Inspection and Certification for Individual Farms, Smallholder Group Certification

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What is Certification?

Organic certification system is a quality assurance initiative, intended to assure quality, prevent fraud and promote commerce, based on set of standards and ethics.

It is a process certification for producers of organic food and other organic plant products.
Why Certification?

- Third party assurance from producer to the consumer separated by distance
- For uniform label
- Assurance to the consumers that its concern for healthy food has been addressed.
- Effective marketing tool for Image, credibility, visibility/Transparency
Balance of interests

- **Consumer** requests healthy and environmentally sound products
- Willing to pay premium price

- **Farmer/processor** is producing according to certain standards (may be putting higher labour etc)
- Getting access to premium price markets

Trust
The organic quality control

The 4 steps to Organic Quality Control

- Accreditation
- Standards
- Inspection
- Certification
Accreditation

- Guarantees that the certification program is competent to carry out specific tasks
- Authoritative body defines policies, standards and checks whether a certification system is operating according to standards
- Various accreditation programs: national, EU (EN 45011), ISO (No. 65), IFOAM, NPOP, NOP, JAS
Standards

• Standards defining production methods, not the product quality
  • Minimum requirements, not “best practice”
  • Standards <-> regulations
  • Continuously developed, dynamic
  • Can be International, National or regional standards
Inspection

• On-site visit to verify that the performance of an operation is in accordance with specific standards

• Evaluation and verification of agricultural production, processing and trading

• Inspection requires complete documentation by producers, processors and handlers

• Findings are presented in a report to the certifiers
Certification

- Monitoring the market for misuse of certification mark or label
- Assesses the results of the inspection in relation to the requirements of the organic standards
- Decides about issuing of certificates, conditions and sanctions
- Written confirmation that a process or product is in compliance with certain standards
- Certificate is granted
Labelling

• Easy recognition of organic quality and certification system

• Confirms the fulfilment of the label regulations and of legal rules

• They help to achieve a better price for organic products
Certification of Exported products

Direct certification

Western certifier → Western inspector → Operator

Co-certification

Western certifier → Local inspector → Operator

Local certification

Local certifier → Local inspector → Operator
Operational Structure of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

Government of India

Ministry of Commerce (MoC) Under FTDR Act for Exports

Ministry Of Agriculture (MoA) Under APGMC act for Domestic

Steering Committee for NPOP (members appointed by MoC)

Accreditation Body (APEDA)

Inspection Certification Agency

Farmers Operators Processors
NPOP is Internationally Recognized

- NPOP has equivalence agreement with European Union
- NPOP has equivalence agreement with Switzerland
- USDA has accepted NPOP conformity assessment system

Means product certified by any Indian certification body can be exported without the need for recertification in above countries. For USA Indian certification bodies issue certificate based on NOP standards.
National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP)
Crop Production
Standard Requirements for Crop Production

Conversion Requirements

General

Landscape

Conversion Period

Crop Diversity

Fertilization Policy

Crop Production

Pest, disease and weed management

Contamination

Planting Material

Soil & Water Conservation
Conversion Requirements

- Starts from the day of signing contract
- Organic and conventional parts (Part farm conversion) must be separate and inspectable
- Simultaneous production of conventional, in conversion and or organic crops which cannot be clearly distinguished from each other is not allowed
*Parallel Production not allowed:

Conventional pineapple

Organic pineapple

Reduction of conversion period is possible when standards are met for several years and this must be verified.
Planting material

- When organic planting materials are available they shall be used.
- When certified organic planting materials are not available chemically untreated conventional materials shall be used.
- The use of genetically engineered seeds, pollen, transgenic plants or planting material is not allowed.
Fertilization Policy

- No synthetic inputs allowed – Only natural or mined minerals used
- Biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin
- Mineral fertilizers to be applied in their natural composition (rock phosphate, gypsum, lime, mica)
- Chilean nitrate & all synthetic nitrogenous fertilizers including urea are prohibited
Pest, Disease and Weed management

- Plant, animal & microbial products locally produced at the farm are allowed
- The use of synthetic herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other pesticides is prohibited
- Farm equipments from conventional farming systems shall be free from residues & clean
Pest, Disease and Weed management

- Thermal sterilization of soils in places where a proper rotation or renewal of soil cannot take place as permitted by certification agency
- Use of synthetic growth regulators & synthetic dyes prohibited
- Use of genetically engineered organisms or products are prohibited
Soil and Water conservation

- Clearing of land by burning organic matter shall be restricted to the minimum.
- Clearing of primary forest is prohibited.
- Relevant measures shall be taken to prevent erosion.
- Excessive exploitation and depletion of water resources shall not be allowed.
- Relevant measures shall be taken to prevent salination of soil and water.
Certification for Wild Harvest

**Principle**

The act of collection should positively contribute to the maintenance of natural areas

- Derived from a stable and sustainable growing environment. Quantity shall not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem, or threaten the existence of plant or animal species.
Certification for Wild Harvest

• To be derived from a clearly defined collecting area, which is not exposed to prohibited substances.

• The collection area shall be at an appropriate distance from conventional farming, pollution and contamination.
Certification for Wild Harvest

- The operator managing the harvesting or gathering of the products shall be clearly identified and be familiar with the collecting area in question.

- Necessary permission from local authority to be obtained and collection needs to be in conformation of legal requirements.
Animal Production
Standard Requirements for Animal Production

Conversion Requirements

General

Habitat and behavioral needs

Conversion Period

Breeds and Brought in animals

3.2 Crop Production

No mutilations

Animal Nutrition

Bee Keeping

Health care and Medicines

Transport/ Slaughter
Animal Husbandry
Management must ensure

- Sufficient free movement
- Sufficient fresh air and natural daylight
- Protection against excessive sunlight, temperatures, rain and wind
- Enough lying and/or resting area.
- Ample access to fresh water and feed.
- Adequate facilities for expressing behavior in accordance with the biological and ethological needs of the species.
Animal Husbandry Management

- Poultry and rabbits shall not be kept in cages.
- Landless animal husbandry systems not allowed
- Herd animals shall not be kept individually

Exceptions to be allowed by Certification agency keeping welfare of animal in mind
Conversion Period

- Minimum conversion period is twelve months
- For dairy and egg production, this period shall not be less than 30 days

Brought in Animals allowed at
- 2 day old chickens for meat production
- 18 week old hens for egg production
- 2 week old for any other poultry
- Piglets up to six weeks and after weaning
- Calves up to 4 weeks old which have received colostrum and are fed a diet consisting mainly of full milk
Breeds and Breeding

• Breeding systems based on breeds that can both copulate and give birth naturally.
• Artificial insemination is allowed.
• Embryo transfer techniques are not allowed
• Hormonal heat treatment and induced birth are not allowed unless applied to individual animals for medical reasons and under veterinary advice.
• The use of genetically engineered species or breeds are not allowed
Mutilations

- Not allowed. Exceptions are:
- Castrations
- Tail docking of lambs
- Dehorning
- Ringing
- Mulesing (Mulesing involves cutting flaps of skin from around a lamb’s breech and tail to create an area of bare, stretched skin.)
Animal Nutrition

- All feed and fodder to be organic
- In-conversion to organic fodder allowed
- A percentage of feed consumed by farm animals can be sourced from conventional farm.
  - Ruminants (dry matter intake) 15%
  - Non-ruminants (dry matter intake) 20%
  - These percentages will be reduced within 5 years to
    - Ruminants (dry matter) 10%
    - Non-ruminants (dry matter) 15%
Animal Nutrition

• Vitamins, trace elements and supplements shall be used from natural origin.
• The certification programme shall define conditions for use of vitamins and minerals from synthesized or unnatural sources
• Following are allowed
  – Bacteria, fungi and enzymes
  – By-products of food industry (e.g. molasses)
  – Plant based products
Prohibited substances in Animal Nutrition

- Synthetic growth promoters or stimulants
- Synthetic appetisers
- Preservatives, except when used as a processing aid
- Artificial colouring agents
- Urea
- Farm animal by-products (e.g. abattoir waste) to ruminants
- Droppings, dung or other manure (all types of excreta) even if technologically processed
- Feed subjected to solvent (e.g. hexane), extraction (soya and rape seed meal) or the addition of other chemical agents
- Pure amino acids
- Genetically engineered organisms or products thereof
Veterinary Medicine

• Natural systems of medicine allowed
• Conventional veterinary medicines is allowed when no other justifiable alternative is available – but with increased withholding time
• Vaccination only when need justified
• Legally enforced vaccinations allowed
• Genetically engineered vaccines prohibited
Veterinary Medicine

Use of the following substances is prohibited

- Synthetic growth promoters
- Substances of synthetic origin for production, stimulation or suppression of natural growth
- Hormones for heat induction and heat synchronisation (unless used for an individual animal against reproductive disorders, justified by veterinary indications)
Bee Keeping

- Hives kept in organically fields or wild natural areas
- Bee hive made of natural materials
- Persistent materials not be used in beehives
- Wing clipping is not allowed
- Veterinary medicine shall not be used in bee keeping
- No repellent consisting of prohibited substances used.
- For pest and disease control and for hive disinfection the following products shall be allowed:
  - caustic soda
  - lactic, oxalic, acetic acid
  - formic acid
  - sulphur
  - etheric oils
  - Bacillus thuringiensis
Inspection and Certification Process

Appointment of Inspection and Certification bodies

- Accreditation of Inspection and certification agency by NAB
- Deployment of competent persons for audit
- Undertaking inspection and certification
- Annual Surveillance and Review of Inspection and Certification Agencies
- Continuous improvement in system
- Renewal of accreditation at 3 year interval
Inspection and Certification by Accredited agency

- Receipt of applications
- Providing standards and operational documents
- Agreement
- Demand for Fee
- Document audit
- Physical field inspection
- Risk assessment
- Compliance verification
- Reporting by inspector
- Review by reviewer
- Certification decision
Inspection methods

- Visits of facilities, fields, etc.
- Review of records and accounts.
- Calculation of input/output norms, production estimates etc.
- Assessment of production system
- Interview with responsible persons
- Risk assessment
- Part Conversion and Parallel Production
- Inspection for Use of Genetically Engineered Products
- Use of off-farm inputs
- Analysis for residue testing (if required)
India Organic Logo
Smallholder Grower
Group Certification
Grower Group Certification

• Based on internal quality system
• Applicable to producer groups, farmer’s cooperatives, contract production and small scale processing units.
• The producers in the group must apply similar production systems and the farms should be in geographical proximity.
What is Internal Quality System

- A group of producers create internal team for some tasks
- External certification agency delegates some inspection tasks to this group (known as IQS)
- IQS undertakes inspection on behalf of CB
- Certification agency evaluates the working of IQS and do random field inspection for verification
- Certification is granted to group as a whole as one unit
Constitution of group

- 25 to maximum 500 members
- Should have legal status
- All members in geographical proximity
- Similar production system
Developing IQS

Minimum requirements for IQS
• Development of Internal Control System (ICS)
• Identification of producer groups
• Creation of awareness about group certification among members
• Identification of qualified personnel for maintaining the internal control system
• Necessary training in production and IQS development
• Preparation of IQS manual containing policies and procedures
• Implementation of the policies and procedures
• Review and improvement of the IQS document for maintaining a harmonized IQS.
IQS Personals

- Internal quality system manager
- Internal inspectors
- Approval manager / committee
- Field officers for trainings etc
- Sale/Purchase officers for inputs arrangement and products sale
- Warehouse manager
- Processing manager
ICS Procedure

- Registration of members
- Train members in standard implementation and risk management
- Register group with certification agency
- Maintain each member’s documents
- Internal inspections
- Submission of report to certification agency
- External inspections
- Compliance of deficiencies
- Yield estimates
- Grant of certification
Guiding Principles

- Participation
- Shared Vision
- Transparency
- Trust
- Horizontality
- National networking