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## Scientific Certification Systems Certifies Fair Labor Practices at Maggie's Organics

*New line of ethically produced apparel launches at  
Natural Products Expo West*



**February 22, 2010 - Emeryville, CA** – Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), a global leader in sustainability and environmental assessments, recently issued its first Fair Labor Practices and Community Benefits Certification to Maggie's Organics, which produces organic cotton apparel and accessories through worker-owned cooperatives in the United States and Central America.

Maggie's will launch a brand new line of Fair Labor Certified apparel items at the Natural Products Expo West show. Products in the Fair Labor line include: scarf (\$10 retail), tank and camisole (\$15), dressy wrap (\$20), hoodie (\$25), knit dress (\$30), and a wonderful knit pant (\$35), available online at <http://www.maggiesorganics.com/> and at retailers nationwide.



Maggie's Functional Organics will display its Fair Labor Certification on a new interior tag

"Each garment supports our mission of making apparel with organic fibers and fair labor while still making them affordable and versatile to the average US consumer," explained Maggie's founder, Bena Burda. "We are bringing the concept of ethical clothes beyond the designer level, to middle America. Each of these products will have a printed label in the back that says *Fair Labor Certified* right by the washing instructions. Consumers will be reminded over and over of the contribution they have made to a better world."

Fair Labor Practices and Community Benefits Certification Program Manager Terry Betts explained, "the assessment process validates socially responsible practices in agricultural production and processing facilities. Wages and labor conditions are measured and monitored at every point in the supply chain." Certification maintenance requires annual audits on Maggie's supply chain.

No major changes were required at Maggie's facilities, though Burda notes that she "was surprised to see each worker in the chain stand a bit taller and feel a bit prouder" as the certification process progressed.

**Fair Labor Practices** is currently soliciting stakeholder engagement for auditing methodology, program prerequisites, environmental criteria, and the appeals and complaints policy in addition to a public review of the standard. If you are interested in participating as a stakeholder or would like more information, please contact Terry Betts ([tbetts@scscertified.com](mailto:tbetts@scscertified.com)).

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**Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)** is a global leader in independent certification of environmental, sustainability, stewardship, food quality, food safety and food purity claims. For more than 25 years, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs in pursuit of the highest level of environmental performance and social accountability. SCS certifications recognize accomplishments in greenhouse gas inventories and offsets, agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, flowers and plants, energy, green building, product manufacturing and corporate social responsibility. <http://www.SCScertified.com/fairlabor>