



## **Guidance #6 FINAL 12.14.2013**

### **Piloting Least Toxic Alternative Standards/Non-Organic Farms**

#### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this guidance is to inform certifiers that AJP will pilot the Least Toxic Alternative Standards (3.5.9).

#### **2. Scope**

This is relevant for farms that do not comply with the organic standards, but have sustainable or IPM management practices and wishes to become Food Justice Certified.

#### **3. Background**

We have not had any non-certified organic farms get Food Justice Certification to date. Going through the Domestic Fair Trade Association evaluation process brought to our attention the various potential implications of allowing non-certified organic farms or farms that do not meet the organic standards to get Food Justice Certification (standards 3.5.9). We recognize that Food Justice Certification of these entities may have unintended consequences and we would like to pilot these standards.

#### **Pilot Process**

If a farm applies for Food Justice Certification that is not either certified organic or compliant with the organic standards, please let them know that they may not be able to label product unless the pilot demonstrates to the satisfaction of AJP that workers can be adequately protected through the safety procedures in use. Please let AJP know when this sort of farm operation applies for FJC. During the pilot AJP and the certifier will work together to explore the implications of certifying non-organic farms and this process may inform changes to the standards. Farms that apply for this pilot must complete the materials listing section of the organic certification application.