

Biocyclic Vegan Agriculture Certification Scheme

The principles of biocyclic vegan agriculture have been laid down in the <u>Biocyclic Vegan Standard</u>, a comprehensive guideline admitted by IFOAM in 2017 as the global stand-alone standard for plant-based organic farming to the <u>IFOAM Family of Standards</u>.



A professional certification system and the Quality Label "BIOCYCLIC VEGAN AGRICULTURE" offer consumers full transparency at all levels of the supply chain and give them the assurance that the products or their ingredients labelled in this way have been grown not only *organically* but also according to *vegan* principles. Operations that adopt the Biocyclic Vegan Standard and have been certified after inspection are allowed to mark their products with the Biocyclic Vegan Quality Label:



The Biocyclic Vegan Standard and the trademark "Biocyclic Vegan Agriculture" are owned by Adolf Hoops Society, a not-for-profit company based in Germany that seeks to disseminate the biocyclic idea in the context of biocyclic vegan agriculture worldwide.

All rights regarding the use of the logo are administered by BVL Biocyclic Vegan Label Ltd, Cyprus, on behalf of the Adolf Hoops Society and within the framework of a license agreement. Under this agreement BVL Biocyclic Vegan Label Ltd. is responsible for the operational implementation of the ideals of the Adolf Hoops Society. All products that are sold under the Biocyclic Vegan Quality Label are subject to a fee of 2% of the turnover of the products sold. This fee, however, is only applicable once within the whole value-added chain, i.e. at the level where the label is placed on the product. This may be the producer (if

the operation organizes packaging itself), but it may also be a wholesaler, a packing station or a manufacturer in case of further processing. A special license fee arrangement is in place for small-scale and/or CSA operations selling directly to the market. The income generated at Adolf Hoops Society by label fees will be used for the purpose of disseminating and supporting biocyclic vegan agriculture worldwide and therefore is redistributed to local associations, projects and initiatives as well as to scientific research.

<u>CERES</u> (Certification of Environmental Standards GmbH) has been mandated by the Adolf Hoops Society to certify operations worldwide that comply with the Biocyclic Vegan Standard. For the purpose of inspection, CERES cooperates with accredited control bodies in the different countries. Thus, a combination with other existing certification schemes (NOP, EU-Organic, JAP) can be achieved.

Any operation that wants to become certified according to the Biocyclic Vegan Standard and to use the Biocyclic Vegan Quality Label has to be a member of a regional/national association or organization acknowledged by Adolf Hoops Society to promote biocyclic vegan agriculture. These associations represent all biocyclic vegan operations in their countries or regions as well as within the International Biocyclic Vegan Network. In cooperation with BNS Biocyclic Network Services Ltd, Cyprus, they organize technical support for their members on a local level.

The "Green List" of allowed agricultural inputs for biocyclic vegan agriculture is administered and permanently updated by BNS Biocyclic Network Services Ltd which coordinates worldwide biocyclic vegan extension services in cooperation with the local associations and CERES. Moreover, BNS is responsible for the training of the auditors accredited by CERES for the inspection of biocyclic vegan operations.

