

Geographic Indication: Getting Back to the Source

Europe is known for its regional products. Whether it's organic Parmigiano Reggiano PDO from Italy or organic Schwäbisch-Hällisches Qualitätsschweinefleisch PGI (pork) from Germany, there are well over 1,000 different product names currently registered in the DOOR (Database Of Origin & Registration).

The European Union has instituted three different schemes to “promote and protect names of quality agricultural products and foodstuffs”.

These three schemes are the protected designation of origin (PDO), the protected geographical indication (PGI) and the traditional speciality guaranteed (TSG). To be certified as PDO, the product must be “produced, processed and prepared in a given geographical area using recognised know-how.” To be certified under the PGI scheme, the product must be “closely linked to the geographical area. At least one of the stages of production, processing or preparation takes place in the area.” Finally, to be certified as TSG, the product must “[highlight] traditional character, either in the composition or means of production.”

Following a set of defined procedures, new product names can become registered and added to the list. This also includes non-EU products, such as Darjeeling PGI, available organically as well. Nominating an authority/control body is also part of the process. This body conducts inspections in accordance with the standards that have been set out for the product or foodstuff. After the initial inspection, follow-up inspections are to be conducted once every three years. As part of these schemes, traceability is an important element. EU rules require that operators “be able to identify:

- the supplier, quantity and origin of all batches of raw material



Source: www.manodoro.it

- and/or products received;
- the recipient, quantity and destination of products supplied;
- correlation between each batch of inputs and each batch of outputs.”

A case study of the Prosciutto di Parma PDO reveals a system of tattooing, sealing, branding and labelling. Beyond these physical approaches to traceability, electronic approaches are also being applied. Within the Scotch whisky industry, online lists of verified brands and operators, as well as an online application process, have been developed and made available to the public and law enforcement.

Taking the time to develop a PDO, PGI or TSG is an investment and measures are needed to ensure that this investment is protected, especially considering that these

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9TH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC AND NATURAL FOOD FAIR NATURA FOOD

NATURA FOOD, the most important organic event in Poland, will take place from 7-9 October this year. The fair, which is dedicated to bio-products, organic food and regional and traditional products, will include organic-certified producers and processors producing traditional food and natural products with EU co-operation. Since 2011, the Lodz International Fair has co-operated with the IFOAM EU Group. ■

More information at: <http://www.targi.lodz.pl/en/fairs>

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ALL THINGS ORGANIC CONFERENCE

The All Things Organic Conference will take place from September 13-16, 2017 at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD, USA. The conference is being held in conjunction with Natural Products Expo East and includes a programme of critical information on the issues that affect the organic business. Speakers will address a range of topics from the financial community's interest in organic to the latest data and insights about the industry.

The conference will feature different sections to address important issues such as the state of the organic industry, updates on organic regulations, investing in organic, organic insights from field to family etc. ■

More information at: <https://www.ota.com/programs-and-events/all-things-organic-conference>



products and foodstuffs have an estimated worldwide market of €54.3 billion (2010), showing the vested interest these specialty supply chains have in ensuring that their goods are traceable back to the source. With the premium price that one can get for these goods, motivation can be found to counterfeit them; however, there are consequences to such actions because it is a violation of intellectual property rights.

In TOS Issue 166/2016, Organic Services GmbH (Germany) reported on the development of a geographical indication for Royal Quinoa from the Southern Altiplano of Bolivia. The development of such a system helps to protect the value of the goods. This includes the need for incorporating tools into the geographical indication system that help to protect its integrity and thus its value.

Establishing a database of certified producers, processors, traders and other relevant supply chain operators, and linking this data to production and inventory data, is what Organic Services has proposed to do for the Royal Quinoa industry within its generic supply chain integrity tool, Check X. The flexibility of this tool allows a wide variety of applications, hence the X, and is able to handle multiple certifications simultaneously. In Bolivia, this includes not only organic standards, but also the geographic indication. ■

Sources

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