



ORGANIC SOY AND BUCKWHEAT

PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Our organic soy and buckwheat farmers, that live in the Northern Provinces of China, believe that truly healthy products can only be cultivated in harmony with nature. As the farmers of our organic suppliers explain, "Working with nature is the key to keeping our soil full of life and nutrients. We use ecological methods like crop rotation, mechanical sowing, manual weeding, and composting to support the land."

In addition to these practices, our suppliers actively promote organic agriculture throughout the region. They provide regular training to help farmers transition to organic methods, benefiting both the farmers and the environment while raising awareness about the dangers of pesticides.

A clear example of this impact can be seen in the nearby nature reserve and lake, which lies close to the organic fields. The lake, with its crystal-clear waters, supports a rich array of flora and fauna, including insects, small mammals, and endangered water birds like the Oriental stork and the scaly-sided merganser.



WORKING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

PRINCIPLE OF ECOLOGY

*Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.**

*Source: IFOAM



Buckwheat



Soy

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HOW ORGANIC FARMERS ARE HELPING TO PROTECT TWO THREATENED SPECIES

In the Eastern part of China, species like the scaly-sided merganser and Oriental stork are facing serious threats. Both are classified as “Endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Factors such as climate change, habitat loss, illegal poaching, and water pollution contribute to their decline, but pesticide use in agriculture poses a particularly significant risk.

When pesticides run off into streams, rivers, and lakes, they disrupt the ecosystem by killing fish, amphibians, water insects, and other food sources for these birds. Consuming pesticide-laden prey harms the birds’ health, leading to reduced fertility, weakened immune systems, or even death.

Organic soy and buckwheat farmers in the region, who avoid harmful chemicals, play a vital role in protecting these endangered birds by helping to restore the ecological balance.



Oriental stork



Scaly-sided merganser 'diving' duck

THREE REASONS THIS ORIENTAL STORK IS AWESOME

- 1 In many parts of East Asia, the Oriental stork symbolizes good fortune, longevity, purity, and ecological harmony. Its revered status in folklore, art, and conservation reflects both its cultural significance and its vital role in the region’s environmental landscape.
- 2 The Oriental stork is a large bird with a wingspan of around 2 meters that likes to wade in marshes, coastal beaches, and other wetlands in search of food. They mainly hunt fish, frogs, insects, small birds and reptiles, as well as rodents.
- 3 The storks typically build large nests in tall trees, cliffs, or on man-made structures. The nests are made of sticks and are often reused and added to each year.

THREE REASONS THESE DIVING DUCKS DESERVE A PLACE IN OUR SPOTLIGHT

- 1 These ducks are carnivorous and feed mainly on small fish and crustaceans. They are diving ducks, using their serrated bills to catch slippery prey underwater.
- 2 The male duck has a striking appearance, featuring a glossy green head, a white neck with a black band, a long, thin, serrated red bill, and a white belly. Its back is grey, while the flanks display the distinctive “scaly” pattern from which the bird gets its name, formed by the feather edges. Both males and females have a shaggy crest on the back of their heads, though it is more pronounced in males.
- 3 The global population is estimated to be between 2,400 and 4,500 individuals. Protected areas have therefore been established in some breeding and wintering regions, and international cooperation is ongoing to safeguard critical habitats.



Discover more about organic farming in China

