



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0201 – Room 3071-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

February 16, 2006

K. S. Money, Chairman
Attn: Sanjhay Dave, Director
Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority
Ministry of Commerce, Government of India
NCUI Building 3, 3rd and 4th Floor
Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg
New Delhi 110 016 INDIA

Dear Mr. Dave:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is pleased to inform you that the conformity assessment system used by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, for accreditation of organic certification bodies has been determined by USDA AMS to be sufficient to ensure conformity with the technical standards of USDA's National Organic Program (NOP), pending successful completion of an on-site visit.

In the interim and upon effective date of this letter, this determination allows organic certification bodies accredited by APEDA, on behalf of the National Accreditation Body of the Government of India, to apply the NOP technical standards to Indian organic agricultural products. In the interim and upon effective date of this letter, this determination allows the application of the USDA organic seal on Indian agricultural product when all applicable U.S. NOP regulations have been met. The USDA AMS recognizes the 'India Organic' seal may be affixed along with the USDA organic seal on the products and certifications issued by the organic certification bodies accredited by APEDA for products destined for export to the United States.

The on-site visit will be determined by both parties, including its terms, scope, and date. Continuation of recognition is subject to terms below. This recognition agreement is without prejudice to the initiation of the process of determination of equivalence of the Indian organic standards with those of the United States.

To ensure conformity with the technical standards of the NOP, USDA requests APEDA to agree to the following provisions:

1. To notify AMS of any legislative or administrative changes to the APEDA conformity assessment system;

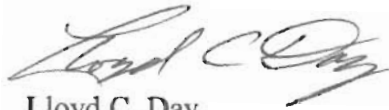
Mr. Sanjhay Dave

Page 2

2. To allow USDA representatives to conduct on-site audits and reviews of the APEDA conformity assessment system when properly notified of such reviews by USDA; and
3. To provide to USDA annually a report, which contains information regarding the types and quantities of Indian organic agricultural products exported under this determination, the types of non-compliances found by APEDA during any oversight reviews or audits, and steps taken by APEDA to ensure that non-compliances were corrected.

Should you have further questions regarding this determination, I encourage you to contact Mr. Mark Bradley by phone at (202) 720-3252 or email at mark.bradley@usda.gov or Dr. Barbara C. Robinson by email at Barbara.robinson2@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Lloyd C. Day
Administrator