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

Producers ready to produce environmentally sound products even with more labour

In turn they get premium price

Trust
The organic quality control

The 4 keys to Organic Quality Control

Certification

Accreditation

Inspection

Standards
Accreditation

• As per the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) an accreditation refers registration by the accreditation agency for certifying agency for certifying organic farms, products and processes as per the guidelines of the National Accreditation Policy and Programme for Organic Product.
• 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
In context of Indian accreditation scenario, NPOP defined the function of accreditation agencies like

- Package of practices for organic products;
- Accreditation of inspection and certifying agencies;
- Monitor the inspection;
- Lay down inspection procedures;
- Advise the National Steering Committee;
Function of accreditation agencies

- Accept Accredited certification programmes;
- Shall evolve accreditation criteria for inspection and/or certifying agencies;
- Shall prepare an operating manual to assist accredited agencies;
- Identification of Eligible inspection and certification agencies.
Standards

• Standards defining production methods, not the product quality
• Minimum requirements, not “best practice”
• Standards $$\leftrightarrow$$ 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
Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

Government of India

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC)

National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP)

National Steering Committee for National Program for Organic Production (SCNPOP) (Members appointed by the MoC)

National Accreditation Body (NAB)

Evaluation Committee (EC)

Inspection and Certification Agencies

Farmers

Operators

Processors

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

National Accreditation Policy and Programme (NAPP)

Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)-as the secretariat
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
NPOP Standards

- Already covered
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)
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
Thanks