



International trade in organic farming

As with any food, organic produce is often imported from other regions or countries, and may come from outside the EU altogether. While organic farmers and processors generally prefer to sell their products as nearby as possible, some products simply cannot be produced everywhere because of climate or geography.

Typical organic products imported into the EU include:

- coffee from Brazil;
- kiwi fruit from New Zealand;
- rice from Thailand;
- bananas from Costa Rica;
- cocoa from Peru;
- pineapples from Uganda.

The EU regulates both organic food and drink produced and/or processed within the EU and organic goods from elsewhere. These can readily be imported from non-EU countries whose rules on organic production and control are equivalent to the EU's – currently Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Israel,

Japan, New Zealand, Tunisia, Switzerland and the USA.

In some cases individual EU countries may allow importers to import certain organic products if they can prove that these meet EU or equivalent requirements and have been inspected accordingly. These products must be accompanied by an import certificate, which is checked upon entry into the EU.

(Adapted from www.europa.eu)



ACTIVITIES

- 1 Explain why some organic products are imported from non-EU countries and which requirements these products must meet.

