



Ethical Sourcing System Certification

Companies in the personal care, food and natural pharmaceutical sectors use hundreds and sometimes thousands of ingredients from nature in their products. This can include biodiversity-based fragrances, flavours and colorants in food or cosmetics; fruits, herbs and flowers for tea; natural ingredients and oils in skin care; and medicinal herbs.

To assure sustainable practices, companies need to have systems in place for ethical sourcing and innovation. UEBT guidelines for ethical sourcing systems give companies a roadmap for implementing such systems. The UEBT Ethical Sourcing System Certification validates that a company has incorporated Ethical BioTrade practices into its systems for sourcing and innovating natural ingredients.

Achieving Certification

Steps to become certified:

1. Become **UEBT member**.
2. Develop and **implement an ethical sourcing system**.
3. **Request an external audit** by a UEBT qualified certification body to check whether the ethical sourcing system functions well.
4. Obtain a **recommendation** from the certification body regarding compliance with the critical control points of the certification checklist.
5. Receive a **certification from UEBT** based on the recommendation of the certification body.
6. Make **consumer claims** in corporate communications, product packaging or marketing. Certified brands may use the UEBT label.

Ethical Sourcing System Essentials

- **Scope:** Companies can choose whether certification covers their entire business, a single business unit, or a product line. They are clear about the scope to avoid false or misleading claims.
- **Ethical Sourcing Commitments:** Companies adopt formal commitments linked to ethical sourcing for people and biodiversity, seeking positive impacts.
- **Public Disclosure:** For transparency, companies publicise what ingredients are sourced and what actions they are taking towards certification.
- **Due Diligence Systems:** Companies have due diligence systems in place that consider Ethical BioTrade principles for gathering information on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), suppliers and conditions in sourcing areas.
- **Risk Assessment:** Companies conduct supply chain risk assessments based on Ethical BioTrade issues.
- **Supply Chains Prioritization:** Companies prioritize supply chains in which they actively promote the implementation of Ethical BioTrade practices. They conduct periodic verification against the Ethical BioTrade standard in these supply chains.
- **Traceability:** Companies ensure traceability along the supply chain so that natural ingredients can be tracked back to the sourcing area. Different levels of traceability are requested for derivatives, prioritized and non-prioritized natural ingredient supply chains.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Companies collect data such as volumes of natural ingredients, number of people involved in harvest or collection, size of agricultural or wild collection areas, etc.

Internal Compliance Levels

Companies should be aware of four different requirement levels that are applicable to their natural ingredient portfolio.

UEBT Entry Indicators: Baseline practices for derivatives (ingredients that have been chemically modified).

Critical Requirements: Essential practices of the Ethical BioTrade standard that must always be assessed in the due diligence systems for natural ingredients.

Threshold Requirements: Prioritized natural ingredient supply chains must meet all critical requirements and 80% of total requirements of the UEBT field checklist within three years of the prioritization.

Continuous Improvement Requirements: Companies must have a plan in place for promoting continuous improvement in sourcing practices that go beyond threshold requirements.



Weleda, a world-leading natural and organic cosmetics brand, depends on more than 1,000 natural ingredients for its products. A UEBT member since 2011, the company has an ethical sourcing system that follows UEBT guidelines from point of collection or harvest all the way to the product on a store shelf so that consumers know that Weleda sources with respect for people and biodiversity.

Natura Cosmetics, a leading company in the cosmetics and personal care sector, is committed to using Brazilian biodiversity in their products especially in its Ekos line based on Amazon ingredients. Natura is a founding member of the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) and has an ethical sourcing system that follows UEBT guidelines from the field production all the way to the consumers, assuring that Natura sources with respect for people — Natura Cosmetics works directly with over 30 local communities involving around 4,000 families — and biodiversity.



For more information on UEBT certification of your ethical sourcing system, write to us at certification@uebt.org



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