



Business & Investment

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OF ORGANIC
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HEALTHY DIET

Anniversary

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Human Rights

RIGHTS AGENDA:
ARGENTINA
RECOGNIZES NON-
BINARY IDENTITIES
IN IDS AND
PASSPORTS

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

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THE ADDED VALUE OF ORGANIC PRODUCE THAT BRINGS US CLOSER TO OUR GOAL OF A HEALTHY DIET

By Jorge Argüello, Ambassador of Argentina to the United States

The pandemic brought some deep changes: political, economic, productive, and social transformations. The adaption to the new normal also implied modifying our routines and eating habits. In the US, as well as in other markets, consumers purchased a bigger portion of their food intake at grocery stores and supermarkets, paying special attention to the quality of the products they consume. Those who already

bought organic food substantially increased their consumption, while those who did not buy organic food have now started adding them to their diets.

This led to booming demand for organic products in the sector: in 2020, if we consider organic non-food products, such as textiles, cosmetics, and toys, sales surpassed the 60 billion dollars in the



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article on the booming demand for organic products and the growing trade opportunities.

In this edition, we also include an article in commemoration of the passing of General José de San Martín to immortality and the ceremony held, as every year, by the Argentine Embassy at the statue erected in his honor in Triangle Park, Washington DC.

Finally, an article on the latest advance in my country's Human Rights agenda with the inclusion in National IDs and Argentine passports of a third option in the "sex" category, to take into account the right to gender identity for those who do not recognize themselves within the female/male binary system.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE BOOMING DEMAND FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS OPENS GREAT TRADE OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE US AND ARGENTINA, ONE OF THE TOP ORGANIC PRODUCERS IN THE WORLD.

US. The fresh organic produce segment alone reported sales of 18 billion dollars.

This situation opens a great opportunity for the trade exchange between Argentina and the US. Our country is one of the top organic producers in the world having accomplished an added value and nutritional value in its food. This segment has a strong federal feature, as the production of organics has extended to all the Argentinean provinces. Backed by public policy with a defined direction, the organic production brings economic and social benefits: improves the income of the small producers and family farming, promotes training in the technology involved, strengthens regional economies, contributes to rural development, and collaborates with the care of the environment through decarbonization and the care of soil and water, among other benefits.

In 2020, Argentina was the third supplier for the US market, with sales of 163 million dollars. The main organic products exported by Argentina were yellow corn, soybeans, cane sugar, pears, blueberries, apples, peas, honey, rice, olive oil, lemons, apple juice, garlic, and red, white, and sparkling wine. The national organic production shows great diversity, which reflects the difference in climates and soils typical of a large territory.

The engagement with the US brings the extra benefit of pulling small-scale production systems, which usually have a high rate of informal

employment, towards legality. Companies who export to the US improve their dynamics from every perspective: they are better employers, they train their staff, tend to formal employment and they meet the requirements of food safety. Many of them have achieved their certifications with a great effort of adaption and investment.

Aware of the growth opportunity in this dynamic market, the Argentinean organic sector will attend the BioFach America 2021 in Philadelphia, a prestigious event that in 2019 brought together 200 organic exhibitors and more than 29 thousand attendees. Argentina will attend this year with 17 companies that hope to show the quality they have to offer and deepen their relations with importers and distributors.

Exporters of peanut oil, vegetables, sugar and honey, cosmetics, chia and sesame seeds, rice, chickpeas, and beans, among other organic products, will be available to the largest supermarket chains and grocery stores in order to continue supplying the demanding US market. Two organic certifiers will also be participating in this fair, they help meet the requirements of local authorities.

All the variables at stake in this interaction between both countries are positive: developments of SMEs and regional economies, better productive processes, care of the environment, and nutritious and healthy diets. ■

HEARTFELT COMMEMORATION IN HONOR OF GENERAL SAN MARTÍN

On August 17th, 171 years after the passing of General José de San Martín to immortality, the Argentine Embassy organized a commemoration as every year, at the statue erected in his honor in Triangle Park, Washington DC. It was the first sculpture to be given to the city by another country, in 1924, and then-President Calvin Coolidge spoke at its dedication.

It is of course a simple ceremony when considered in relation to the stature of the life and work of the Liberator. However, it remains essential. Rites have meaning and serve a function.

In particular, stories about heroes provide societies with self-awareness. They assign meaning to facts. They divide the essential from the accessory.

San Martín is a hero who transcends divisions because his legacy is made up of very deep ideals. During the ceremony, freedom, sovereignty, integrity, national unity, were some of the words that were mentioned. Any selection is arbitrary because the dimension of the myth exceeds the scope of any possible narrative. But the purpose, unfathomable, remains there. His principles and values transcend the passing of time.

The Argentine Embassy to the United States, the Argentine Mission to the Organization of American States, the Argentine Military Attaché Offices, the San Martín Society of Washington, the Belgranian Institute of the United States, and the Argentine School in Washington participated in the event and deposited a wreath at the monument. A minute of silence was dedicated to memory and reflection. The community of Argentines who chose to be

Left to right: Authorities from Instituto Belgraniano, Military Attaches BG Pafundi, MG Guajardo & Cdre. Berazay Martinez, Amb. Raimundi, Chargé d'affaires a.i. Nador, authorities from Sociedad Sanmartiniana and Argentine School paying tribute at the San Martín Memorial.



SAN MARTÍN INVOKES US, ENGAGES WITH US BECAUSE HE IS AT THE SAME TIME A ROD TO MEASURE US AND A NORTH FOR OUR ACTION.

together on the morning of August 17 in a park far from their homeland, has a dialogue with history.

San Martín appeals to that group and to the rest of the Argentines. And he also invokes us, engages with us, because he is at the same time a rod to measure us and a North for our action.

We wanted in this edition to highlight who is, surely, the most important Argentine hero, a key figure for the realization of independence in South America, whose strategic genius is still studied today in military academies around the globe.

You will find below a very brief profile of General San Martín, prepared by the San Martín Society of Washington:

“José Francisco de San Martín y Matorras (25 February 1778 – 17 August 1850), known simply as José de San Martín or the Liberator of Argentina, Chile and Peru, was an Argentine general and the primary leader of the southern and central parts of South America’s successful struggle for independence from the Spanish Empire. Born in Yapeyú, Province of Corrientes in modern-day Argentina, he left the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata at the early age of seven to study in Málaga, Spain.

In 1808, after taking part in the Peninsular War against France, San Martín contacted in London South

American supporters of independence from Spain. In 1812, he set sail for Buenos Aires and offered his services to the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata, present-day Argentina. After the Battle of San Lorenzo and time commanding the Army of the North during 1814, he organized a plan to defeat the Spanish forces that menaced the United Provinces from the north, using an alternative path to the Viceroyalty of Peru. This objective first involved the establishment of a new army, the Army of the Andes, in the Province of Cuyo, Argentina. From there, he led the Crossing of the Andes to Chile, and triumphed at the Battle of Chacabuco and the Battle of Maipú (1818), thus liberating Chile from royalist rule. Then he sailed to attack the Spanish stronghold of Lima, Peru.

On 12 July 1821, after seizing partial control of Lima, San Martín was appointed Protector of Peru, and Peruvian independence was officially declared on 28 July. On 26 July 1822, after a closed-door meeting with fellow Libertador Simon Bolívar at Guayaquil, Ecuador, Bolívar took over the task of fully liberating Peru. San Martín unexpectedly left the country and resigned the command of his army, excluding himself from politics and the military, and moved to France in 1824.

San Martín is regarded as a national hero of Argentina, Chile, and Peru, a great military commander, and one of the Liberators of Spanish South America. The Order of the Liberator General San Martín (Orden del Libertador General San Martín), created in his honor, is the highest decoration conferred by the Argentine government.”■



President Alberto Fernández (center) with other authorities and members of social organizations, form an 'X', at the Casa Rosada Museum, Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 21, 2021. © 2021 MARIA EUGENIA CERUTTI/Argentine Presidency

RIGHTS AGENDA: ARGENTINA RECOGNIZES NON-BINARY IDENTITIES IN IDS AND PASSPORTS

"There are other identities besides that of man and woman, and they must be respected [...] there are a thousand ways to love and be loved and be happy". These were the words of President Alberto Fernandez during the ceremony for the presentation of the new National ID and Argentine passports, which from now on will incorporate a third option in the "sex" category, to take into account the right to gender identity - which is very much connected to the right to one's own identity and is also linked to the respect for the human rights of those who do not recognize themselves within the female/male binary system.

This new advancement in the Human Rights agenda was announced on July 21 at the Casa

Rosada Museum, during a ceremony headed by President Alberto Fernández, the Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity, Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, and the Homeland Minister, Eduardo De Pedro, among other officials, who on that occasion handed over the first non-binary National IDs to three Argentine citizens. With this measure, IDs may be contained in the field referring to "sex" the letters "F", "M" or "X", as appropriate.

The incorporation in the aforementioned documents of the non-binary, indeterminate, unspecified, undefined, uninformed, self-perceived, unrecorded, or other identities with which someone could self-identify and move away

"THERE ARE OTHER IDENTITIES BESIDES THAT OF MAN AND WOMAN, AND THEY MUST BE RESPECTED [...] THERE ARE A THOUSAND WAYS TO LOVE AND BE LOVED AND BE HAPPY" CLAIMED PRESIDENT ALBERTO FERNANDEZ.

from the binary framework altogether makes Argentina the first country in Latin America to guarantee the right to identification for these people. This also ratifies the Government's deep commitment to a State gender policy, which can be traced back to a central milestone like the enactment by the National Congress of the Gender Identity Law, in May 2012.

It is worth mentioning that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights qualified this law as "the best practice in the region", as it does not require any type of intervention, medical or judicial procedure, psychiatric or medical certification, for the recognition of gender. In fact, on the contrary, its first article establishes that everyone has the right both to the recognition of their gender identity and to develop their person accordingly, as well as to the adequate identification in their identity documents regarding their first name/s, image, and sex. Therefore, President Fernandez's decision materializes such principles and respect to the various International Treaties to which Argentina is part.

"Between what's ideal and what's possible, let's go for what's possible because we are getting closer to that ideal every day. We advance little by little, making possible what seemed impossible" claimed President Fernandez at the Casa Rosada Museum. This accurately depicts the process that has been taking place in Argentina over the last few years, in which the adoption of standards such as the Equal Marriage Law, the Gender Identity Law, the Law for the Promotion of Access to Formal Employment for Transvestites, Transsexuals and Transgender People or the Decree 476/2021 itself, constitute gradual, but firm advances, while we walk the challenging path that will lead us to a truly egalitarian and inclusive society. ■

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