

APRIL 2023

LFS 450 FOOD CERTIFICATION INDEX

ADVANCING INTERSECTIONAL CLIMATE,
BIODIVERSITY, FOOD JUSTICE & SOVEREIGNTY
PRINCIPLES: EVALUATION & COMPARATIVE
ANALYSIS OF FOOD CERTIFICATIONS



Project Team 1: Clementine Nixon
Jennifer Lee
Masa Kono
Jaewon Park
Natalie Tong

ABOUT THIS INDEX

Food certifications are difficult to navigate for consumers, due to a lack of transparency in the food industry. It can be hard to differentiate between valid food certifications and well-disguised attempts at greenwashing. This index will go over 11 certifications spanning 5 food categories and score them on a 5-point scale.

5-POINT SCALE

The 5-point scale was developed to give the reader a better understanding of where the certification stands in terms of furthering one of the five objectives;

- Intersectional Climate
- Biodiversity
- Food Justice
- Food Sovereignty
- Validity

The first 4 objectives were given to us in our project, and we chose validity as the fifth objective because we realized that the validity of a certification was as important as the others. Food certifications have to have scientific backing as well as be well regarded in both the consumer and producer communities to achieve their goals.

03

CRSB

CANADIAN ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF

This certification is for producers of beef within Canada. It is based on five principles set by the Global Roundtable for sustainable beef. Each principle has indicators that are rated on a 3-point scale; Achievement, Innovation, and Excellence.

To meet the certification requirements, at a minimum, the "achievement level on every indicator must be awarded

INDICATORS

- Natural Resources
- People and Community
- Animal Health and Welfare
- Food
- Efficiency and Innovation

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

04

PIGCARE & PIGSAFE

CANADIAN PORK EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATIONS

Although we could not find any certifications that directly advance UBC's principles, the Canadian Pork Council offers certifications that verify the quality and pork through PigSAFE as well as the well-being of the pigs through PigCARE. Producers must meet a variety of requirements to achieve these certifications based on the following factors.

PIGSAFE REQUIREMENTS

- Water Quality
- Bedding
- Edible Residual material
- Feed Delivery Slip
- Outdoor Access Production
- Vaccine and Drug Use Policy

PIGCARE REQUIREMENTS

- Pig's Body Condition,
- Injury Prevention
- Size of Farrowing Crates
- Space Allowance Nursery
- Group Sow Housing Conversion
- Lighting
- Enrichment

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

05

SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE COMMITMENT

CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA

The Sustainability Excellence Commitment is a commitment made by the Chicken Farmers of Canada to further their sustainability goals as well as to further food justice. Their main principles are as follows:

Principles

Protecting Bird Health and Welfare - Mandatory Raised by a Canadian Farmer Program (Includes 3rd party audits)

Producing Safe Chicken for Canadians

Preserving the Health of the land - The carbon footprint of the sector was reduced by 37% and water consumption reduced by 45%

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

06

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

The Rainforest Alliance advocates for environmental responsibility, social equity and economic viability for farm communities. This certification is available worldwide for farmers, processors, importers or exporters, brands and distributors of a variety of agricultural products including coffee and tea. There are 6 requirements for farm certification that must always be met. Along with these core requirements, there are a set of mandatory and self-selected improvement requirements that producers must include to advance their sustainability efforts.

Requirements

Management
Traceability
Income and Shared Responsibility
Farming
Social
Environment

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

07

BIRD FRIENDLY

Bird friendly only allows USDA-accredited certifiers to issue the certification on 100% organic, shade-grown coffee. This certification can be used by farmers, importers, roasters, and distributors who produce or sell coffee beans grown according to a variety of criteria.

Biodiversity Indicators

- 40% Canopy Cover
- Minimum 12 metre tree canopy height
- Minimum 10 different species of native trees and shrubs
- 3 layers within the profile of the coffee farm
- Presence of Leaf litter
- Presence of weeds
- Presence of a living fence where possible
- Buffer zones along waterways using native species
- Polyculture
- USDA Organic Certification

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

08

PALM DONE RIGHT

Palm oil is a common ingredient in many frozen baked goods.
Focuses on 5 core concepts;

Core Concepts

100% Organic - To further resilient ecosystems

Fully Traceable - Every step of the supply chain has full transparency to minimize the exploitation of workers and the environment

Deforestation Free - Prohibits conversion of primary and secondary forests into agricultural lands

Wildlife Friendly - Recognizes the importance of species diversity

Fair & Social - Ensuring that all people involved have their rights, wages, and well-being respected

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

09

BONSUCRO

Sugar is another very common ingredient in bread and baked goods regardless of whether they are frozen or not. Bonsucro is a UK-based sugarcane certification that focuses on environmental benefits and improving workers' conditions in all stages of sugarcane processing. Already 10,000 small-scale farmers are certified and provided with additional protective equipment for better working conditions. It also aims to be inclusive of seasonal workers and ensure their work has contracts and is at the very least being paid the national minimum wage of that country. Reducing agrochemical usage through education on more organic approaches.

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10

ROC

REGENERATIVE ORGANIC CERTIFIED

This certification uses USDA Certified Organic standard as a baseline with three additional pillars. There are three levels, bronze, silver, and gold, and an organization's ROC level depends on the scope and number of regenerative practices used.

PILLARS

- Soil Health & Land Management
- Animal Welfare
- Workers Fairness

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

11

DEMETER CERTIFIED BIODYNAMIC

This certification encourages the growth of natural environmental connections between systems to improve soil, worker, animal, and human health. A very holistic approach where not only is the balance of the material requirements of the food system concerned but also examined the depletion of all life forces involved. This *life force* is not only limited to the environment and the flora and fauna, but it addresses the farmers' and workers' well-being. One more unique part about this certification is that it puts an emphasis on soil as a part of the life force as soil health is an integral part of the earth.

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

12 CERTIFIED REGENERATIVE

This certification is focused on regenerating soil, water, air, and biodiversity. Genetically modified organisms, deforestation and agrochemical use are all prohibited and total emissions are required to be lowered. The welfare and health of animals are cared for with regulated antibiotic usage and feeding conditions. Workers are guaranteed a living wage and benefits. An assessment will be made by Certified Regenerative staff or agents to ensure standards are met.

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

13

ROC

REGENERATIVE ORGANIC CERTIFIED

Regenerative Organic Certified focuses on regenerating soil health, reducing carbon emissions, improving animal welfare, and supporting farmers. The use of agrochemicals is not permitted on crops grown for consumption. Deforestation and extractive activities are also prohibited. Genetically modified organisms are not allowed to be grown. Cattle are grass-fed with a rotational grazing system giving the land and soil time to replenish. Concentrated animal feeding operations are also prohibited. Workers' wages meet social and living standards.

PILLARS

- Soil Health & Land Management
- Animal Welfare
- Workers Fairness

| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Climate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Sovereignty | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |