Organic agriculture in Latin America has developed in a variety of ways. It was born in some countries as a result of searching for a model for development in rural areas, where it turned into a tool for social transformation (especially in Brazil). In other countries the organic system has been introduced as a tool for agronomic competitiveness (such as in Peru and Chile). These developments take place against a backdrop of ancient agricultural knowledge, even though for 200 years people have been trying to destroy it.

These are the reasons why Organic Agriculture is important in Latin America:

- Responsible conservation and use of the native germoplasm is rooted in the biodiversity that characterizes the Andean and the Indo-American regions. These places, as centres of origin for many food species, have great significance for the world population.
- We cannot think of our own health in isolation from our environment. Human health, our ecosystems and the planet must be considered (and valued) as a complete system.
- We must manage our work with respect, justice and equity. Through knowledge exchange we value our ancient and modern knowledge.
- Through organic practices we develop autonomy, not only in production, but also in our way of thinking. This gives us a great advantage against the threat of big corporations which wish to get control of knowledge, technology, and genetic resources.
- Working in this way reaffirms our regional identity, valuing our traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and our social and fair economic relations.
- Organic agriculture is inclusive and welcoming, encouraging whole families to join in a multidimensional participation, allowing farmers’ families in vulnerable situations to overcome poverty.

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