection must be sustainable and must not endanger the ecosystem** in any way. Species protected by international or national law are forbidden to be collected (according to CITES website and national red lists).

Organic wild collection must ensure that the plant populations are **not overexploited by excessive collection**. All legal requirements concerning the collection of wild plants (quantity parts collected, season) need to be met to ensure a stable plant population.

The **sustainable amounts of targeted plant parts to be collected, vary for different plant species in different regions and seasons**.

Collectors cannot damage environment, e.g. burning, dropping inorganic litter, causing soil erosion, hunting, harvesting protected species, etc.

Collectors

The **collectors must be organized in collection groups and supervised** during the collection periods by responsible person from the certified operation.

All collectors must be well trained and know the rules for collection by the certified operation.

Purchase of organic products is only allowed from the listed collectors.

The registered **collectors may not handle the same product from organic wild collection and from non-certified wild collection or cultivated sources.**

Post-harvesting

The **risk of contamination** of the collected plant material after the harvest needs to be minimized. No chemical pest control may be used while any products are stored. The organic product may not be commingled with non-organic (even “wild”) products.

During purchase it must be checked that **only registered collectors deliver the organic products.** The organic products in the purchase stations need to be labelled always as “organic” and must be kept strictly separate from non-organic products at all time. The labelling system must allow **clear traceability back to the origin for each wild collected organic lot.**

Control of Wild Collection operation

In addition to the general control requirements of an organic operation following specific provisions must be fulfilled:

- Each collection area and collecting points shall be inspected during each regular inspection.
- Current versions of maps at an adequate scale and including GPS coordinates of all important features must be available for all collection areas. The outer borders of the collecting areas are marked. All purchase centres and processing/warehouse facilities as villages, roads, waste deposits and other possible sources of contamination must be indicated on the map.
- Proofs should be available from the government or experts to ensure that no prohibited inputs have been used in the collection areas.
- Official collection permit issued by the responsible authority must be available. confirming the species, collected part, quantity and season allowed to be collected.
- Good Collection Practices specific for targeted species as summary of the sustainable collection practice implemented by the operation.

- A complete list of all contracted collectors (including name, code number, address, number of collecting members of the household), their contracts and training records must be available for the respective collecting area.
- Records of supervision of collection.
- Records of purchased quantities in a purchase book and a receipt issued to the collectors.