



What's In This Salsa?



4 characters needed

Narrator: Two women are in the supermarket in the salsa aisle. They have both had jobs as farmworkers in the past. They are both looking at all the different kinds of salsa and seem confused by all the choices they have in brands and flavors.

Sara: (*picking up a jar of salsa and looks at the label*) I always thought salsa was mostly tomatoes and chile peppers. Look how long this list is of things inside this bottle and I can even say them. Chilepolyoxymono.....huh?

Maria: (*picks up another brand of salsa and begins to read the ingredients*) organic tomatoes, organic onions, organic garlic, organic cilantro, organic tomatillos and sea salt. What's this? It's a label that says it is Food Justice Certified. What does that mean? I've seen the fair trade coffee, but I can't afford to buy it.

Sara: I saw on the local news a piece on domestic fair trade and found it very interesting. They explained that it promotes fairness, equity and sustainability that support family farming, just conditions for farm workers, and farming organically, without the use of pesticides. This jar is a bit more expensive than the salsa I was looking at, but it is made without pesticides and both the farmers and farmworkers are supposed to benefit. We know what it is like picking and being stooped over in the fields and planes coming by and spraying on us.

Maria: But how do I know that it really is made with organic ingredients and that people working on the farm are going to get most of the money and not this supermarket? Also, I don't have time to stand around here reading all these labels. I have to get home and cook, clean, and then go to work tonight.

Jo: I don't mean to eavesdrop ladies, but I couldn't help overhearing your conversation. I work on the farm that supplies the produce for this salsa. And with this particular label – Food Justice Certification, they are pretty strict. Worker organizations and the inspector come to our farm and interview us all, including the workers to make sure that the farm conditions are safe and that we know about the policies and procedures and our rights as workers; they ask us about whether we make a living wage and lots of other stuff. Also, there is a new website that helps people figure out what all the labels mean. The Domestic Fair Trade Association published it and it is really user friendly, it has this Food Justice Certification label as well as others.

Sara and Maria: Thanks Jo. I guess we will give this salsa a try, but we would like more information about this Food Justice Certification.