## Introduction:

This document is intended to give interested persons or companies an overview of the OCCP's requirements for Wild Collection. These requirements are taken from the OCCP standards (Section 4.10 of Crop Production Standards) and adopted from international standards/policies. OCCP standards was adopted by the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture and Processing in 2005 after undergoing a series of public consultations

## What qualifies as wild or natural?

These are plants spontaneously growing on agricultural land and not taken cared of (no weeding, transplanting, etc.). These may also be typical wild plants which are re-planted inside their natural habitats, without further cultivation, in order to make collection more sustainable.

## Minimum Requirements:

### 1. Sustainability and nature protection

- The act of collection should positively contribute to the maintenance of natural areas.
- Interests of tribal and forest communities should be protected.
- Harvesting or gathering the product shall not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem, or threaten the existence of plant or animal species
    - Flowers and leaves- not more that **60%** must be collected from each collection site
    - Fruits- not more that **70%** must be collected from each collection site
    - Roots or barks- not more that **5%** must be collected from each collection site
- Exact botanical identification is a must for sustainability. Threatened/ endangered species must not be collected
- Collectors must not contribute to environmental damage (i.e. littering, illegal hunting, forest fire, etc.)

### 2. Collection Areas

- Produce can only be certified if derived from a clearly defined collecting area not exposed to prohibited substances at least one year prior to the first harvest and if subject to regular inspection
- Collection must not take place from regions with a high general level of environmental pollution, from industry, traffic, mining or nuclear facilities
- The collection or harvest area shall be at an appropriate distance from conventional farming, pollution and contamination

### 3. Management of collection

- The operator managing the harvesting or gathering of the products shall be clearly identified and be familiar with the collecting area in question
- Collectors must receive practical training and orientation on protocol for collection

## Records and Traceability:

The company must maintain updated documents of the following, containing key information to allow evaluation of compliance with standards:

1. List of collectors
- names and records of training (dates & contents)
2. Map of collection area
-location of collection sites and approximate area of coverage; description of collection area (forest, uncultivated agricultural land)
3. Protocol for collection
4. Purchase and Sales Records

These documents must be maintained for at least three years after harvest and be available for inspection at all times.

The operator has to establish a system for assuring traceability and ensuring that sold products actually come from approved areas.

## Knowledge:

The operator has to study and keep a copy (hard copy or electronic file) of the respective standards
The operator needs to have adequate knowledge on sustainable collection rules and technologies

***Note:***
*Please be aware that this is only a selection of the essential requirements of the standards and everyone is advised to get a copy of the standards and study all the requirements of the standards. A copy of the OCCP standards may be obtained from the OCCP website www.occpphils.org while the Philippine National Standards may be obtained from the DA-BAFPS website*