



# Ethical Sourcing Policy

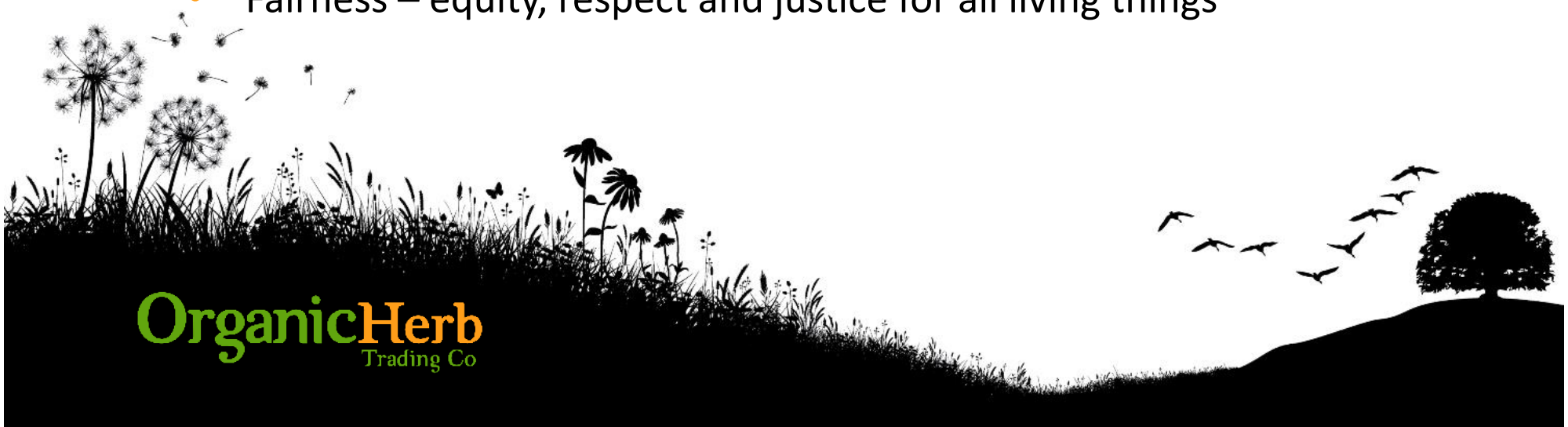


# Background

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Since Organic Herb Trading was founded in 1982, we have sought to follow the principles that underpin the worldwide organic movement

- Health – sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet
- Ecology - work with, emulate and help sustain living ecological systems and cycles
- Care – protect the health and well-being of future generations and the environment
- Fairness – equity, respect and justice for all living things



# Ethical Sourcing

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- Our aim is to uphold these ideals when working with all our suppliers, from farmers to phone providers
- We recognise our particular responsibility to work ethically with suppliers at source, reflected in this policy
- OHTC is determined to continue developing long-standing, mutually beneficial relationships with suppliers at source



# Pledge

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We know that we're nothing without our suppliers. We build our relationships on dialogue and transparency, agreeing fair prices based on market information. In some cases, we offer higher prices than suppliers quote, to enable them to invest and improve. And when things go wrong, we stick together.

- We pledge to respect the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our suppliers, in particular those at source, and not to maximise our profit at their expense



# Commitments

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- Payment is on time, every time
- Prices are negotiated in a respectful dialogue
- Communication is open and supportive
- Sourcing plans are provided as far in advance as possible
- Problems are discussed and resolved according to a clear and fair procedure
- Support is provided in improving quality through GACP



# Aspirations

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- We plan to offer reward-based payments to suppliers for high levels of quality
- We are working to develop low-cost methods of drying, a key tool for improving quality and thus adding value at source
- We aim to increase our pre-harvest contracting each year, enabling suppliers to plan
- We seek out opportunities to invest in our suppliers, to everyone's benefit
- There is always more to do, and we're always looking for ways to better exemplify the IFOAM principles in our work



# Fair Trade Partners

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OHTC recognises the value of independent certification and is proud to work under the Fairtrade, FairWild and Fair for Life standards

- We visit our fair trade partners, seeking to understand their needs and improve our co-operation
- We agree on stable prices and volumes to help our partners plan
- We promote fair trade in the market and among our peers
- We aim to increase our turnover of certified fair trade products each year
- We regularly review the impact of our fair trade partnerships

