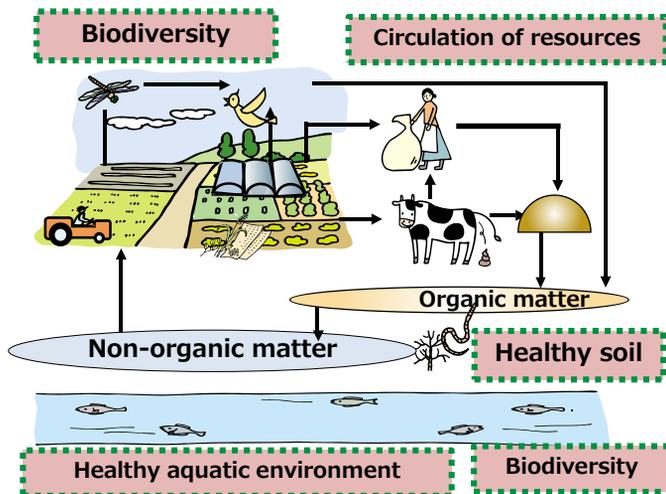


What are Organic Agriculture / Organic Agricultural Products?

The Basic Law on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas (enacted in 1999) states as follows;

- In consideration of the importance of its conventional role as a primary food supplier and its multifunctional roles, the sustainable development of agriculture shall be promoted by maintaining and improving **the natural cyclical function of agriculture***1.
- The state shall take necessary measures such as securing the proper use of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers and improving soil fertility through effective use of livestock manure, in order to maintain and promote **the natural cyclical function of agriculture***1.



***1 the natural cyclical function of agriculture :**
the function of agriculture in stimulating the biological and physical cycle in nature while being influenced strongly by the cycle

What is Organic Agriculture?

Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agroecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. The "Principles of Production" of organic agriculture is specified in the "Guidelines *2" prepared by an international committee (Codex Alimentarius Commission *3).

Under the "Act on the promotion of Organic Agriculture (Act No. 112 of 2006)", organic agriculture in Japan is defined as "the farming methods which reduce load on the environment derived from agricultural production as much as possible, basically does not use chemically synthesized fertilizers and pesticides nor genetic recombination technologies".

*2: Guidelines for Production, Processing, Labeling and Sales of Organically Produced Food (CAC / GL32-1999)

*3: The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international body, established by the FAO and WHO in 1963 and intended to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade, etc. It undertakes work to prepare international food standards, etc. and Japan has been a member since 1966.

What is Organic Agricultural Products?

Organic agricultural products are produced by avoiding the use of chemical synthetic fertilizers and pesticides in principle and exercising the farmland productivity from original soils.

They are produced in fields with cultivation management methods so as to reduce the load from agricultural production on the environment as much as possible and in accordance with the standards of "Japanese Agricultural Standard for Organic Plants" based on the Codex Alimentarius Commission Guidelines, for example as follows.

- The necessary measures shall be taken in fields, so as to prevent prohibited substances from drifting and flowing from surrounding areas;
 - Chemical synthetic fertilizers or substances for plant pest and disease control shall not be no less than two years before the sowing or planting;
 - Recombinant DNA technology or ionizing radiation shall not be excused;
- etc.

A third party inspects to evaluate whether or not production subject to this standard has taken place. Certified business entities may use the "organic JAS mark" and display "Organic XXX", etc. on the agricultural product. (Conversely, any produce not certified cannot display "Organic XXX", etc.).

