



organicTM
potato
starch



Organic Potato Starch from Baltic Region

Society all over the world is increasingly demanding organic products, caring about the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment. Organic farming, as a consumer and farmer driven movement to produce healthy food for people in a sustainable way, now is becoming more and more popular in the Baltic region. Some five years ago there were very few farmers growing organic starch potatoes in the region. Now organic farms expand potato production because of a market opportunity – a contract with a processor. The potato starch factory Alojā Starkelsen has been operating in the Northern part of Latvia since 1937 and can be proud of its best practice knowledge and expertise. Since 2008 Alojā Starkelsen has been producing organic potato starch. For the best results in starch potato growing the company has initiated the project "Baltic organic potato for the world markets" focusing on the development of fruitful cooperation among organic potato growers, breeders, processors and scientific institutions in Latvia and Estonia involved in the organic potato food production chain, aiming to promote organic farming and expand efficient starch potato cultivation in Baltic region. Seven partners organize joint events and training for potato growers and breeders, work on the development of new and the improvement of existing organic potato varieties and technologies, support farmers to become certified organic farms, and elaborate a joint strategy and action plan to increase the capacity of the organic potato food production chain.

The project has already resulted in a number of new contracts with potato growers and successful collaboration between factory and organic farmers in Latvia and Estonia. The outcomes of the project have their influence in the fact that during past four years Alojā Starkelsen has succeeded in positioning among the biggest organic starch producers in the world, having customers in many countries, including Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Israel and USA. The production and sales have been growing rapidly and have increased by 40 % last year. Great results of starch production contribute to the development and expansion of organic farming giving the possibility for number of organic farmers to switch from hobby-based work to settled business with continuous income for their family. Successful collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia should be mentioned here. Special appreciation goes to Market and Direct Support department's deputy head of state secretary Rigonda Lerhe, the division's of biotechnology and quality senior officer Liga Drozdovska, the division of agricultural recourses deputy head of department Iveta Ozolina, and all the Rural Development Support department - the partnership highlights the positive attitude and interest in the maintenance, development and growth of the potato starch industry and organic agriculture. Government support and European Union subsidies have helped to make growth viable.

The project will officially end in June 2013, however, the partners involved wish the collaboration to continue beyond it. Only by joining of capacities, exchanging knowledge and skills, supporting and complementing each other, as well as joint and coordinated actions towards external markets will the Baltic region become an organic potato food production driving force!

For more information on the project, visit the website <http://www.baltorgpotato.com>

To find more about organic potato starch produced in Alojā Starkelsen, see: <http://organicpotatostarch.com>

Organic – the way we think!

BALTORG  **POTAT** 



Linking Estonia and Latvia
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