

2017

Conscientious Company Report





Wholesum Harvest

“Our farms are a microcosm of our food system, by growing food in a responsible way, we ensure that we preserve the natural resources of our planet to continue growing for generations to come” - Ricardo Crisantes, CCO, Wholesum Harvest



WHY WE GROW ORGANIC

Because we care about doing it right. We make sure that with our produce, we are benefiting the people and keeping the environment as close as nature intended it to be. Therefore, we decided we would grow responsibly by listening to our stakeholders and minimizing our impact. With people as our priority, we joined the Fair Trade movement, and for the benefit of the environment, consumers, and farm workers we grow organically since 1991.

WHO WE ARE

We are a third-generation family owned and operated farm. We also partner with like-minded farmers in Mexico and the United States to provide consistent quality in organic produce year-round. Wholesum is made of thousands of people, and each one of them is an integral part of the company. As a company we know that we are the sum of our parts.

WHERE WE ARE

We are based out of Southern Arizona and have farms in the states of Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa, Jalisco, Estado de Mexico, Guanajuato, California and Arizona. We only partner with family farmers that share our values and are committed in growing crops of great quality in a responsible manner.

WHAT WE GROW

We grow organic produce, communities, and people. More specifically, we grow a wonderful variety of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, eggplant and squash. Our focus is growing great tasting, responsibly grown food.

HOW WE GROW IT

Here are **5** of the most important reasons why we grow 100% organic at Wholesum:

1	The Consumers' Health	Nutrition also means what chemicals are not present
2	The Workers' Health	No workplace exposure to synthetic chemicals
3	The Environment	We all have an impact; organic practices help us reduce it
4	The Future	For the next generations of family farmers and the people they grow for
5	The Movement	Become the change we want to see in the world and hope our efforts are the ripple in the pond





Our Sustainability Efforts

ENERGY



29%

of our lights in our farm in Sonora, MX are LED, saving 6,500 kWh annually



51%

of energy used in our farm in Sonora, MX came from renewable sources - a total of 3.6 million kWh



21%

of energy comes from solar in our distribution center in Nogales, AZ

WATER



21.5%

of irrigation water was captured and reused to water crops in our farm in Arizona – a total of 9.6 million gallons

RECYCLING



43 tons

of plastic and cardboard were diverted from the landfill and sent to a recycling facility

PALLETS



9,580 lbs

of pallet waste was kept out of landfill through CHEP's pallet program – 48% waste reduction from 2016



7,230 lbs

less of CO₂ produced in comparison to the market alternative



99%

of all timber is PEFC and FSC certified



Net Zero

pallet activity through carbon offset reforestation project with Natural Capital Partners

PACKAGING



23%

of all our packaging comes from recycled materials

ECOSYSTEMS



2,215 lbs

of Sudan Grass were planted in our farms in Arizona, Sinaloa and Sonora after removing invasive species such as Buffel Grass

ORGANIC PRODUCTION



27,600 tons

of organic produce taken to market



463,000

plants grown from Vitalis Organic Seeds



18,600

labor hours towards manual removal of pests from crops

FAIR TRADE



\$865,400

in Fair Trade Community Development Funds generated in 2017



\$2,262,000

generated in Community Development Funds from 2013 to the end of 2017



4 New Farms

became Fair Trade Certified in 2017 – we require every new partner to start FT Certification within two years

DONATIONS



\$15,200

in donations made to different organizations that promote education, community development, health and wellness



Committed to Fair Trade

September 2016, our facility in Arizona became the first Fair Trade Certified farm in the US. We believe that Fair Trade is the highest standard for farm labor in the industry, to make it equal and fair throughout the whole supply chain.



HOW FAIR TRADE WORKS



IMPACT OF FAIR TRADE PROJECTS

- **732** scholarships granted
- **9** college graduates with FT scholarships
- **12** soccer teams play in the field provided by FT
- **48,000** kgs tortillas sold at cost in the FT tortilleria
- **22** jobs created through FT projects
- **316** nourished children by FT meal program
- **9,100** medical vouchers for specialized care and medicines
- **998** dentist appointments
- **45** pairs of prescription glasses delivered
- **3,947** users with access to computer and internet

Fair Trade Stories

We interviewed several of our farm workers, and we are more inspired than ever by some of the stories they shared with us.

EDUCATION

Jairo & Misael Dorame Bojorquez

Sons of a farm worker in our Greenhouses in Sonora, Jairo and Misael qualified for college scholarships. Both brothers attended Sonora State University, and they are now back at the farm taking professional roles. Jairo in the accounting department and Misael at the Community Center in Sonora, MX, owned and managed by the Fair Trade committee that gave him the scholarship to get his bachelors.

At an average of \$900 USD a year for transportation and tuition, they stressed the fact that if it wasn't for the scholarship they would've put a big strain on their family and on themselves. The scholarship amounts to about 44% of the expenses of the two brothers.

Jairo graduated in December 2017 and is now working with Wholesum in the accounting department. He says that he feels proud to be working in a company that cares for its employees, society and that comes through with promises.

Misael started working in the Community Center in July 2017, he said he came back to work for the FT committee because he wanted to give back to the community and the people that helped him study and excel.

Now, their younger brother is going through high school with a scholarship from the Fair Trade program as well, and he is now planning on going to college.



Committed to Fair Trade

“At the beginning I said I wanted the premium money for me and my family instead of going towards projects. Now I understand the impact that we have through Fair Trade projects, money ends, while the projects stay.” - *Adan Rivera, FT Committee Member in Sonora, MX*

HEALTH

Daniel Gutierrez & Rigoberto Duran

This story comes from two workers from our partner company, Cerro Fresh, based in Guanajuato. They produce some of the best bell peppers for us.

In partnership with a Mexican public institution, the Cerro Fresh Fair Trade Committee brought to the farm a Health Fair that offers medical consults. Through this program, two employees, Daniel Gutierrez and Rigoberto Duran, were identified as candidates for hearing aid, at a total cost of \$4,000 USD. The Mexican government sponsored part of it, leaving \$300 USD to be paid by the Fair Trade committee.

Daniel Gutierrez is the Workshop Manager, he has been with the company for 8 years. He lost his hearing while working in a steel mill. He expressed he had personal and work problems because of his bad communication and poor hearing. Once doctors installed and adjusted device, he could hear clearly, and he felt much more positive about life. He says that the biggest impact he’s had personally is that he can now listen when his two beautiful baby girls wake up at

night, because he can now share these moments with his wife and take care of them as a family.

Rigoberto Duran, now 42, completely lost his hearing in an accident when he was 17 years old. After seeing different doctors, surgery was recommended, but they could not afford it and he was afraid the surgery would not help. During the health fair, doctors determined he had profound deafness. He says he could not hear people at more than three-feet away, but now, he can hear anyone talking to him from 65-feet. During the interview tears ran down his cheeks, expressing how thankful he is for the aid that the Fair Trade program has given him.

This program has had an amazing impact for these two farm workers and their families. They used to be very shy about communicating, because they were afraid that people would not understand them, the devices have had a great confidence boost for both!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Diaz Family

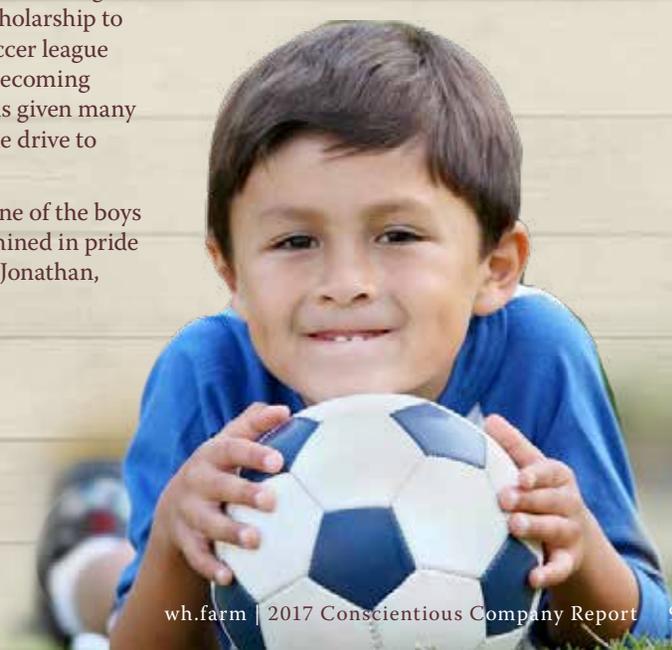
In our Wholesum farm in Sonora. A soccer field was built in the community by the FT Committee. Not everyone at the farm could see how this was going to benefit the community.

In 2017, scouts from Las Chivas, a Mexican professional soccer team, attended the men’s regional semifinals game in the community. Three teenagers were selected and given a scholarship to join the club at its minor soccer league and pursue their dream of becoming professional players. This has given many people in the community the drive to practice a healthy habit.

Clementina is the mom of one of the boys that got scouted. Her eyes shined in pride as she talked about her son, Jonathan, having an opportunity that

seemed impossible for someone that lives in such a rural area of the country.

She mentioned that her children say soccer is their ‘drug’. These towns are often prone to alcoholism and drug addiction, through Fair Trade they now have options for healthy habits. On Sundays, the whole family cheers all day.





Partnerships Grow Communities



LOS JANOS COMMUNITY CENTER

The farm workers in Sonora, MX wanted a community center that would have computers and internet access to be a resource for the community. The project was not getting funding since other projects, like medical vouchers and scholarships, were given priority.

The leadership at Wholesum saw an opportunity to make an investment on their community, by helping the farm workers achieve the dream of building a community center.

In 2017, Wholesum organized a group of volunteers to build the community center and donated the building materials. In a couple of

weeks, volunteers, employees and farm workers, built the center together using regional materials.

The result of this partnership is a new community center that offers a public library and free guided access to technology that helps children and adults with skill development and school work, all of this is managed by the Fair Trade committee. The committee hired a teacher that offers virtual courses provided by one of the best universities in Mexico. To this date, the community center has hosted 3,850 users and an average of 45 people per day.

CERTIFICATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT MATTER TO US



Fair Trade USA is a global certification movement that has rigorous standards for workers and the environment. Through a transparent system, the workers are empowered to make decisions based on their necessities as individuals and community.



USDA Organic is a national certification that holds us accountable for protecting natural resources, conserving biodiversity and that the plants have been grown only using substances that are allowed by the National Organic Program.



Sustainable Food Trade Association serves as a hub for learning and sharing best practices for businesses to improve in a social and environmental based approach.



Organic Trade Association is a business association for the organic agriculture industry that seeks networking, advocacy and initiatives to protect organic farming practices.



Fresh Produce Association of the Americas is the leading agent of produce trade at the US and Mexico border, advocating for the growth, harvest, import and distribution of Mexican produce. They are a powerful voice for improvement and sustainability.



Local First Arizona is a non-profit organization that supports local businesses in the state of Arizona. They help raise awareness of strong local economies and contribute to a sustainable economy. We participate in their events to promote organic produce and educate consumers about its relevance to the environment and consumers.



Vitalis Born, Wholesum Raised is our commitment to organic integrity. It is a promise that seeds were selected, produced and grown with highest organic standards.



The Coalition for Sustainable Organics group seeks to promote sustainable and organic production through advocacy. They advocate to continue having container production in allowance for organic production.



Ecological Farming Association is a non-profit educational organization that promotes ecological and just farming system.



Organic Seed Alliance is a group that promotes the diversity, quality and integrity of organic seeds in the United States.



Driving Towards our 2018 Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We want to join other like-minded companies that have pledged their support towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We look forward to being part of a global effort, we realize that a sustainable future can only be attained if we come together and join forces with others.

Because of their relevance and alignment to the company, we have decided to join the following 8 SDGs:

- Goal 2: Zero hunger
- Goal 3: Good health and well-being
- Goal 5: Gender equality
- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

- Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13: Climate action
- Goal 15: Life on Land

Based on this commitment, we strive to continuously work towards the 2030 goals. We see this not only to work towards a global common goal, but also as a way to challenge the company to become a driver for change. We look forward to officially announcing our commitment to the United Nations Global Compact in 2018.

PACKAGING

At Wholesum, we are exploring new and innovative ways in which we can move away from plastic packaging in organic produce.



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*Certified organic by
QAI, San Diego, CA*