

# Brother Bru-Bru's

September 1, 2017

Lisa M. Brines, Ph.D.  
National List Manager  
National Organic Program  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Room 2646-S STOP 0268  
Washington, DC 20250-0268

Dear Ms Brines:

Thank you for your attention to our petition requesting the addition of Ethiopian Pepper (*Xylopiya aethiopica*) to section 205.606 of the National Organic Program's (NOP) National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List).

In response to your questions:

- 1) The Ethiopian peppers grow in the lowland rainforests in the savanna zones of West Africa. Because of the unique environment in which this wild-crafted plant lives, it is not something that lends itself to cultivation by organic growers. It is a plant that is by nature "de facto organic." We have contacted farmers about growing this in such a way that it could be certified. However, the growing conditions necessary combined with the small volume of use make it impossible to find a commercial grower for this substance.
- 2) The Ethiopian peppers provide a unique flavor profile to our African hot pepper sauces. There are no other plants which have the same taste which is an essential part of our brand identity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,

*Cynthia Riddle*

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