

## **Apricot kernel oil, cold pressed, demeter**

For its premium apricot kernel oil, naturamus processes demeter-certified apricot kernels from its long-time partner, an honest pioneer of organic and fair traded products, IŞIK Tarim from Turkey. Founded back in 1974, IŞIK Tarim was the first Turkish exporter of organically grown dried fruits and nuts. Today, IŞIK Tarim markets nuts, kernels, and dried fruits from more than 3,500 smallholder families who work together in more than 150 village communities as part of the "Happy Village Project". The naturamus oil manufactory processes the apricot kernels into a premium resource for the natural cosmetics industry: virgin, demeter apricot kernel oil. In doing so, naturamus provides Turkish smallholders another sustainable source of income in addition to the marketing of dried apricots.

### **Traditional methods of cultivation**

The cultivation of apricots has a long tradition in Turkey. Of the approximately 3,500 organically certified smallholders who supply IŞIK Tarim with (dried) fruit, nuts and seeds, 16 farms are Demeter-certified. These 16 farms cultivate areas between 5 and 12 ha of apricot trees. This cultivation is subject to significant challenges such as climatic changes, frost damage in the apricot blossom, and pests. To meet these challenges, a team of agricultural engineers supports the farmers in Turkey. To further increase soil fertility and, thus, the yield of the trees, the smallholder farms use animal manure, which is composted. By adding biodynamic preparations, the fertiliser becomes even more productive. This fertiliser is a scarce commodity, as animal husbandry such as cattle husbandry is hardly common in Turkey. Therefore, the farmers who cultivate fruits and nuts often cooperate with neighbouring farms that keep cows.

### **Promoting rural development through long-term cooperation**

In July, the harvest of the ripe apricots takes place. Cloths and nets are laid out under the trees, the trees are shaken and the apricots are collected by hand. The fresh fruits are immediately laid out on sheets to dry. Within three days, the fruits are pitted. Sun-dried, the apricot stones are stored until naturamus and its parent organisation, WALA Heilmittel GmbH, call for the apricot stones. By holding up this partnership, IŞIK Tarim, naturamus GmbH, and WALA Heilmittel GmbH, thereby, safeguard reliable sources of income for small farming families in Turkey. This enables the families to develop sustainable livelihoods in

rural regions. This promotes rural development and prevents rural exodus, as the greatest possible share of value creation remains in Turkey's rural areas.