

PRESS RELEASE

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NASAA confirms first Organic Inspector approved to Chinese regulations

The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia (NASAA) this month made history with one of its inspectors approved to inspect to Chinese regulations, the first person outside of China to receive this level of accreditation.

On 19 August, Chinese organic certifier, Beijing WuYue HuaXia Management and Technique Centre (CHC) approved long term NASAA employee, Wenpeng You to undertake organic inspections within Australia and its Territories for all organic categories, covering Plant Production, Processing, Animal Breeding and Aquaculture.



Wenpeng is one of only a handful of inspectors who are approved to inspect to all four organic categories. On Thursday 21 August, Wenpeng completed his first inspection of an Australian based, NASAA Certified Organic producer, Temple Bruer Winery at Milang in South Australia. General Manager Ben Copeman said NASAA is now able to offer its clients access to the Chinese export market and has created a pathway for other Australian organic certifiers to follow.

"NASAA has delivered on its promise, done the hard work and is now physically in the field conducting inspections helping its operators to achieve Chinese Certification," he said.

"Applications have started coming in, and to date, NASAA Certified Organic has received applications from a number of wineries and beef producers from across Australia.

"If the number of applications warrants it we will send further Australian based, NASAA employed inspectors to Beijing for comprehensive training to the Chinese Organic regulation. "Wenpeng is the first of our inspectors to be approved and NASAA is now actively processing new applications and inspecting those applications that have already been approved."

Mr Copeman said NASAA Certified Operators can now have all their certifications including NASAA, NOP, JAS, Chinese and Korean completed in one annual inspection by one inspector at the one time representing significant savings in time, logistics and expenses.

"I have said all along that the first inspections should be completed by the end of August so we are on time.

"The official certifications should be completed by within 30 – 40 days of this, so therefore the first product should be eligible to be exported to China by mid to late October," he said.

In March 2014, NASAA signed a world first initiative with Chinese organic certifier CHC allowing NASAA based, CHC trained and approved inspectors to certify Australian products to Chinese Organic Regulations for direct export to China.

Since March, NASAA and CHC have been working together and a number of important documents have been translated from Chinese into English, including the CHC Initial Application Forms, and the Organic Management / Handling Plans for Producers, Processors, and Manufacturers.

The English versions of these documents have been translated and forwarded to more than 50 Certified Operators in Australia, certified by all of the major Organic Certification Bodies.

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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.



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