

# Act on Promotion of Organic Agriculture

(Act No. 112 of December 15, 2006)

## (Purpose)

Article 1 The purpose of this Act is to comprehensively take measures for the promotion of organic agriculture by establishing basic principles and clarifying responsibilities of the national and local governments with regard to the promotion of organic agriculture, as well as establishing basic matters for measures for the promotion of organic agriculture, and thereby to promote the development of organic agriculture.

## (Definitions)

Article 2 The term "organic agriculture" in this Act means agriculture carried out using agricultural production methods that have as low of an environmental load possible, resulting from agricultural production methods with the basis that chemically synthesized fertilizers and agricultural chemicals are not used and genetically modified technology is not used.

## (Basic Principles)

Article 3 (1) The promotion of organic agriculture must be carried out with the aim of enabling farmers to easily engage in organic agriculture, in consideration of the fact that it is important to secure sustainable development of agriculture and agricultural production in harmony with the environment, and organic agriculture greatly enhances the natural cyclical function of agriculture (meaning the function whereby agricultural production activities depend on and promote the circulation of materials through living organisms in nature) and reduces the environmental load resulting from agricultural production.

(2) The promotion of organic agriculture must be carried out with the aim of enabling farmers and other relevant persons to actively engage in the production, distribution or sale of agricultural products produced by organic agriculture, as well as enabling consumers to easily obtain agricultural products produced by organic agriculture, in consideration of the fact that consumer demand for safe and high-quality agricultural products is increasing amid the sophistication and diversification of their demand for food, and organic agriculture contributes to the supply of agricultural products that meet such demand.

(3) The promotion of organic agriculture must be carried out so that coordination between farmers engaged in organic farming (hereinafter referred to as

"organic farmers") or other relevant persons and consumers is facilitated, in consideration of the fact that it is important to enhance consumer understanding of organic agriculture and agricultural products produced by organic agriculture.

- (4) The promotion of organic agriculture must be carried out while respecting the autonomy of farmers and other relevant persons.

(Responsibilities of the National and Local Governments)

Article 4 (1) The national and local governments are responsible for comprehensively formulating and implementing measures for the promotion of organic agriculture in line with the basic principles specified in the preceding Article.

- (2) The national and local governments are to promote organic agriculture in cooperation with farmers, other relevant persons, and consumers.

(Legislative Measures)

Article 5 The government must take legislative, financial and other measures necessary to take measures for the promotion of organic agriculture.

(Basic Policy)

Article 6 (1) The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is to establish a basic policy for the promotion of organic agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "basic policy").

- (2) The basic policy is to prescribe the following particulars:

- (i) basic particulars related to the promotion of organic agriculture;
  - (ii) particulars related to the targets for promotion and dissemination of organic agriculture;
  - (iii) particulars related to the measures for promotion of organic agriculture;
- and
- (iv) other particulars necessary for the promotion of organic agriculture.

- (3) The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must consult with the heads of relevant administrative organs and hear the opinions of the Council of Food, Agriculture and Rural Area Policies when the minister intends to establish or change the basic policy.

- (4) When establishing or modifying the basic policy, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must make it public without delay.

(Promotion Plan)

Article 7 (1) Prefectures must endeavor to establish plans with regard to measures for the promotion of organic agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "promotion plan" in the following paragraph) in line with the basic policy.

(2) Upon establishing or revising its promotion plan, the prefecture must endeavor to publicize that plan without delay.

(Support for Organic Farmers)

Article 8 The national and local governments are to take measures necessary for supporting organic farmers and persons that intend to engage in organic agriculture.

(Promotion of Technical Development)

Article 9 The national and local governments are to take measures necessary to develop research facilities, provide guidance and give information about the results of the research and development, and take other necessary measures in order to promote research and development of technology concerning organic agriculture and dissemination of the results.

(Enhancement of Consumer Understanding and Interest)

Article 10 The national and local governments are to take measures necessary for carrying out public relations activities to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness on organic agriculture, and take measures necessary for enhancing consumer understanding of and interest in organic agriculture.

(Enhancement of Mutual Understanding between Organic Farmers and Consumers)

Article 11 The national and local governments are to take measures necessary for promoting exchanges and other activities between organic farmers and consumers in order to enhance mutual understanding between organic farmers and consumers.

(Conducting of Surveys)

Article 12 The national and local governments are to conduct surveys necessary for the promotion of organic agriculture.

(Support for Activities by Persons Other Than the National and Local Governments for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture Carried Out)

Article 13 The national and local governments are to take measures necessary for supporting the activities by persons other than the national and local governments for the promotion of organic agriculture.

(Assistance by the National Government to Local Governments)

Article 14 The national government may provide necessary guidance, advice and other assistance with regard to local governments' measures for the promotion

of organic agriculture.

(Reflection of Opinions of Organic Farmers)

Article 15 In formulating measures for the promotion of organic agriculture, the national and local governments are to give opportunities to organic farmers, relevant persons and consumers to state their opinions on the measures, and take measures necessary for reflecting their opinions in the measures.

**Supplementary Provisions [Extract]**

(Effective Date)

(1) This Act comes into effect as of the date of promulgation.

**Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 105 of August 30, 2011 Extract]  
[Extract]**

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the date of promulgation.

(Delegation to Cabinet Order)

Article 82 Beyond what is provided for in these Supplementary Provisions, transitional measures necessary for the enforcement of this Act (including transitional measures concerning penal provisions) are prescribed by Cabinet Order.