



# Organic Farming



For lots of us it's increasingly important to know about where our food comes from and who produces it. It's also important to understand how it was produced. This has led to growth in the sales of organic food. So what does the term 'organic' mean?

**Organic farming** is an agricultural system that seeks to provide fresh, tasty and authentic food while respecting natural life-cycle systems. Organic farming is part of a larger approach – the whole chain of supplying food which encompasses food processing, distribution, retailing and ultimately, you, the people who buy and consume the products. Each link in this supply process is designed to play a role in delivering the benefits associated with organic food production such as environmental protection, animal welfare, community welfare, and consumer confidence.

Common Organic Farming practises include:

- Crop rotation, which is an efficient use of on-site resources
- Strict limits on the use of chemical/synthetic pesticides and fertilisers, livestock antibiotics, and food additives
- Prohibition of the use of genetically modified organisms
- Use of on-site resources, such as livestock manure for fertiliser or feed produced on the farm
- Using plant and animal species that are resistant to disease and adapted to local conditions
- Using free-range, open-air systems and providing organic feed

## Regulations

In the EU, these rules are laid down:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 which has been amended since then by:
- Council Regulation (EC) No 967/2008 of 29 September 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products