

PRESS RELEASE



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Organic training to help rural, remote and developing communities

The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia (NASAA) is providing free inspection training to help support the fledgling organic sector in Australian indigenous communities and developing nations.

This week, NASAA commenced training people from the Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and three indigenous people representing the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) and Arnhem Lands as organic inspectors.

General Manager Ben Copeman said NASAA was committed to achieving social justice outcomes that delivered real and tangible benefits to remote and developing regions.

"The training is designed to reduce the cost of certification within developing communities, empowering locals to take control of their industry and to create employment," he said.

"The aim is to ultimately help to create sustainable, locally-owned businesses that will deliver long term economic benefits for remote, rural or underdeveloped indigenous communities in Australia and neighbouring Pacific countries.

"An organic inspector is the eyes and ears of the industry, examining the process of organic production, processing and handling by a business seeking organic certification. This includes inspecting farms, horticultural land and livestock, as well as buildings and equipment, contamination risks, pest management, and sales and production records.

"With no official training programs available through TAFE or other Government providers, NASAA training provides opportunities for people to develop a career as an organic inspector or provide a strong background understanding for employment in other services in the industry."

Mr Copeman said the growth of the organic industry is providing opportunities in production, processing, marketing and retail.

"NASAA is Australia's longest serving organic certifier and is committed to developing the organic industry both in Australia and internationally, including in remote communities and developing nations.

"We have invested extensive resources in providing support to standards development, industry research, information on industry growth, and now, into training for Indigenous Inspectors."

"In addition to the inspector's technical knowledge, the training will also help develop organisational skills for coordinating inspections and travel preparations, oral communication skills and written communication skills for drafting reports.

"For organic producers and business owners, the training helps participants to better understand the role that standards and auditing plays in providing integrity to the certification system.

"We are pleased that we can provide a course that further promotes professional industry development for the organic and biodynamic sector."

The world organic market is estimated to be worth around \$60 billion, with the Australian market at about \$1.3 billion. Forecasts consistently project positive growth in both domestic and international markets.

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About NASAA

The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia (NASAA) was formed in 1986 and supports the education of industry and consumers on organic, biodynamic and sustainable agricultural practices.

NASAA was Australia's first organic certifier.

Today, its certification arm, NASAA Certified Organic (NCO), provides certification and inspection services to assist Certified Organic operators access every organic market in the World.

NCO certifies more than 1,000 operators in 13 countries, certifying some 5.5m ha of agricultural land worldwide.



NASAA and NASAA Certified Organic

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