

**MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA**  
**AND**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**CONCERNING EQUIVALENCE IN ORGANICS**

The Government of Australia and the Government of India ('the Participants'),

Desiring to facilitate trade in organics between Australia and India;

Have reached the following understanding:

On the basis of a side-letter commitment under the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Department of Commerce, Government of India and the Government of Australia Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) (the 'Competent Authorities'), have come to an arrangement to set out a framework to facilitate the trade of specified organic products between the customs territories represented by the Participants, through the mutual recognition or equivalence of organic standards and systems and waiver of additional certification of imported organic products.

**1. SCOPE AND EFFECT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT**

- 1.1. This arrangement covers organic products that are grown and processed in the jurisdictions of the Participants, including:
  - a. Unprocessed plant products, excluding seaweed, aquatic plants, and greenhouse crops;
  - b. Processed foods composed of one or more ingredients of plant origin. This includes certified organic ingredients sourced from third countries meeting domestic regulatory requirements, provided they are processed in either Australia or India and then exported to the other country; and
  - c. Wine.
- 1.2. Organic products that are subject to this Arrangement are any products described as 'organic' produced in accordance with the Participants' respective organic production standards and certified by a duly constituted organic certification body or authority.



## **2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES**

2.1. The Competent Authorities will mutually recognise each other as a foreign exporting authority that is capable of oversight of inspection and certification processes as to the nature of the organic products specified in Section 1.1 and recognise the document issued under the organic export regulatory framework as a valid attestation such that:

- a. the additional certification of the organic nature of the product upon the trade of organic products from Australia to India will not be required; and
- b. the additional certification of the organic nature of the product upon the trade of organic products from India to Australia will not be required.

## **3. REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY**

3.1. The Competent Authorities will, in advance or in a timely manner, notify each other of any instances of the following regarding organic plants and organic processed foods:

- a. Changes with respect to one of the Competent Authorities; and
- b. Proposed and final regulations and guidelines in either country that may affect this Arrangement; and
- c. Notifications of non-compliances that may affect the organic status of organic plants and organic processed foods covered in Section 1 above.

## **4. ON-SITE EVALUATION VISITS**

4.1. Following advance notice from a Competent Authority, the other Competent Authority will permit its officials to conduct on-site, in person evaluations to verify how the country's organic control system, including the monitoring supervisory activities carried out by the Competent Authority, works as well as other related regulations and guidelines. Competent authorities will cooperate and assist each other, to the extent permitted under domestic law, in carrying out these on-site evaluations.

## **5. DOCUMENTATION TO BE PROVIDED ANNUALLY**

5.1. The Competent Authorities will provide to each other the following documents regarding organic plants and organic processed foods in each calendar year by 31 March:

- a. A list of approved and supervised certifying bodies, including any that were delisted and the reason for the delisting; and
- b. A report that contains information regarding the types and quantities of organic plants and organic processed foods exported under this Arrangement and over the prior calendar year; and

- c. A report that contains the types of non-compliances identified by the Competent Authorities during any supervision, and steps taken to ensure that non-compliances were corrected; and
- d. A list of organic operators that have exported their products under this Arrangement.

## **6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 6.1. In the event of disagreement between the Participants in relation to the interpretation or application of this Arrangement, the Participants will resolve any disagreement between them through the Liaison Officials and the Competent Authorities and will not refer the disagreement to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement or resolution.

## **7. LIAISON OFFICIALS**

- 7.1. All notices and communications issued under this Arrangement will be issued to the following personnel who will act as the primary contact point for each respective Participant:

### **Australia**

Assistant Secretary  
Exports Standards Branch  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

### **India**

Chairman  
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority  
(APEDA)  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

## **8. REVIEW, MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION**

- 8.1. This Arrangement may be amended and supplemented as mutually consented to in writing by both Participants at any time.
- 8.2. Either Participant may terminate this Arrangement at any time by giving six (6) months' prior written notice to the other Participant by stating the reasons thereof.



8.3. Both parties will make best efforts to resolve any issues stated for withdrawal through dialogue and discussions.

8.4. In case the issues as highlighted by the other Participant cannot be resolved, this arrangement will cease to have effect six (6) months from the receipt of the notice of termination, at the conclusion of negotiations to resolve the relevant issues, in order to provide sufficient transition time.

## 9. DURATION AND EFFECT

9.1. This Arrangement will come into effect on the date of the last signature and will remain in effect until terminated in accordance with Section 8.2.

9.2. This Arrangement represents the understanding reached between the Participants and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations.

Signed in duplicate in English:



For the Government of Australia as  
represented by DAFF



For the Government of India as  
represented by APEDA

Name: **TOM BLACK**  
Position: **FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
**DAFF**

Date: **24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

Name: **ABHISHEK DEV**  
Position: **CHAIRMAN APEDA**

Date: **24<sup>th</sup> September 2025**