

## ANNUAL REPORT 2010-10-18

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Member organization's name: | The Organic Herb Trading Company   |
| Main address:               | Miverton<br>Somerset<br>TA4 1ND<br>United Kingdom                          |
| Webpage:                    | <a href="http://www.organicherbtrading.com">www.organicherbtrading.com</a> |



### COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1982, The Organic Herb Trading Company (OHTC) is the UK's leading wholesaler of organic herbal ingredients to the culinary, beverage, traditional medicines and bodycare markets. Our long standing commitment to organic growing, using sustainable and ethical trading practices is at the core of our philosophy.

OHTC have long understood the need for additional income generation in areas where many of our herbal ingredients are sourced from. We believe that integrated conservation and community development is the best solution to maintain biodiversity and generate additional income streams for these communities. By working with our suppliers closely we are able to understand the challenges faced by collectors and growers to develop clear strategies that allow income generation whilst conserving biodiversity.

As growers of native species ourselves, we maintain a healthy respect for our environment and the delicate balance that needs to be observed in conserving biodiversity for future generations.

Our own knowledge of growing allows us to form long standing relationships with organic suppliers from across the world. These relationships are based on a deep-rooted respect for their culture and the traditional knowledge of the biological resources available to them. Through the implementation of a clear code of conduct with these suppliers we have remained committed to the equitable distribution of benefits within the supply chain since we started nearly 30 years ago.

Our philosophy is simple:

- § Balancing organic, sustainable and ethical practices with sound commercial management
- § An extrovert organic focus that incorporates carbon footprint reduction and an holistic environmental awareness

These principles remain the bedrock of our organisation today and we are proud to align our own philosophy with UEBT and its members.

## UEBT MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS

| Steps                                 | Dates<br><i>Historical/expected</i> | Verification Body |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| UEBT audit 1                          | 2009-02-18                          | Soil Association  |
| Provisional Membership, if applicable |                                     |                   |
| Work-plan approval                    | 2010-06-29                          | Soil Association  |
| Membership status granted             | 2007                                |                   |
| Annual report 1                       | 2010-10-30                          |                   |
| Annual report 2                       |                                     |                   |
| Audit 2                               |                                     |                   |
| Annual report 3                       |                                     |                   |
| Audit 3                               |                                     |                   |

Impact measurement indicators submitted to UEBT?

Yes

No

Implementation indicators submitted to UEBT?

Yes

No

Narrative report submitted to UEBT?

Yes

No

Documents annexed for public use?

Yes

No

If so, number of annexes: 1

Description of the annexed documents:

Company brochure

## PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF UEBT WORK-PLAN

### Percentage of the work-plan implemented

We estimate that we have implemented approximately 15% of our total work-plan.

The Organic Herb Trading Company (OHTC) imports and distributes over 500 species of plants and plant-derived ingredients into the UK. It buys in 35 countries, often in small quantities, from a large number of producer/suppliers at different points in the supply chain; although many ingredients are procured through primary producer/collectors, in other cases they are from traders where there are more distant links with the original sources of plant material.

Almost all ingredients are certified to at least one 3rd party standard, primarily organic but also FLO, FairWild, IBD Eco-Social, Rainforest Alliance and others.

The UEBT addresses many of the criteria required by these organisations, but it also adds a focus lacking in all them – biodiversity and access/benefit sharing.

Its primary Principles and Criteria - conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, fair and equitable sharing of benefits, socio-economic sustainability, respect for the rights of actors, clarity about land tenure and rights of use, and compliance with national and international legislation - are embedded in the mission of OHTC and they provide a framework for its implementation.

OHTC addresses the criteria both internally, with training to incorporate the principles of biodiversity and ABS within the company culture; and externally, with visits, questionnaires, and exchanges with 3rd party certifiers and other actors in the supply chain. We are learning to better understand the requirements of verification and the challenges of its implementation.

Personal interaction is an integral part of the process; in addition to regular visits to producers, the company attends conferences, workshops and Trade Fairs.

As a procurer and distributor of plants and plant-derived primary ingredients, OHTC is not involved with research, development, registration or the trade in isolated plant compounds.

### Progress in the implementation of the UEBT work-plan

#### Principle 1. Conservation of biodiversity

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Management system | See above "The percentage of the work-plan implemented. It also gives a general overview of the implementation. |
| Supply chain      |   |

**Principle 2. Sustainable use of biodiversity**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Management system | See above "The percentage of the work-plan implemented. It also gives a general overview of the implementation" |
| Supply chain      |   |

**Principle 3. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Management system | See the above "The percentage of the work-plan implemented. It also gives a general overview of the implementation" |
| Supply chain      |   |

**Principle 4. Socio-economic sustainability**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Management system | See above "The percentage of the work-plan implemented. It also gives a general overview of the implementation" |
| Supply chain      |   |

**Principle 5. Compliance with national and international legislation**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Management system | See above "The percentage of the work-plan implemented. It also gives a general overview of the implementation" |
| Supply chain      |   |

**Principle 6. Respect for the right of actors**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Management system | See above "The percentage of the work-plan implemented. It also gives a general overview of the implementation" |
| Supply chain      |   |

**Principle 7. Clarity about land tenure, right of use and access to natural resources**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Management system | See above "The percentage of the work-plan implemented. It also gives a general overview of the implementation" |
| Supply chain      |   |

**Changes in UEBT work-plan**

No significant changes to the work-plan.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

OHTC are certified by the Soil Association and meet the criteria of the USDA NOP scheme. We work within a Quality Management System and are certified to the British Retail Consortium Global Standard for Food. We work closely with our customers and suppliers and share best practice whenever the opportunities arise. We are members of the Leatherhead Research Institute and have access to their library and receive regular updates relating to industry developments and innovations