



1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 2642-S, STOP 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250-0268

August 19, 2020

Dr. Tarun Bajaj
Director
Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority (APEDA)
NCUI Building 3, 3rd Floor, Siri Institutional Area
August Kranti Marg
New Delhi – 110 016, India

Dear Dr. Tarun Bajaj,

I hope that this letter finds you and your colleagues well. I am contacting you regarding the scope of the U.S.-India organic recognition agreement.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recently informed the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) that certification bodies accredited by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) are incorrectly issuing U.S.-Canada Organic Equivalence compliance statements and allowing Indian products certified under the U.S.-India recognition to be exported to Canada.

The NOP's recognition with India is not included within the scope of the U.S.-Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement. This has been the case since the U.S.-Canada Equivalence was established in 2009. The NOP's recognition with India only covers certification to the NOP for Indian products to be exported to the United States. Indian organic producers wanting to export to Canada are required to obtain certification under the Canadian Organic Regime (COR).

The NOP requests that APEDA take immediate action to notify its certification bodies accredited to NOP to remind them of this requirement and ensure that they cease issuing these noncompliant documents.

If you have questions about this issue, please contact me at cheri.courtney@usda.gov.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheri Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheri Courtney
Director, International Activities
National Organic Program