



Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION (NPOP)

EIGHTH EDITION : 2024



NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION (NPOP)

EIGHTH EDITION : 2024



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce**

PREFACE

India is bestowed with significant potential to produce a wide range of organic products due to diversity in its agro-climatic conditions. In several parts of the country, the inherited tradition of organic farming is an added advantage. This holds promise for the organic producers to tap the market which is growing steadily in the domestic and export sector.

Organic certification system provides assurance to the buyers that the product has been cultivated organically without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. With growing consumer awareness for healthy and safe food, there is a growing demand for organic products globally.

To cater to the export requirements of a third-party certification system for organic products, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India launched the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) notified under the Foreign Trade Development Regulations (FTDR) Act for exports since 2001. Any organic product exported from the Country needs to comply with the regulatory requirements under the NPOP. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is the secretariat for the implementation of the NPOP

The 8th Edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) marks another significant milestone in this journey to further strengthen and reinforce India's commitment towards promoting sustainable agriculture and environmentally responsible practices. Since its inception, the NPOP has served as a catalyst for the development of organic farming in India with a robust framework for certification, production and trade of organic products.

This latest edition reflects the evolving dynamics of organic agriculture, addressing the emerging challenges and opportunities in the global and domestic organic markets. It incorporates updates to standards, processes, and guidelines to align with international best practices, ensuring that organic produce from India continues to meet the highest levels of quality and trust.

We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders whose valuable contributions have shaped this document and reaffirm our commitment to spearheading India's organic journey. We hope that this document serves as a valuable reference for organic producers, processors, traders, exporters, importers, certification bodies and other organic stakeholders

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
1.	Introduction	1
	Definitions	2 – 11
2.	Scope and Operational Structure of the National Programme for Organic Production	12 – 19
	2.1 Scope	12
	2.2 Objective	12
	2.3 Operational Structure	13
	2.4 Operational Setup	13
	2.4.1 Department of Commerce (DoC)	13
	2.4.2. National Steering Committee (NSC)	14
	2.4.3. National Accreditation Body (NAB)	15
	2.4.4. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) – Role under NPOP	17
	2.4.5. Technical Committee	18
	2.4.6. Evaluation Committee (EC)	18
	2.4.7. Certification Bodies	18
	2.4.8. Operator	19
	2.4.9. Tracenet	19
3.	National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP)	20 – 148
	3.1 Organic Crop Production	20
	3.1.1 Crop Production Plan	20
	3.1.2 Conversion Requirements	21
	3.1.3 Duration of Conversion Period	22
	3.1.4 Derogation to Conversion Period	22
	3.1.5 Organic products in conversion	24
	3.1.6 Ecosystem	24
	3.1.7 Choice of Crops and Varieties	24
	3.1.8 Diversity in Crop Production and Management Plan	25
	3.1.9 Nutrient Management	25
	3.1.10 Pest Disease and Weed Management	27

	3.1.11 Contamination Control	28
	3.1.12 Soil and Water Conservation	29
	3.1.13 Collection of Non-cultivated Material of Plant origin/forest produces	29
	3.2 Organic Livestock Poultry and Products	30
	3.2.1 Scope	30
	3.2.2 General Principles	31
	3.2.3 Organic Management Plan	31
	3.2.4 Choice of Breeds, Source and Origin	32
	3.2.5 Livestock Identification and Animal Record Keeping	33
	3.2.6 Housing and Management	34
	3.2.7 Conversion period for Animal Production	39
	3.2.8 Feed	41
	3.2.9 Health Care	44
	3.2.10 Breeding and Management	46
	3.2.11 Manure and Excreta Management	47
	3.2.12 Transport	48
	3.2.13 Slaughter of Animals	49
	3.3 Organic Bee keeping/Apiculture	50
	3.3.1 Choice of Breeds/ strains	50
	3.3.2 Conversion Period	51
	3.3.3 Hiving the Honey Bees	51
	3.3.4 Apiary Management	52
	3.3.5 Feed	52
	3.3.6 Health Care	53
	3.3.7 Breeding and Management	53
	3.3.8 Periodic Cleaning	54
	3.3.9 Record Keeping	54
	3.3.10 Transport/ Migration	54
	3.3.11 Product Extraction	56
	3.3.12 Extraction of Honey	57
	3.3.13 Extraction of Beeswax	58
	3.3.14 Crop Pollination	58

	3.3.15 Conservation of Bee Flora	58
	3.4 Organic Aquaculture Production	59
	3.4.1 Organic Management Plan	59
	3.4.2 Conversion Period	59
	3.4.3 Ecosystem Management	60
	3.4.4 Selection of Site	61
	3.4.5 Choice of Breeds/strains	62
	3.4.6 Source of Seed and Breeding	62
	3.4.7 Culture Practices	65
	3.4.8 Pond Preparation	65
	3.4.9 Stocking	65
	3.4.10 Pond Management	66
	3.4.11 Bivalve Farming	67
	3.4.12 Supplementary Feeding	68
	3.4.13 Health Management	69
	3.4.14 Harvest and Transportation	70
	3.4.15 Processing	71
	3.4.16 Mandatory Visit for the Certification Bodies	71
	3.5 Processing and Handling of Organic Products	71
	3.5.1 Specific Requirements	71
	3.5.2 Raw Material	73
	3.5.3 Pest Control	73
	3.5.4 Ingredients	74
	3.5.5 Processing Methods	75
	3.5.6 Packaging	75
	3.5.7 Labelling	76
	3.5.8 Storage	78
	3.5.9 Transport	79
	3.6 Organic Animal Feed Processing and Handling	79
	3.6.1 General requirements	80
	3.6.2 Raw Materials	80
	3.6.3 Cleaning, disinfection and control	81

	3.6.4 Ingredients	81
	3.6.5 Processing	83
	3.6.6 Processing facilities	83
	3.6.7 Processed products	84
	3.6.8 Packaging	84
	3.6.9 Labelling	85
	3.6.10 Storage	85
	3.6.11 Transport	85
	3.7 Organic Mushroom Production	85
	3.7.1 General	85
	3.7.2 Organic Management Plan	85
	3.7.3 Management of production site	86
	3.7.4 Substrate and growing media	86
	3.7.5 Fungus spawn	87
	3.7.6 Conversion	88
	3.7.7 Pest control and sanitation	88
	3.8 Organic Seaweed, Aquatic plants and Greenhouse Crop production	88
	3.8.1 General	88
	3.8.2 Organic Management Plan	89
	3.8.3 Specific requirements for seaweed	89
	3.8.4 Aquatic plants including algae	91
	3.8.5 Green house Crop production	93
	Annexures 3 (1 to 19)	95-148
4.	Accreditation of Certification Bodies	149 – 183
	4.1 Categories for Accreditation	149
	4.2 Accreditation Criteria	149
	4.2.1 General Criteria and Principles	149
	4.2.2 Legal Entity	150
	4.2.3 Organizational Structure	150
	4.2.4 Liability and Financial Status	150
	4.2.5 Quality Management System (QMS)	151
	4.2.6 Personnel	153

4.2.7 Sub-contracting	154
4.2.8 Competence	154
4.2.9 Impartiality	155
4.2.10 Non-discrimination	155
4.2.11 Independence	155
4.2.12 Confidentiality	156
4.2.13 Conflict of Interest	156
4.2.14 Credibility	157
4.2.15 Accountability and Responsibility	157
4.2.16 Documentation and document control	158
4.2.17 Annual Report	159
4.2.18 Internal Audit and Management Review	159
4.2.19 Public Information	160
4.3 Accreditation Process	160
4.3.1 Application for Accreditation	160
4.3.2 Eligibility Criteria	161
4.3.3 Evaluation of Application	162
4.3.4 Grant of Accreditation	162
4.3.5 Accreditation Contract	163
4.3.6 Certificate of Accreditation	163
4.3.7 Tracenet	163
4.3.8 Annual Surveillance and Review Evaluation of Certification Bodies	163
4.3.9 Unannounced Evaluation visits	164
4.3.10 Renewal of Accreditation	164
4.4 Inspection and Certification Process	164
4.4.1 Inspection	165
4.4.2 Certification by Certification Body	170
4.4.3 Certification Records and Reports	172
4.4.4 Marks and Certificates	174
4.4.5 Certified Operators	176
4.4.6 Input Approval of Off Farm Inputs	177
4.4.7 Approval of Commercial Inputs	177

	4.4.8 Shifting of Operators	177
	4.4.9 Exchange of Information	179
	4.5 Reciprocity	179
	4.6 Import of Organic Products	180
	4.7 Use of Imported Organic Ingredients	180
	4.8 Re-export of a Product made from Imported Organic Ingredients	181
	4.9 Violations by Operator and Investigation by Certification Body	181
	4.9.1. Disciplinary measures and sanctions	181
	4.9.2. Withdrawal of certification	182
	4.9.3. Appeal against decision of the Certification Body	182
	4.9.4. Complaints record	183
	4.9.5. Appeals record	183
5.	Certification of Grower Groups	184 – 195
	5.1 Scope	184
	5.2 Requirements for Grower Groups	184
	5.3 Prerequisite for farmers registered in the Grower Group under NPOP	185
	5.4 Internal Control System	186
	5.5 Constitution, requirements & duties of the ICS of Grower Group	186
	5.6 Default by members	188
	5.7 ICS Personnel	188
	5.7.1. Internal Control System Manager (ICS Manager)	188
	5.7.2. Internal Inspectors	189
	5.7.3. Approval Committee	189
	5.7.4. Field Officers	189
	5.7.5. Purchase Officers	189
	5.7.6. Warehouse Manager	189
	5.7.7. Accounts/ Record Keeper	189
	5.8 Public Information	190
	5.9 Internal Standards	190
	5.10 Conflict of Interest	191
	5.11 Certification	191
	5.12 Trade	191

	5.13 Yield Estimates	191
	5.14 Procurement Process	191
	5.15 Storage and Handling	191
	5.16 Training of ICS Personnel	192
	5.17 Training of Farmers	192
	5.18 External Inspections by Certification Bodies	192
	5.18.1 Sampling Plan	193
	5.18.2 Risk Assessment	193
	5.18.3. External Inspection	194
	5.18.4 Non-compliance by members of Grower Group and Sanctions imposed by ICS	195
6.	Sanctions And Appeal	196- 206
	6.1 Violations by Certification Body and/or Operator	196
	6.1.1 Complaints & Investigation Procedure of Certification Body and/or Operator	196
	6.1.2 Sanctions	197
	6.1.3 Categories of non-conformities	197
	6.1.4 Minor non-conformity	197
	6.1.5 Major non-conformity	198
	6.1.6. Categories of Sanctions	198
	6.1.7 For imposition of Pecuniary Penalty	198
	6.1.8. Penalties not to interfere with other punishments	199
	6.1.9. Appeal by Certification Body/Operator	199
	6.2 Violations by Service Provider of the ICS	200
	Annexures 6(1)	201 – 206
7.	Organic Certification Mark	207 – 232
	7.1 Introduction	207
	7.2 India Organic Logo	207
	7.3 Concept of Organic Logo	209
	7.4 Regulations Governing Use of Certification Trademark 'India Organic Logo'	209
	7.4.1. Short Title and Commencement	209
	7.4.2. Definitions	209

	7.4.3. Use of the India Organic Logo; Authorized Users	211
	7.5. Manner of Applying for License	212
	7.6 Grant of License	214
	7.7 Conditions of License	215
	7.8 Fees	219
	7.9 Undertaking	220
	7.10 Surveillance and Regular Review	220
	7.11 Use of Certification Trademark	220
	7.12 Publicity	220
	7.13 Obligations of Applicant	221
	7.14 Surrender of License	222
	7.15 Powers of the Certification Body	222
	7.16 Misuse of License	223
	7.17 Appeals	224
	FORMS	225 – 232



INTRODUCTION

The National Programme for Organic Production (hereinafter referred to as 'NPOP' or 'Regulations') provides an institutional mechanism for implementation of the National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP), certification system, criteria, and procedure for accreditation of Certification Bodies, norms for the operation of certification bodies, the National (India Organic) Logo and the regulations governing its use.

These standards and procedures have been formulated in harmony with other International Standards regulating import and export of organic products. The NSOP are applicable to, including but not limited to, organic crops and horticulture products, organic livestock and poultry products, organic beekeeping/apiculture, organic aquaculture and process(es) as well.

For the purposes of implementation of the organic production system and exports, the standards and procedures laid down under NPOP are required to be strictly complied with.

The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India is the Apex body of the NPOP. The NPOP prescribes the regulatory requirements for trade in organic products notified under the provisions of the Foreign Trade Development Regulations Act, 1992 (FTDR).

These Regulations shall come into force on the date of its notification by the Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DGFT). Existing Certification Bodies and Operators shall have a period of six months thereafter to ensure complete compliance with the provisions of these Regulations.

Definitions

For the purposes of these Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Accreditation

Accreditation means a procedure adopted by the National Accreditation Body for ascertaining the competence of a Certification Body to certify organic farms, products and processes as per the National Standards for Organic Production.

2. Accredited Programme

The accredited programme is the programme of the Certification Body that has been approved by the National Accreditation Body on the basis that it is in compliance with the provisions of the National Programme for Organic Production.

3. Agricultural Raw Material

Agricultural Raw Material refers to substance that has not been subjected to any operation of preservation or processing used in the production or handling of organic agricultural products.

4. Annual Report

Annual Report is the report of previous year having the information on certification activities and the annual plan along with the data on certification, Operators, export, risk categorization etc. It shall also have the details on the inspections carried out and the number and nature of non-compliances identified by the Certification Body in the previous year

5. Applicant Body

Applicant body shall mean the organization seeking accreditation under the NPOP as a Certification Body.

6. Buffer Zone

A clearly defined and identifiable area separating/delineating an organic production/site from that of a conventional production unit.

7. Certificate of Accreditation

The Certificate of Accreditation is a document issued by APEDA, the NPOP Secretariat on behalf of the National Accreditation Body (NAB), to a Certification Body certifying that such Certification Body is compliant with the standards as envisaged under the NPOP and is competent to certify

Operators as per the standards specified in the National Standards for Organic Production.

8. Certification

Certification shall refer to the procedure by which a Certification Body by way of a Scope Certificate assures that the production or processing system of the Operator has been methodically assessed and that conforms to the specified requirements for organic production/processing as envisaged in the NPOP.

9. Certification Body

An organization accredited by the National Accreditation Body, for inspection and certification of the Operators for certifying organic products in accordance with the requirements under the NPOP and for granting the right to use the Certification Mark to the Operators on behalf of the Accreditation Body.

10. Certification mark

Certification mark shall mean the India Organic Logo, which is owned by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

11. Certification Programme

Certification Programme is the system operated by an applicant body or a Certification Body in accordance with the criteria for carrying out certification of conformity set out herein.

12. Chain of Custody

The chain of custody for organic products is the documented process that tracks the handling, processing, and distribution of organic products from their origin (viz., farm) to the final consumer. This process ensures that organic integrity is maintained throughout every stage, preventing contamination, substitution, or mixing with non-organic products.

13. Compliance

Compliance shall mean adherence to the norms/requirements and procedures laid down under the NPOP.

14. Co-mingling

Co-mingling refers to the contamination of organic products by conventional products.

15. Consultancy

Consultancy shall mean the advisory service for organic operations and does not include inspection and/or certification process/procedures.

16. Consignment

Consignment shall mean a quantity of product(s) under one or more Harmonized System codes, as notified by the DGFT, covered in a single transaction certificate issued by a Certification Body, conveyed by the same means of transport for export of organic products.

17. Conventional Farming

Conventional farming shall mean the farming systems dependent on application of agrochemicals and is not managed in conformity to the requirements applicable to organic production.

18. Conversion

Conversion is the transition of a production unit from Conventional Farming to Organic Production within the prescribed Conversion Period, during which the requirements of NPOP shall apply.

19. Conversion Period

Conversion Period is as defined at Regulation 3.1.2.

20. Endemic Species

An endemic species is a species found only in a single defined geographic location.

21. Evaluation

Evaluation is the process of systematic assessment of the performance of an Applicant Body or Certification Body seeking accreditation to the extent it fulfills specific requirements under the NPOP and includes surveillance of applicant body or Certification Body as well as renewal of accreditation of a Certification Body.

22. Evaluation Committee

A committee constituted by the NPOP Secretariat from the panel of experts approved by the NAB for carrying out audits for assessing and evaluating the applicant bodies and Certification Bodies for compliance with the requirements under the NPOP.

23. Evaluation Report

Evaluation Report shall mean the assessment report of the Evaluation Committee on the Certification Programme of a Certification Body under NPOP.

24. Equivalent

Equivalent means, in respect of different systems, capable of meeting the same objectives and principles by implementing the requirements to ensure equal level of assurance of conformity.

25. Farm Unit

A farm unit is the agricultural farm, area or production unit managed by a farmer or a group of farmers.

26. Food

Food refers to any substance, whether processed, partially processed, or unprocessed, which is intended for human consumption.

27. Food Additive

A food additive is any substance added as supplement or as enrichment, influencing the keeping quality and consistency of a food product.

28. Feed

Feed refers to substances, whether processed or unprocessed, including additives that are fed to animals for nutrition and sustenance.

29. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Refers to an organism whose genome has been engineered in order to favour the expression of desired physiological traits or the generation of desired biological products.

30. Grower Group

Grower Group is an organized group of farmers who produce organic products and/or engage in organic production processes in accordance with the National Standards of Organic Production and NPOP and complies with Chapter 5 of this NPOP.

31. Hatchery (Aquaculture)

A hatchery is a facility for breeding, hatching, and rearing of the early life stages of the species selected for fisheries/aquaculture.

32. In-conversion Production Unit

Means a unit of land that is under the Conversion Period in transition to organic agriculture. The first year of Conversion Period is referred as In-conversion (IC) 1, second year as IC 2 and third year (in case of perennials) as IC 3.

33. Inspection

Inspection shall include the site visit of, including but not limited, to farm, processing and/or trading unit, to verify that the performance of an Operator is in accordance with the production, processing and chain of custody requirements as prescribed under the NPOP.

34. Inspector

A person assigned by a Certification Body for an Inspection.

35. Internal Review

An internal review is an assessment done by a Certification Body on the working of its certification programme.

36. Internal Control System (ICS)

Each Grower Group shall have an internal control system consisting of farmers who are members of such Grower Group, and such Internal Control System shall ensure that all requirements under the NPOP and NPOP Procedures are met by each member of such Grower Group.

37. ISO 17065

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has laid down ISO 17065 norms, which provides general requirements for Certification Bodies operating certification system.

38. ISO 17011

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has laid down ISO 17011 which provides the general requirements for an accreditation body for granting accreditation to the Certification Bodies.

39. Labelling

Labelling shall mean any written, printed or graphic representation that is depicted on any document, packaging, label etc. of a product that accompanies or refers to it.

40. License

The license is a permission granted to an Operator by a Certification Body on behalf of the National Accreditation Body to use the Certification mark “India Organic Logo” to certify that their product(s) and/or process(es) are organic.

41. Livestock

Livestock includes any domestic or domesticated animal including bovine (including buffalo and bison), ovine, porcine, caprine, equine, poultry and bees raised for food or are involved in the production of food. The products of hunting of wild animals or fishing shall not be considered part of this definition.

42. Minor Non-Conformity

Minor non-conformity is as defined in Regulation 6.1.4.

43. Major Non-Conformity

Major non-conformity is as defined in Regulation 6.1.5.

44. Management Review

Management review is the evaluation of the overall performance of an organization’s quality management system carried out by the organization’s top management on a regular basis to identify improvement opportunities.

45. National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

The National Programme for Organic Production is a programme of the Government of India which provides an institutional mechanism for implementation of the National Standards for Organic Production.

46. National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP)

The National Standards for Organic Production set out the standards to be followed in the cultivation, harvest, production, processing and trading of organic products.

47. Non-Conformity

Non-conformity is a condition when a product, process, procedure, system, or structure deviates from the requirements of the National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP).

48. No Objection Certificate (NOC)

An approval issued by a Certification Body when its Operator wants to shift to another Certification Body under NPOP.

49. Nursery (aquaculture)

Nursery means a facility, where the hatchery reared seeds are grown before stocking in the grow-out ponds.

50. Operator

An Operator is a producer, processor, trader, or Grower Group who engages in activities such as cultivation, processing, handling and trading of organic products in accordance with NPOP standards and registered under the NPOP and certified by a Certification Body under NPOP.

51. Operating Manual

An Operating manual is a document describing the standard procedures followed by the applicant body or Certification Bodies for their operations.

52. Organic

Organic refers to product(s) or process(es) that adhere to the standards laid down in the NPOP.

53. Organic Production

Production that is compliant with the National Standards for Organic Production as prescribed under the NPOP is 'organic production'.

54. Organic Production Unit

Organic Production Unit refers to a unit of land where organic production activities are carried out as per the NPOP standards.

55. Organic Product

Organic Product means a product resulting from organic production and processing of organic products as per the NPOP standards.

56. Parallel Production

Parallel production is the simultaneous production/processing/handling of crop(s) or product(s) in organic and non-organic systems of visually indistinguishable crops/ products.

57. Periphyton (Aquaculture)

Community of tiny, aquatic plant and animal organisms attached or clinging to plants and other objects projecting above the bottom of an aquatic environment.

58. Plant Protection Product

Plant protection product shall mean any substance intended for preventing, destroying, attracting, repelling, or controlling any pest or disease including unwanted species of plants or animals during the production, storage, transport, distribution and processing of food, agricultural commodities, or animal feeds.

59. Polyculture

Polyculture in aquaculture refers to the practice of rearing two or more species, typically from different trophic levels, within a single culture unit.

60. Processing Aid

A substance or material not consumed as a food ingredient by itself but used in the processing of raw materials, food or its ingredients, to fulfill a certain technological purpose during treatment or processing.

61. Processed Products

Processed product shall mean foodstuffs resulting from the processing of unprocessed products.

62. Producer

A producer shall mean an individual farmer/group of farmers/business enterprise practising organic farming.

63. Production Cycle (Aquaculture)

Production cycle shall mean production of eggs, larvae, post larval stage, juveniles or adults during the life cycle of the candidate species in aquaculture.

64. Production Unit (Aquaculture)

Production unit shall mean specific unit(s) used for production purposes including bacterium, nurseries and grow out facilities, either land based, or water based, used for production purpose of any stage of the production process in aquaculture.

65. Quality Manual

A Quality manual is a document containing the quality policy, quality objectives, structure and description of the quality system of an organization. A quality manual explains how the requirements of a quality standard are to be met and identifies the person responsible for quality management functions.

66. Remote Setting (Aquaculture)

Remote setting is a technique that uses hatchery larvae to produce spat on shell for planting oyster grounds.

67. Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is done to identify potential risk in production and handling systems of organic products in order to check the infringement in the entire process for maintaining organic nature of the produce/product.

68. Scope Certificate

Scope Certificate under NPOP is a certificate issued by a Certification Body to an Operator annually in a prescribed format specifying the scope of the Operator in terms of production, processing, and handling.

69. Service Provider

The service provider is an external body (e.g., Self-Help Groups / NGOs / Private/Govt. Agency/Cooperative Society) engaged by a Grower Group for a specified period of time on payment of mutually agreed service charges and who shall perform all duties and responsibility of the ICS under the NPOP and all provisions applicable to an ICS under the NPOP, including sanctions, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to such service provider.

70. Standards

Standards shall mean the National Standards for Organic Production approved by the National Steering Committee under the National Programme for Organic Production.

71. Stocking Density (Aquaculture)

Stocking density shall mean the number of animals stocked per unit area of the production unit, such as square meter area of the pond.

72. Traceability

Means the ability to trace back the flow of organic materials in all stages of production, processing, and trading.

73. Tracenet

A web-based Certification cum traceability system implemented by APEDA for use by Certification Bodies and Operators under the NPOP and monitoring of the process certification for export of organic products from India under NPOP.

74. Transaction Certificate

The Transaction Certificate or TC is a certificate issued by a Certification Body to its Operator for every transaction of sale of organic products under NPOP. TCs are issued by a Certification Body upon verification of documents submitted by an Operator to ensure transparency in operations and traceability of organic product in the supply chain.

75. Provisional Transaction Certificate

Provisional Transaction Certificate or PTC is a transaction certificate issued prior to exports in the prescribed format which bears all the details pertaining to the shipment of a particular organic consignment except the transportation details. After the shipment, the transport details are entered for issuance of transaction certificate for export.

76. Trader

Trader is a legal entity involved in the transaction of organic products, either in domestic or international markets, without making any alterations to the organic product.

77. Veterinary Drug

Veterinary drug shall mean any substance applied or administered to any food producing animal, such as meat or milk-producing animals, poultry, fish, or bees, whether used for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic purposes or for modification of physiological functions or behavior.



SCOPE AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION

2.1 Scope

The NPOP shall, *inter alia*, include the following:

- a. Policies for development and certification of organic products as notified by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India from time to time.
- b. National Standards for organic products, processing, handling and labelling.
- c. Accreditation of certification programmes to be operated by Certification Bodies.
- d. Certification of organic products.
- e. India Organic Logo and regulations governing its use.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of the NPOP, *inter alia*, include the following:

- a. To assess and accredit certification programme of Certification Bodies seeking accreditation under this programme.
- b. To provide the procedure for evaluation of the certification programme of Certification Bodies under this programme.
- c. To develop National Standards for Organic Production, processing, handling, and labelling for different product categories.
- d. To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the importing countries' organic standards as per mutual recognition agreement.
- e. To encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly farm ecosystem.
- f. Ensure that the certification system is transparent, easy to follow and is in line with international best practices.
- g. Ensure transparency in the operations of the Operators.

2.3 OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The operational structure of the NPOP is given in figure. 1 below:

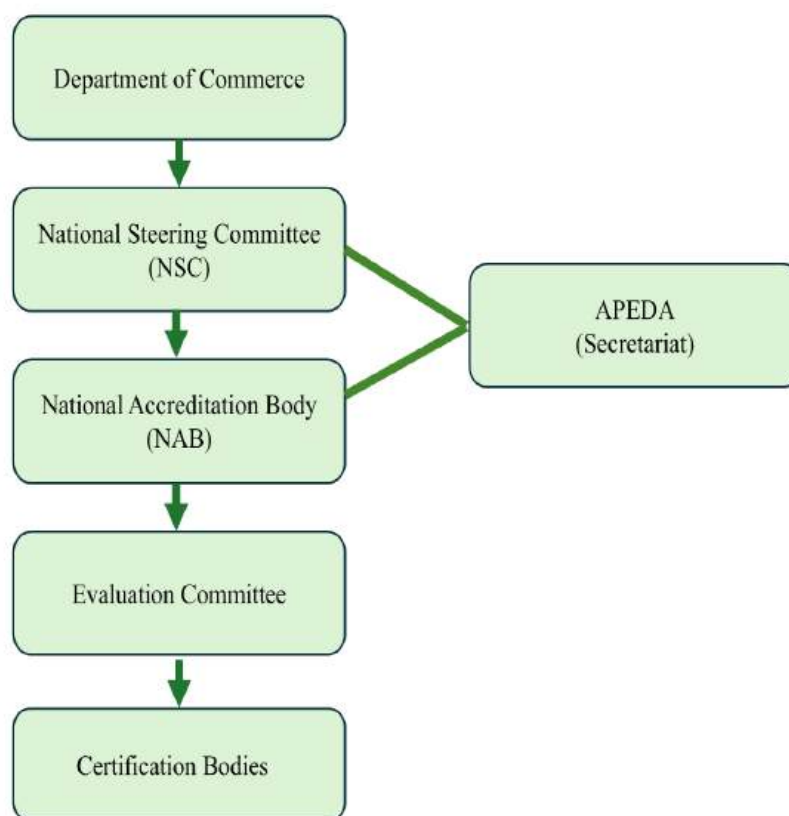


Figure 1

2.4 OPERATIONAL SETUP

The Operational set-up under the NPOP is as under:

- a. Department of Commerce (DOC)
- b. National Steering Committee (NSC)
- c. National Accreditation Body (NAB)
- d. Technical Committee
- e. Evaluation Committee
- f. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) – The NPOP Secretariat
- g. Certification Bodies
- h. Operators

2.4.1 Department of Commerce (DoC)

The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) is operated under

the overall guidance and directions of the Department of Commerce, Government of India. The Department of Commerce shall act as the Apex body under the NPOP.

2.4.2 National Steering Committee (NSC)

- a. The Department of Commerce shall constitute an apex policy formulation committee called the National Steering Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'NSC') to be headed by the Commerce Secretary, Government of India as its Chairperson. The Commerce Secretary may nominate any other officer to chair the NSC meeting as and when required.
- b. The NSC shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of the NPOP. The Secretariat of the NSC shall be APEDA (the NPOP Secretariat).
- c. The members of the NSC shall consist of officers from:
 - i. Additional Secretary-cum-Chairperson NAB, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce
 - ii. Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DGFT)
 - iii. CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
 - iv. Joint Secretary, INM Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 - v. Joint Secretary (Marketing), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 - vi. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation
 - vii. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 - viii. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
 - ix. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
 - x. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
 - xi. Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
 - xii. Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
 - xiii. Secretary, Spices Board
 - xiv. Secretary, Coffee Board

- xv. Deputy Chairman, Tea Board
- xvi. Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- xvii. Four representatives from the following groups of States/UTs, on a rotation cycle of two years,
 - a. One representative from Himalayan states/ UTs namely Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand,
 - b. One representative from North-Eastern Region (NER) namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, and
 - c. Two representatives from other remaining States/UTs.
- xviii. One representative from Organic trade/industry, to be nominated by the NSC Chairperson
- d. The designated representatives from the members of Ministries/ Departments shall be the Ex-officio members of the NSC. The NSC shall have the power to co-opt members other than those mentioned in this clause or as notified by Government of India from time to time.
- e. The NSC may appoint sub-committee(s), as deemed fit, for the effective implementation of the NPOP.
- f. The responsibilities of the NSC shall *inter alia*, include the following:
 - i. Approving the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) which would include the NSOP as well as the regulations for use of the Certification Trademark "India Organic Logo".
 - ii. Approving changes in composition of members of NSC.
 - iii. Constituting the National Accreditation Body (NAB).
- g. The NSC shall meet at least once a year to review the functioning of the NPOP and take decisions on various policy matters concerning the implementation and functioning of the NPOP. The quorum for the meeting shall be 30% of its total strength.

2.4.3 National Accreditation Body (NAB)

- a. The National Accreditation Body (NAB) is the Apex body for accreditation of the Certification Bodies under the NPOP, oversight and review of their certification activities and taking appropriate action where deviation/violation are observed in the certification programme of the Certification Bodies.

- b. NAB shall consist of members representing the following organizations.
- i. Joint Secretary INM Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 - ii. Joint Secretary (Marketing), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 - iii. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation
 - iv. Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
 - v. Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
 - vi. Secretary, Spices Board
 - vii. Secretary, Coffee Board
 - viii. Deputy Chairman, Tea Board
 - ix. Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
 - x. Executive Director (Regulatory Compliance), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
 - xi. Director/Deputy Secretary (EP-Agri), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
 - xii. Head Extension, Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)
- c. The Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce nominated by the Commerce Secretary shall be the Chairperson of the NAB.
- d. The NAB may appoint sub-committees, as deemed fit, for the effective implementation of the NPOP.
- e. The NAB shall have the power to co-opt members other than those mentioned in the para above as notified by the Government of India from time to time.
- f. The NAB shall meet at least twice a year for the review of the functioning and operation of the NPOP.
- g. The responsibilities of the NAB shall include:
- i. Formulating procedures for accreditation and evaluation of the Certification Bodies
 - ii. Oversight on procedures/processes of Certification Bodies
 - iii. Empanelment of the Evaluation Committee members
 - iv. Reviewing the certification programme of the Certification Bodies

- v. Accreditation of the Certification Bodies
 - vi. Imposing sanctions on the Certification Bodies
 - vii. Oversight on the Operators
 - viii. Any other matter pertaining to the implementation of NPOP
 - ix. Imposing sanctions on the Operators
 - x. any other role or responsibility assigned to the NAB from time to time under the NPOP
- h. The quorum for NAB meeting shall be 30% of its total strength.

2.4.4 The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) – Role under NPOP

- a. The APEDA shall function as the Secretariat for implementation of the NPOP.
- b. The responsibilities of APEDA, as its Secretariat, shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
 - i. Organize and convene all the meetings under NPOP
 - ii. Receive and screen applications from the applicant bodies and coordinate and arrange their evaluations.
 - iii. To ensure transparency in the operations of all stakeholders involved in organic production under NPOP.
 - iv. Audit/Evaluation/Surveillance of Certification Bodies
 - v. Preparation of assessment reports for placing before the NAB
 - vi. Implementation of the decisions of the NSC, NAB and the Committees constituted under the NPOP.
 - vii. Investigation of complaints received in the operation of the NPOP from importing countries/ stakeholders.
 - viii. Issue necessary implementation guidelines to the Certification Bodies for inspection and certification from time to time.
 - ix. Entering into Mutual Recognition Agreements for trade in organic products with potential trading partners.
 - x. Implementation of recognition agreement with the trading partners.
 - xi. Monitoring and Surveillance of the certification bodies through online traceability system Tracenet and oversight of the Operators.
 - xii. Capacity building on the NPOP standards of the concerned

stakeholders.

- xiii. Operating NPOP helpdesk and resolving issues raised by Operators regarding certification bodies/ compliance of NPOP guidelines/ traceability of NPOP systems.
 - xiv. Coordinating with other departments for the growth of organic ecosystem in India.
 - xv. Establish and strengthening organic laboratory ecosystem as per the norms/requirements of the importing countries.
 - xvi. Any other functions assigned by the NSC/NAB from time to time.
- c. APEDA shall meet the requirements of ISO17011 for accreditation of Certification Bodies under the NPOP.

2.4.5 Technical Committee

The NAB may constitute various Technical Committee(s) comprising of experts drawn from relevant field/organizations to formulate technical standards, suggest amendments/changes in the existing standards, review of the standards from time to time and to advise on relevant issues pertaining to the organic sector.

2.4.6 Evaluation Committee (EC)

- a. APEDA shall constitute an Evaluation Committee to evaluate the implementation of certification programme of Certification Body. The NAB shall approve panel of experts qualified in the field of agricultural sciences or any related field covered under the scope of NPOP. These experts shall be drawn from organizations or independent auditors that are not involved in certification activities. They shall sign a contract of confidentiality with APEDA. The experts should be well versed in audit procedures.
- b. The Evaluation Committee shall be drawn from this panel of experts and shall comprise of three experts. Two experts shall constitute the quorum. Such Evaluation Committee will evaluate the Certification Body at least once in a year and shall submit its evaluation report to APEDA after completion of the evaluation.
- c. The Certification Body shall not be evaluated by the same Evaluation Committee for consecutive years, to ensure transparency and professionalism.

2.4.7 Certification Bodies

Certification Bodies are agencies accredited by the National Accreditation

Body under NPOP for certifying organic products. The Certification Bodies shall certify Operator(s) as per the scope of accreditation approved by the NAB.

2.4.8 Operator

As defined in Clause 50, Definitions, Chapter 1 of NPOP.

2.4.9 Tracenet

- a. Tracenet is a web-based Certification-cum-Traceability System, developed and implemented by APEDA, for the monitoring of Process Certification (Production, Processing and Trade), for the export of organic products from India, in compliance with the NPOP.
- b. It is mandatory for all Certification Bodies and Operators under NPOP to operate through the Tracenet for inspection and certification under NPOP.
- c. Only authorized registered stakeholders (Certification Bodies & Operators) may access the Tracenet system. All the required organic process certification and certificates such as Scope Certificate & Transaction Certificate (including provisional) shall be issued through Tracenet, with a unique verifiable code.
- d. Besides the standard operations of certification, the Tracenet will cover the overall monitoring and surveillance of the certification processes under NPOP. This involves:
 - i. Identifying risks through Data Analytics
 - ii. Real-time Monitoring
 - iii. Predictive analytics
- e. Based on the risks and alerts detected by the system appropriate enforcement shall be taken wherein deviation from the NPOP requirements and wilful violation of standards are observed.

3

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION (NSOP)

This chapter of NPOP refers to the production, processing, handling and labelling standards for organic production of the following product categories:

- i. Crop Production
- ii. Livestock, Poultry and Products
- iii. Beekeeping/Apiculture
- iv. Aquaculture Production
- v. Processing & Handling
- vi. Animal Feed Processing & Handling
- vii. Mushroom Production
- viii. Sea weed, Aquatic plants and Green house Crop Production

3.1 ORGANIC CROP PRODUCTION

Organic crop production management should cover a diverse planting scheme. For perennial crops, this should include plant-based ground cover crops. For annual crops, this should include diverse crop rotation practices, cover crops (green manures), inter-cropping or other diverse plant production methods.

3.1.1 Crop Production Plan

- a. The Producer seeking certification under the NSOP shall be required to develop an organic crop production plan. Such plan shall include:
 - i. Description of the crops in the production cycle (main crop and intercrop) as per the cropping season.
 - ii. Description of practices and procedures to be performed and maintained.
 - iii. List of inputs used in production along with their composition, frequency of usage, application rate and source of commercial

- availability.
 - iv. Source of organic planting material (seeds and seedlings).
 - v. Description of monitoring practices and procedures to be performed and maintained to verify that the production plan is being implemented effectively.
 - vi. Description of the management practices and physical barriers established to prevent co-mingling and contamination of organic production unit from conventional farm, split operations and parallel operations.
 - vii. Description of the record-keeping system implemented to comply with the requirements.
- b. The Operators are required to inform the Certification Bodies “on real time basis” of any changes in the organic system plan/ organic production and handling plan.

3.1.2 Conversion Requirements

- i. The establishment of an organic management system and building of soil fertility requires an interim period, known as the Conversion Period. It is the period in which all the actions required to reach these goals are started.
- ii. A farm may be converted through a clear plan of how to proceed with the conversion. This plan shall be updated by the producer, if necessary, and shall cover all requirements to be met under these standards.
- iii. The requirements prescribed under these standards shall be met during the Conversion Period. All these requirements shall be applicable from the commencement of the Conversion Period.
- iv. The start of the Conversion Period may be calculated from the date of first inspection of the Operator by the Certification Body.
- v. Notwithstanding above requirements, a full Conversion Period shall not be required if conditions as specified under Regulation 3.1.4 are met.

3.1.3 Duration of Conversion Period

- i. In case of annual and biennial crops, plant products produced can be certified organic when the requirements prescribed under these Standards have been met during the Conversion Period of at least two (2) years (Organic Management) before sowing (the start of the production cycle).
- ii. In case of perennial plants other than grassland (excluding pastures and meadows), the first harvest may be certified as organic after at least three (3) years of organic management, according to the requirements prescribed under these Standards.
- iii. The Certification Bodies shall decide, in certain cases, for extension or reduction of the Conversion Period, depending on the past status/ use of the land and environmental conditions.

3.1.4 Derogation to Conversion Period

Previous period may be considered as upto full Conversion Period for annual as well as perennial crops, as an exception, wherein documentary proof is available that the following requirements have been met, for a continuous period of minimum three (3) years or more.

A. Requirements

The derogation in Conversion Period may be allowed for any one of the following categories of cases:

- i. The land has been certified under the '**Participatory Guarantee System**' (PGS), implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for a continuous period of three (3) years, immediately preceding the period for which recognition as Conversion Period has been sought.

No sanctions have been imposed on the applicant, during this period, pertaining to non-compliances affecting the integrity of organic processes.

- ii. The land is located in the Hilly Areas¹ of Himalayan States/UTs namely

¹ Any Area having an altitude of more than 600 Meters from the Mean Sea Level or an average slope of 30 Degrees, as per the National Building Code.

Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the North Eastern Region, and the said Hilly Area has been notified by the State/UT as natural which has not been treated with products or substances which are not permitted for use in organic production as prescribed under the NPOP for a minimum continuous period of three (3) years.

B. Documentary evidence

The application for derogation shall be submitted by the applicant to the Certification Body, enclosing the following documents:

I: Land Certified under the 'Participatory Guarantee System'

- a. Submission of valid PGS certificate.
- b. Verification of the validity of the submitted PGS certificate from National Centre for Organic & Natural Farming (NCONF) regarding status of the PGS group and on sanctions imposed, if any.

II: Land located in the hilly regions of Himalayan States/UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the North Eastern Region.

- a. A copy of the notification issued by the State/UT government, notifying the said area (where the applicant's land is located), as natural, which has not been treated with products or substances that are not permitted for use in organic production as prescribed under the NPOP, for a minimum continuous period of three (3) years.
- b. A map with geo coordinates depicting the land for which reduction in conversion period has been requested.

C. Verification by the Certification body

Based on the above documentary evidence as stipulated under A(I) or A(II), the verification procedure to be followed by a Certification Body shall be as under:

- i. Conduct physical verification of the geo location of the land for which

- derogation has been requested.
- ii. Verify the records of the Operators for the cultivation practices followed.
 - iii. Conduct a detailed risk analysis for use of unauthorized substances for the previous three years. Take samples of soil and plants for residue analysis from fields of each member of the group.
 - iv. Prepare a detailed report on the requested derogation for Conversion Period with detailed justification and submit to APEDA for processing.
 - v. Final decision shall be made by the NAB Sub Committee constituted for this purpose.

3.1.5 Organic products in conversion

Organic products in conversion shall not be sold as Organic. However, the following products may be sold as produce of organic agriculture in-conversion with the below mentioned conditions:

- a. Plant reproductive materials where the requirements prescribed under these Standards have been met for at least twelve months.
- b. Food and feed products of plant origin with only single agricultural crop ingredient provided that the requirements prescribed under these standards have been met and a Conversion Period of at least 12 months before the harvest has been complied with. Such products shall not be labelled as Organic and Indian organic logo shall not be used for in-conversion products.

3.1.6 Ecosystem

- i. Organic farming would contribute beneficially to the ecosystem. The certification programme shall set standards/procedures for a minimum percentage of the farm area to facilitate biodiversity and nature conservation.
- ii. Areas which are managed organically would facilitate biodiversity and nature conservation.

3.1.7 Choice of Crops and Varieties

- i. All seeds and plant material shall be certified organic. Species

and varieties cultivated shall be adapted to the soil and climatic conditions and be resistant to pests and diseases. In the choice of varieties, genetic diversity shall be taken into consideration.

- ii. When organic seeds and plant materials are available, they shall be used.
 - a. When certified organic seed and plant materials are not available, chemically untreated conventional seed and plant material shall be used.
 - b. The producer shall intimate the Certification Body for use of in-conversion or non-organic seeds and plant material, season wise in their system plan and the same shall be verified during inspection by the CB.
 - c. The use of genetically engineered seeds, transgenic plants or plant material is strictly prohibited.

3.1.8 Diversity in Crop Production & Management Plan

- i. The basis for crop production in organic farming shall take into consideration the structure and fertility of the soil and the surrounding ecosystem, with a view to minimizing nutrient losses.
- ii. Where appropriate, the organic farms shall be required to maintain sufficient diversity in a manner that takes into account pressure from insects, weeds, diseases and other pests, while maintaining or increasing soil, organic matter, fertility, microbial activity and general soil health.
- iii. Soil fertility shall be maintained through, amongst other things, the cultivation of legumes or deep-rooted plants and the use of green manures, along with the establishment of a programme of crop rotation several times a year and fertilization with organic inputs.

3.1.9 Nutrient Management

- i. Sufficient quantities of biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin produced on organic farms shall form the basis of the nutrient management programme to increase or at least maintain

- its fertility and the biological activity within it.
- ii. Fertilization management should minimize nutrient losses. Accumulation of heavy metals and other pollutants shall be prevented.
 - iii. Non-synthetic mineral fertilizers and brought-in bio fertilizers (of biological origin) shall be regarded as supplementary and not as a replacement for nutrient recycling.
 - iv. Desired- pH levels shall be maintained in the soil by the producer.
 - v. The certification programme shall set limitations to the total amount of biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin brought onto the farm unit, taking into account local conditions and the specific nature of the crops.
 - vi. Mineral fertilizers shall only be used in a supplementary role to carbon based materials. Only those organic or mineral fertilizers that are brought in to the farm (including potting compost) shall be used when, the circumstances demand in accordance with **Annex 3(1)**.
 - vii. Permission for use shall only be given when other fertility management practices have been optimized/ exhausted.
 - viii. Manures containing human excreta (faeces and urine) shall not be permitted to be used so as to prevent transmission of pests, parasites and infectious agents.
 - ix. Mineral fertilizers shall be applied in their natural composition and shall not be rendered more soluble by chemical treatment. The certification programme may grant exceptions as prescribed in **Annex 3(1)**. These exceptions shall not include mineral fertilizers containing nitrogen.
 - x. The certification programme shall lay down restrictions for the use of inputs such as mineral potassium, magnesium fertilizers, trace elements, manures and fertilizers with a relatively high heavy metal content and/or other unwanted substances, e.g. basic slag, rock phosphate and sewage sludge. All synthetic nitrogenous fertilizers are prohibited.

3.1.10 Pest, Disease and Weed Management

- i. Organic farming systems shall be carried out in a way which ensures that losses from pests, diseases and weeds are minimized. Emphasis is placed on the use of a balanced fertilizing programme, use of crops and varieties well-adapted to the environment, adapted rotations, intercropping, green manures, etc. Growth and development shall take place in a natural manner.
- ii. Weeds, pests and diseases shall be controlled through a number of preventive cultural techniques which limit their development in a balanced nutrient management programme, e.g. suitable rotations, green manures, early and pre-drilling seed bed preparations, mulching, mechanical control and the disturbance of pest development cycles. Accredited certification programmes shall ensure that suitable measures are in place to prevent transmission of pests, parasites and infectious agents.
- iii. Pest management shall be regulated by understanding and disrupting the ecological needs of the pests. The natural enemies of pests and diseases shall be protected and encouraged through proper habitat management of hedges, nesting sites etc. An ecological equilibrium shall be created and maintained to bring about a balance in the pest predator cycle.
- iv. Products used for pest, disease and weed management, prepared at the farm from local plants, animals and microorganisms, shall be allowed. If the ecosystem or the quality of organic products might be jeopardized, the certification programme shall judge if the product is acceptable as per the procedure given to evaluate additional inputs to organic agriculture.
- v. Thermic weed control and physical methods for pest, disease and weed management shall be permitted.
- vi. Thermic sterilization of soils to combat pests and diseases shall be restricted to circumstances where a proper rotation or renewal of

soil cannot take place. The certification programme on a case-by-case basis may only give permission.

- vii. All equipment from conventional farming systems shall be properly cleaned and free from residues before being used on organically managed areas.
- viii. The use of synthetic herbicides, fungicides, growth regulators, synthetic dyes insecticides and other pesticides are prohibited.
- ix. Use of Ethylene Oxide (ETO) is strictly prohibited.
- x. Permitted products for plant pest and disease control are listed in Annex -3(2). The producer shall keep documentary evidences of the need to use the product.
- xi. Commercial products used as inputs shall always be evaluated as per the criteria given in Annex -3(3) by the Certification Body before approval is given for use.
- xii. The use of genetically engineered organisms or products is prohibited.

3.1.11 Contamination Control

- i. All relevant measures shall be taken to minimize contamination from outside and within the farm.
- ii. An adequate buffer zone shall be maintained to prevent contamination from conventional farms. The buffer Zone should be sufficient in size to prevent the possibility of unintended contact of prohibited substances applied to adjacent conventional land areas/farms.
- iii. Crops including seeds and forage in the buffer zone being non-organic shall not be brought in the supply chain of organic products.
- iv. The buffer zone and separation measures shall be verified by the Certification Body during annual inspections.

- v. In case of reasonable suspicion of contamination, the certification programme shall make sure that an analysis of the relevant products and possible sources of pollution (soil and water) shall take place to determine the level of contamination.
- vi. Polyethylene and Polypropylene or other polycarbonates coverings such as plastic mulches, fleeces, insect net and silage wrapping, only are allowed. These also shall be removed from the soil after use and shall not be burnt on the farmland. The use of polychloride based products is prohibited.

3.1.12 Soil and Water Conservation

- i. Soil and water resources shall be handled in a sustainable manner. Relevant measures shall be taken to prevent erosion, salination of soil to prevent the excessive and improper use of water and the pollution of ground and surface water.
- ii. Clearing of land through the means of burning organic matter, e.g. slash-and-burn, straw burning shall be restricted to the minimum. The clearing of primary forest is strictly prohibited.
- iii. The certification programme shall check appropriate stocking rates which do not lead to land degradation and pollution of ground and surface water.

3.1.13 Collection of non-cultivated material of plant origin / forest produces.

- i. The collection of wild plants and parts thereof, grown naturally, and in forest shall be certified as organic provided the collection areas have not received any treatment with products other than those authorized for use in organic production.
- ii. In case cultivation is carried out in forest area, the Operators shall follow similar procedures of organic farm cultivation.
- iii. Organic collection management should ensure that in case of minor forest produce collection, the relevant State/UT Government's law shall be applicable and should not exceed sustainable yield of the

collected species or otherwise threaten the local ecosystem.

- iv. The act of collection should positively contribute to the maintenance of natural areas. When harvesting or gathering the products, attention shall be paid to maintenance and sustainability of the ecosystem. Organic Operators should collect products only from within the boundaries of the clearly defined wild collection area.
- v. Wild harvested products shall only be certified organic, if derived from a stable and sustainable growing environment. Harvesting or gathering the product shall not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem, or threaten the existence of plant or animal species.
- vi. Products can only be certified organic, if derived from a designated area for collection, clearly depicted in the map of the authorized area of collection by the forest- department or state department, which is subject to inspection.
- vii. The wild collector certified under NPOP shall possess the required permit for collection and transportation from the forest area.
- viii. The Certification Body shall verify the permission letter of the forest department for the product and yield permitted for collection. Further, an approved map of the forest department, clearly depicting the collection area should be available with the Operator and verified by the Certification Body, before certifying for wild collection.
- ix. The collection area shall be at an appropriate distance from conventional farming so as to rule out pollution and contamination.
- x. The producer managing the harvesting or gathering of the products shall be clearly identified and be familiar with the collecting area in question.

3.2 ORGANIC LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

3.2.1 Scope

Livestock standards prescribed under these rules refer to any domestic

and domesticated animal including bovine (including buffalo, Mithun), ovine (sheep), porcine (pig/swine), caprine (goat), rabbits, poultry, insects and bees and/ or any other animal notified by the FSSAI from time to time, raised for food/ fibre or in the production of food and fibre, their derivatives and by-products. The products of hunting or fishing of wild animals shall not be considered part of livestock standards.

3.2.2 General principles

Organic livestock production in general is a land based activity and shall be an integral part of organic farm unit and management of livestock shall be in consistent with the principles of organic farming and shall base on:

- a. Natural breeding;
- b. Protection of animal health and welfare;
- c. Fed with organic feed and fodder;
- d. Access to grazing in organic fields;
- e. Freedom to express natural behaviour;
- f. Reduction of stress and
- g. Prohibition of use of chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary drugs, antibiotics, hormones, growth boosters, feed additives etc.

Landless livestock production where the Operator does not have organically managed land and/ or has not established a written cooperation agreement with another certified organic Operator in compliance of the rules specified in 3.1 of these rules is prohibited.

In cases where traditional rearing system of the farm and/or adverse climatic conditions does not allow easy access to pastures, livestock may be produced through providing organic feed certified under these rules, provided the indoor and outdoor space requirements, specified under these rules are fully met (Clause 3.2.6).

3.2.3 Organic Management Plan

During the registration of the farm by the Certification Body, the producer has to present an organic management plan which requires to be verified during the inspection. This plan shall be updated annually. The Operators

are required to inform the Certification Bodies “on real time basis” of any changes in the organic management plan.

3.2.4 Choice of Breeds, Source and Origin

3.2.4.1 Choice of Breeds

The choice of livestock and poultry, breeds, strains and breeding methods shall be consistent with the principles of organic farming, taking into account, in particular the following:

- i. Their adaptation to the local climatic conditions and
- ii. Their vitality and resistance to diseases

3.2.4.2 Sources/ Origin

- i. Organic livestock shall be born or hatched and raised on organic production units complying with these guidelines, or must be the offspring of parents raised under the conditions set down in these guidelines;
- ii. Transfer of livestock and poultry between organic and non-organic units shall not be permitted. The Certification Body shall ensure that brought in livestock and poultry from other units comply with these Guidelines;
- iii. Livestock and poultry raised on non-organic production units shall be converted to organic as per these Guidelines;
- iv. When a producer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Certification Body that the organic source livestock are not available, the Certification Body may allow such livestock and poultry under the following circumstances:
 - a. When the producer is establishing an organic livestock and poultry operation for the first time;
 - b. When the producer wants to change the livestock and poultry breed/strain or when new livestock and poultry specialization is developed;
 - c. For the renewal of a herd, e.g., due to high mortality of animals

- caused by catastrophic circumstances; and
- d. When the producer wishes to introduce breeding males into the farm. In all such cases product of such animals shall qualify for organic only after completion of Conversion Period specified under Regulation 3.2.7 of the NPOP.
 - v. When a herd/flock is constituted for the first time, non-organic young animals may be introduced for breeding purpose. However, they shall be reared as per NSOP immediately after they are weaned. Additionally, the following restrictions shall apply on the date on which those animals enter the herd or flock:
 - (a) Bovine animals shall be less than six months old;
 - (b) Ovine animals and caprine animals shall be less than 60 days old;
 - (c) Porcine shall weigh less than 35 kg;
 - (d) Rabbits shall be less than three months old.
 - vi. When initially forming, renewing, or reconstituting a flock, and if the qualitative and quantitative needs of farmers cannot be fulfilled, non-organically raised poultry may be introduced into an organic poultry production unit with the Certification Body's approval. However, such poultry must be less than three days old, with their products eligible for organic designation only after adhering to the specified conversion period.

3.2.5 Livestock Identification and Animal Record Keeping

3.2.5.1 Livestock identification

- i. Each animal /herd /batch shall bear unique identification number. Large animals including bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine etc shall bear individual number in the form of tag, while poultry birds and small mammals shall be identified with herd/ flock/ batch;
- ii. Identification devices on the animals can be printed ear tags, RFID tags, Barcodes or any other suitable tag which is clearly visible.

3.2.5.2 Record keeping

Following data for each animal/ herd or batch shall be maintained and made available to the Certification Body for verification during inspection:

- i. Parent details;
- ii. Source and purchase details;
- iii. Animal details;
- iv. Breeding details;
- v. Feeding details;
- vi. Healthcare details including details of vaccination, medication, veterinarian prescription and withdrawal period etc;
- vii. Production details;
- viii. Sale details and
- ix. Any other relevant details

3.2.6 Housing and Management

- i. The housing and day-to-day management of the animal, maintenance of sanitation, hygiene, biosecurity and environment shall be planned to suit the specific behavioural needs of the livestock and poultry and shall provide for sufficient space to ensure free movement and opportunity to express normal patterns of behaviour.
- ii. The animals should not be tied, however animals can be confined for specific reasons, such as, milking, for some medical procedures, controlled grazing, during night time and for health and safety of animal.
- iii. Farms with less than 50 adult animals are the only ones eligible for tethering of cattle, subject to authorization by the Certification Body.
- iv. Where the livestock and poultry's normal behaviour demands group living, animals shall not be kept in isolation, but shall have company of like kind.
- v. As far as possible two different kinds of animals shall not be kept together, unless for specific purposes, such as, free range poultry birds in cow/ buffalo shed for scavenging on ticks and other insects.

- vi. The housing system shall ensure prevention of abnormal behaviour, injury and disease.
- vii. Appropriate facilities to cover emergencies such as the fire, the breakdown of essential mechanical services and the disruption of supplies, shall be available.
- viii. Housing for Livestock and Poultry shall not be mandatory in areas where appropriate climatic conditions exist to enable animals to live outdoors without compromising their comfort, health and welfare. Shelter or shaded areas may be provided during unfavorable conditions. Conditions shall be inspected and permitted by the Certification Body on producer and location-to-location basis. Outdoor open areas may be partially covered.
- ix. Housing conditions shall meet the biological and behavioural needs of the livestock and poultry by providing easy access to feeding and watering and shall ensure:
 - a. Insulation, heating, cooling and ventilation of the building to ensure that air circulation, dust level, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations are kept within limits which are not harmful to the livestock and poultry.
 - b. Plentiful natural ventilation and light to enter.
 - c. Appropriate fencing not harmful to the animals.
- x. Confinement shall be permitted under following conditions:
 - a. Inclement weather to protect animals from injury.
 - b. Ensure health safety or welfare.
 - c. To protect plant, soil and water quality.
- xi. Minimum requirement of surface area for indoor housing and for outdoor run and pens is given in **Annex –3(4)**.
- xii. The outdoor stocking density of livestock kept on pasture, grassland, or other natural or semi-natural habitats, must be enough to prevent degradation of the soil and over-grazing of vegetation.

3.2.6.1 Special conditions for Mammals

- i. All mammals shall have access to open-air exercise or resting area, paddock, pen or run which may be partially covered and/or shall have space for protection from rains and hot sun;
- ii. The Certification Body shall grant exceptions for the access of males or bulls to open areas to avoid mixing with female animals for controlled breeding;
- iii. Other animals may also not have access to open-air exercise area or run during the heavy rain period, harsh winter/ summer or the final fattening phase;
- iv. Livestock shed shall have properly laid and smooth floor, although not slippery. The floor shall not be entirely of slatted or grid construction;
- v. The housing conditions shall aim at providing comfortable, clean and dry laying/ rest area of sufficient size, consisting of a solid construction. Wherever possible, straw bedding shall be provided;
- vi. The calves may be housed separately and never in the adult animal shed;
- vii. Sow must be kept in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period. Piglets may not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages. Exercise areas must permit dunging and rooting by the animal. Breeding boars may be kept separately;
- viii. Final fattening phase of adult cattle for meat production shall not be exclusively indoors;
- ix. At least half of the minimum surface area of indoor and outdoor spaces shall be hard surface;
- x. Animals shall have outdoor access as soon as conditions allow. However, it's noted that pens may not be constructed on wet or marshy ground;

- xi. Exceptions to the maximum stocking density in buildings and the minimum areas of indoor and outdoor spaces may be permitted in the event of disaster situations, such as earthquakes or floods that result in the destruction of pastures or buildings.

3.2.6.2 Special Conditions for Poultry

- i. Housing of poultry in cages shall not be permitted;
- ii. Water fowl/duck shall have access to a stream, pond or lake whenever the weather conditions permit;
- iii. Poultry house floor shall be of solid construction covered with litter material such as straw, wood shavings, sand or turf. In case of layers, the floor area must be large enough to permit dropping collection. Perches/ higher sleeping areas of a size and number commensurate with the species and size of the group and of the birds shall be provided. For outdoor access appropriate exit/entry holes of adequate size must be provided;
- iv. In the case of laying hens, manipulation of day length may be permitted through the use of artificial lights;
- v. Poultry shall have access to open area as specified in **Annex -3(4)**. and shall have freedom to move freely between indoor and outdoor area;
- vi. Open air areas for poultry shall be mainly covered with vegetation and be provided with protective facilities and permit birds to have easy access to adequate numbers of drinking and feeding troughs;
- vii. Where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of provincial legislation, they shall permanently have access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material in order to meet their ethological needs;
- viii. Multi-level aviary systems for layers shall have no more than three levels or tiers above ground level. Total floor space shall meet minimum indoor and outdoor surface area requirements specified in

Annex –3(4). In all such cases access to the open air run, needs to be ensured under all-in and all-out system to avoid the mixing of birds among flocks;

- ix. Buildings shall be emptied, cleaned and disinfected between flocks, and runs shall be left empty to allow the vegetation to grow back;
- x. The accumulation of daylight and artificial lighting is limited to 14 hours per day;
- xi. Outdoor areas must facilitate a balanced utilization of all available space for birds, ensuring a diverse range of plants, trees, and shrubs scattered throughout the area. The open-air space should not exceed 150 meters from the nearest entry/exit pop-hole. However, an extension of up to 350 meters may be acceptable if adequate shelters from weather and predators are provided at regular intervals (a minimum of 4 shelters per hectare). For pasture birds, the presence of grass is essential to fulfill their grazing needs. Waterfowl must have access to water for cleaning their plumage, even when temporarily confined indoors;
- xii. The surface area of the veranda is excluded from the calculation of stocking densities and minimum indoor areas, unless the space meets specific criteria for indoor rearing. This includes continuous 24-hour accessibility, compliance with animal welfare standards, and coverage and insulation to provide conditions distinct from the outdoor climate. Additionally, for fattening poultry, the veranda's surface area should not be included in the total usable surface of the poultry houses, capped at a maximum of 1600 m².

3.2.6.3 Special Conditions for Silkworms

- i. Silkworm rearing is done under both open and domesticated conditions. Under open conditions worms are reared on host plants either in wild or under cultivated conditions. In both cases the host plants shall be certified under wild harvest collection or under crop production as specified under 3.1 of these rules;
- ii. Under domestic rearing conditions housing shall be clean and

ventilated with adequate space for movement between rearing trays. Multilayer rearing system can also be adopted provided adequate space is kept between trays and arrangements are made to ensure that trays do not get contaminated with falling excreta of worms in above layers;

- iii. Accredited certification agencies shall define the adequate housing and rearing conditions keeping in view of the local practices used and conditions required according to the species used.

3.2.6.4 Special conditions for Rabbits

- i. The keeping of rabbits in cages shall not be permitted. If required for comfort and safety rabbits may be temporarily confined, for example overnight, in cages or hutches. Continuous confinement is prohibited.
- ii. Rabbits shall have space to run, hop and dig, and to sit upright on their back legs with ears erect. The minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements are given in **Annex -3(4)**.

3.2.7 Conversion Period for Animal Production

- i. Simultaneous conversion of livestock and poultry and land used for raising feed/fodder within the same unit should be a preferred approach. Land for production of feed, fodder, pasture, grazing etc. shall be certified organic as per the provisions in 3.1 under Chapter 3 of these rules including conversion requirements;
- ii. When a livestock production unit, with entire herd, or flock of sheep/goat or batch of poultry birds or small mammals such as rabbits, is in transition to organic production, pasture and feed produced on the land undergone a minimum period of 12 months of conversion period may be considered organic for feeding to organic livestock;
- iii. In case of silkworm rearing, there is no requirement for conversion period, provided the larva are fed with organic feed grown in compliance of these rules for a minimum period of 12 months for their entire lifespan period;

- iv. The conversion period shall be determined by the Certification Body and the conversion period shall be accounted from the date of first inspection;
- v. In cases, where the land and livestock and poultry conversion to organic status is not simultaneous and the land alone has reached organic status and the livestock and poultry from a non-organic source is introduced, these must be reared according to these guidelines for at least the following compliance periods before their products are sold as organic:

a. Bovine including buffalo

- i. Meat products: Twelve (12) months and at least $\frac{3}{4}$ th of their lifespan is spent in the organic management system;
- ii. Calves for meat production: Six (6) months when brought in as soon as they are weaned and less than six (6) months old;
- iii. Milk products: Six (6) months.

b. Ovine and caprine (Sheep & Goat)

- i. Meat products: Six (6) months;
- ii. Milk products: Six (6) months.

c. Pig

- i. Meat products: Six (6) months.

d. Small mammals (such as Rabbits)

- i. Meat products: From the second week after their birth to the entire lifespan as determined by the Certification Body.

e. Poultry

- i. Meat products: from the second day of hatching to the entire lifespan as determined by the Certification Body;
- ii. Eggs: Six (6) weeks.
- iii. Rearing pullets over 3 days old must adhere to the Organic Standards (NSOP), specifically concerning housing conditions and indoor and outdoor densities.

3.2.8 Feed

- i. Livestock and poultry farms shall provide maximum diet from feedstuffs (*including 'inconversion' feedstuff*) produced as organic as per the requirements of these guidelines. Agricultural processed residues of organic origin, such as from grain fermentation, fruit processing, vegetable processing, etc., shall be permitted for purpose of feeding, provided that the overall feeding practices satisfy the daily energy and nutrient requirements of the concerned animals.
- ii. The agriculture land committed to cultivation of feed/fodder crops intended to be used as feed for livestock and poultry shall be organically grown.
- iii. During the operations, the products shall maintain their organic status provided that livestock and poultry are fed with at least 85% for ruminants and 80% for non-ruminants calculated on a dry matter basis, feed obtained from organic sources that have been produced in compliance with these guidelines.
- iv. Certification Body can grant permission to allow a stricter percentage of feedstuffs not produced according to these guidelines to be fed for a limited time, provided that it does not contain genetically engineered/modified organisms or products thereof.

3.2.8.1 Specific livestock and poultry rations shall take into account:

- i. The need of young animals for natural feed, such as, feeding of maternal milk, milk from other mammal or milk replacer of organic origin that has maximum similarity with maternal milk, provided that it does not contain any genetically modified ingredient, antibiotics, hormone, etc. If maternal milk feeding for animals is not feasible, the organic milk replacer must consist solely of 100% milk. This means it must not contain any synthetic chemical components authorized as additives or components of plant origin, including organic components, prior to weaning;
- ii. That in herbivores, substantial proportion of the dry matter and energy in the daily rations should consist of roughage, fresh or dried fodder,

or silage; need for inclusion of cereals in the fattening phase of poultry and livestock and poultry must have ample, free access to water appropriate to maintain full health and productivity;

- iii. Due to reasons of animal welfare, health and productivity, if supplements are to be added, it shall be permitted on advice of a qualified veterinarian. The permitted list of such supplements, feed materials (probiotics, and biological, immunological and procuring aids etc) and processing aids that comply the guidelines under these rules is given at **Annex -3(5)**.

3.2.8.2 General Criteria for feedstuff and nutritional components

- i. Substances shall be permitted as per **Annex -3(5)**. Such substances should significantly satisfy feeding requirements of the livestock and poultry fulfilling the physiological, behavioral and welfare needs of the concerned species; and such substances should not contain genetically engineered/ modified organisms and products thereof; and are non-synthetic and are primarily of plant, mineral or animal origin. Certification Body may allow the use of feedstuff not included in **Annex -3(5)** and have been recommended by the veterinarian, provided that all such substances are non-synthetic and are primarily of plant, mineral or animal origin.
- ii. Non-organic protein feeds, up to a maximum of 5% per 12-month period, can still be utilized under specific circumstances. This allowance applies when organic protein feeds are unavailable, and the non-organic feeds are prepared without chemical solvents. However, this provision is restricted to piglets weighing a maximum of 35 kg and should be considered temporary, contingent upon the availability of organic protein feeds in adequate quantities.
- iii. In exceptional circumstances, relaxation may be granted for the use of non-organic animals or non-organic feed. These situations include recognized disasters such as adverse climatic events, animal diseases, environmental incidents, natural disasters, or any other catastrophic event. Additionally, relaxation may be considered for factors like stocking density in buildings and the minimum areas for

indoor and outdoor spaces, such as earthquakes or floods.

- iv. In the event of a loss of feed production due to extreme weather events, the use of non-organic feed via derogation remains a possibility. However, there are conditions to be met.
- v. The percentage of dry matter comprising roughage, fresh, dried, or silage fodder in the daily ration may be reduced, provided that the nutritional requirements of the animals are still adequately fulfilled.

3.2.8.3 Specific Criteria for Feedstuffs and Nutritional Elements

- i. The feedstuffs should not be prepared by using chemical solvents and chemical treatment. All the ingredients of the feed including supplements, fed to organic animals should be from organic sources. In case of shortage of these substances, or in exceptional circumstances, well-defined analogic substances as listed under **Annex –3(6)** may also be used.
- ii. Feedstuffs of animal origin, with the exception of milk and milk products, fish, other marine animals and products derived from there of shall not be used. The feeding of mammalian material to ruminants is not permitted with the exception of milk and milk products.
- iii. Synthetic nitrogen or non-protein nitrogen compounds shall not be used.
- iv. When feed is no longer naturally available outdoors due to conditions like snow or aridity, roughage must be provided to the animals.

3.2.8.4 Specific Criteria for Additives and Processing Aids:

- i. The supplements should be derived from natural sources;
- ii. Feed processing aid supplements like binders, anti-caking agents, emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners, surfactants, coagulants if used should be from natural sources;
- iii. Antioxidants: only from natural sources shall be permitted;

- iv. Preservatives: only natural acids are allowed;
- v. Colouring agents (including pigments), flavours, odor masking agents and appetite stimulants: only natural sources are allowed;
- vi. Probiotics, enzymes and microorganisms are allowed but should not be from genetically modified sources;
- vii. Any synthetic chemicals, such as, antibiotics, coccidiostat, medicine, growth promoters or any other substance supplemented for purpose to stimulate growth or production shall not be fed to the organic livestock & poultry;
- viii. Silage additives, additives for enriching crop residues and processing aids may not be derived from genetically engineered/ modified organisms or products thereof, and may be comprised of only:
 - a. Sea salt;
 - b. Coarse rock salt;
 - c. Yeasts;
 - d. Enzymes;
 - e. Whey;
 - f. Sugar, or sugar products such as molasses, jaggery, grain bran;
 - g. Honey;
 - h. Lactic, acetic, formic and propionic bacteria, or their natural acid product when the weather conditions do not allow for adequate fermentation and their use to be approved by the Certification Body.

3.2.9 Health Care

The organic livestock & poultry, in general, should follow the basic principles of preventive health and productivity management wherein the focus would be on preventing diseases, detecting underlying fertility and production problems and its correction primarily on correcting management, nutrition and sanitation.

- i. The producer in consultation with veterinarian should draw a program of health management of animals and carry out testing of the herd as per the common diseases of herd/flock (**Annex -3(7)**). The health care

shall be based on the following broad principles:

- a. The choice of appropriate breeds or strains of animals that can acclimatize, adapt to environment as per these standards.
 - b. The setting up of the animal husbandry practices should be appropriate to the requirements of each species and should focus on encouraging strong resistance to disease and prevention of infections.
 - c. The use of good quality organic feed, together with regular exercise and access to fodder/roughages, and/or open-air runs, so as to have positive effects on natural immunological defence of the animal.
 - d. Appropriate stocking density of livestock & poultry so as to avoid overcrowding and spread of infections or competition to feeding.
- ii. The farm should have an established system of detection of sub-clinical, sick or injured animals and if, so detected, must be treated immediately. In cases where isolation is necessary it will be so carried out in suitable housing areas. The paramount interest in case of sickness would be animal welfare and mitigating pain and suffering, and hence the producer shall not withhold medication even if the use of such medication will cause the animal to lose its organic status.
- iii. The use of veterinary medicinal products in organic farming shall comply with the following principles:
- a. All vaccinations required by law of the land shall be permitted. Where specific disease or health problems occur, or is predicted to occur, and there are no alternative permitted treatment or management practice exist, use of parasiticides, or therapeutic use of veterinary drugs are permitted under prescription and supervision of a registered veterinarian, provided that the mandatory withdrawal periods as provided under these guidelines under **Annex -3(8)** are observed. In drugs where withdrawal period is not prescribed in these guidelines, a minimum of 48 hours of withdrawal period shall be observed.

- b. For purpose of treatment and prevention of diseases and under-performances, herbal/ Phyto-therapeutic (excluding antibiotics), homeopathic or ayurvedic products shall be preferred to allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics, provided that their therapeutic effect is effective for the species of animal and the condition for which the treatment is intended.
- c. In case alternative therapeutic or preventive measures are unlikely to be effective in-combating illness or injury, allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics may be used under the responsibility and supervision of a veterinarian.
- d. The withdrawal period for allopathic veterinary medicines and antibiotics must be doubled and, in any case, should be at least 48 hours.
- iv. The use of allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics or drugs derived from genetically modified source for preventative treatments and for enhancing productivity or fertility is prohibited.
- v. Hormonal treatment may only be used for therapeutic reasons and under veterinary supervision.
- vi. Growth stimulants, agents or substances used for the purpose of stimulating growth or production shall not be permitted.

3.2.10 Breeding and Management

- i. The major focus of livestock and poultry management shall be to provide care, comfort, and respect to the animals and ensure their welfare in the farming system.
- ii. Livestock and poultry breeding methods shall be in accordance with and in compliance with the principles of organic farming and shall take into account:
 - a. The breeds and strains most suited to local conditions.
 - b. The preference for reproduction through natural methods, although artificial insemination may be used.

- c. Embryo transfer techniques and any other breeding techniques employing genetic engineering shall not be used.
 - d. The use of hormonal reproductive treatment shall not be used unless prescribed therapeutic, directed towards correcting the physiological problem.
- iii. Mutilation, such as, tail docking, cutting/ trimming of teeth, trimming of beaks and dehorning are not permitted. In-exceptional cases, some of these may be authorized by the Certification Body for reasons of safety (*e.g. dehorning in young animals, hoof trimming, cutting of pin teeth in pigs etc*) or if they are intended to improve the health and welfare of the livestock and poultry. Such surgical procedures shall be carried out by a registered veterinarian at the most appropriate age; and any suffering to and pain shall be reduced to a minimum. Wherever possible, anesthetic and analgesics shall be used. Physical castration is allowed only in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production practices (*meat-type pigs, bullocks, capons, etc*). Exceptionally allowed practices on case-by-case basis: tail-docking for sheep, beak trimming, dehorning and disbudding.

3.2.11 Manure and Urine Excreta Management

- i. The collection, handling and disposal of the dung and urine from shed, paddock, open run or grazing areas shall be implemented in a manner that:
 - a. Minimizes soil and water degradation;
 - b. Does not significantly contribute to contamination of water by nitrates, phosphates, and pathogenic bacteria;
 - c. Optimizes recycling of nutrients and
 - d. Does not include burning or any practice inconsistent with organic practices.
- ii. All manure storage and handling facilities, including composting facilities shall be designed, constructed and operated to prevent contamination of ground and/or surface water;
- iii. Manure application rates shall be at levels that do not contribute

to ground and/or surface water contamination. The Certification Body shall establish maximum application rates for manure or stocking densities as per local conditions. The timing of application and application methods shall not increase the potential for run-off into ponds, rivers, and streams.

3.2.12 Transport

- i. During transport, the producer shall prevent stress, injury, hunger, thirst, malnutrition, fear, distress, physical & thermal discomfort, pain, disease during the transport and shall observe the protocols as prescribed under law of the land including:
 - a. All necessary arrangement should be made in advance to minimize length of the journey and meet the animal's need during the journey.
 - b. Animals must be fit for the intended journey.
 - c. Means of transport as well as the loading and unloading facilities must be designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the animals.
 - d. Personnel that handle animals must be trained and competent as appropriate for this purpose and must carry out their tasks without using violence or any other method likely to cause unnecessary fear, injury or suffering.
 - e. Transport must carry out without delay to the place of destination and the welfare conditions of the animals must be regularly checked and appropriately maintained.
 - f. Sufficient floor area, height and other spacing requirements must be provided for the animals, appropriate to their size and intended journey and
 - g. Water, feed and rest must be offered to the animals at suitable intervals and should be appropriate in quality and quantity to their species, size and age.
- ii. Efforts should be made to avoid or reduce following stress factors:
 - a. Stress due to gathering and handling.
 - b. Stress due to deprivation of, or changes in quantity or quality of food and water.

- c. Stress due to extremes of temperature or change in climatic conditions.
 - d. Stress due to the groupings of animals strange to each other both within and between species.
 - e. Stress due to separation from others of the animals own kind.
 - f. Stress due to unfamiliar surroundings, noises and sensations.
 - g. Stress due to overcrowding and isolations.
 - h. Stress due to fatigue.
 - i. Stress due to exposure to disease.
- iii. The use of electric stimulation or allopathic tranquilizers shall not be permitted during loading and unloading of animals.

3.2.13 Slaughter of Animals

- i. The slaughter of livestock and poultry shall be undertaken in a manner, which minimizes stress and suffering, and shall be in accordance with the applicable rules framed for the purpose.
- ii. Approved products for cleaning and disinfection of the buildings and installations are given at **Annex -3(9)**.
- iii. The slaughter, evisceration and packing of livestock and poultry should be conducted in such a manner as will result in hygienic processing, proper inspection and preservation for the production of clean and wholesome meat and meat products. Hygiene standards must comply the requirements laid down by the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 with the exception that the chemicals not allowed under these rules shall be replaced with the substances allowed under these rules.
- iv. Separate rooms should be provided for:
 - a. Livestock and poultry receiving and holding;
 - b. Washing and disinfection of coops;
 - c. Slaughter and bleeding;
 - d. Feather removal;
 - e. Evisceration, chilling and packing;
 - f. Inedible products room;

- v. Water Supply: The quality of water should satisfy the requirements of potable water.
- vi. Ventilation: Particular attention should be given to ventilation. Illumination should be sufficiently strong, properly situated and should not cause glare.
- vii. Personnel hygiene: Personnel should wear special working clothes of washable material. Proper training shall be given regarding hygiene, frequent hand washing, disinfection etc.
- viii. Activities such as stunning, bleeding, scalding, plucking, feet removal, evisceration and chilling, draining, grading etc. shall be done in accordance with the applicable rules framed for the purpose.

3.3 ORGANIC BEE KEEPING/APICULTURE

3.3.1 Choice of Breed/Strains

For the choice of bees for rearing, preference shall be given to indigenous species of bee, such as *Apis cerena indica*, *Apis mellifera*, *Apis lora*, *Apis dorsata*, *Mellipona spp.* & *Trigona spp.*-Dammar (Indian stingless honeybees) and their local ecosystem.

3.3.1.1 Sources/Origin

- i. A planned programme of establishing bee nurseries shall be encouraged.
- ii. The hives shall be made of the natural material to avoid contamination to the environment and the apiculture products.
- iii. The bee wax for the new foundations shall be sourced from organic production units.
- iv. Only natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils shall be used in the hives.
- v. A colony infested with any one of the notifiable diseases **Annex -3(10)** shall not be certified and allowed to be sold, purchased or transferred

from the hives, walls, pots, logs etc.

3.3.2 Conversion Period

- i. The conversion period shall not apply when bees are grown in wild and in natural conditions.
- ii. Twelve months conversion period shall apply to those bee colonies/ apiaries which are reared.
- iii. During conversion the bee colonies shall be placed in isolation and the foundation comb shall be made from organic wax.

3.3.3 Hiving the Honey Bees

- i. Where wall hives are in use, these shall accommodate movable standard frames depending upon the requirement of honey bee species.
- ii. The foundation comb shall be made from organic wax.
- iii. Each beehive shall primarily consist of natural materials. Use of construction materials with potentially toxic effects is prohibited.
- iv. Persistent materials may not be used in bee hives where there is a possibility of permeation of the honey and where residues may be distributed in the area through dead bees.
- v. The apiaries shall be placed within a radius of 3 km from the organic farms. These conditions shall not apply when the farms are not in flowering stage or when the hives are in the dormant condition.
- vi. Natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils can be used in the hives. The use of the chemical repellents is prohibited during the honey extraction operations.

3.3.4 Apiary Management

- i. A location where one or more honeybee colonies are assembled together and collectively managed may be considered as an apiary.
- ii. An apiary site shall be as close to a natural source of clean hygienic water and bee flora as possible, protected from wind, direct sunlight, severe heat, severe cold, rain, wild animals, ants, termites and exposure to insecticides or toxic fumes or poisonous chemicals. An apiary shall not be located in unclean areas or at a site where the presence of bees is likely to cause public nuisance. It shall be 5m away from public path or highway.
- iii. In case of wild collection, the collection area shall be organic or wild, and shall be varied as possible to fulfill the nutritional needs of the colony and contribute to good health.
- iv. The number of honey bee colonies kept in such an apiary shall be limited to optimum in relation to forage resources within the same flight, range, so as to avoid over stocking.
- v. All brood or full-depth frames shall be wired to withstand breakage of combs during inspection, migration and extraction, etc.

3.3.5 Feed

- i. During the short intervals of local dearth periods, if there are no adequate honey and or pollen stores within the colony, the producer shall provide organic sugar feeding or organic pollen supplements or both so as to maintain colony strength or both so as to maintain colony strength without letting the honey bee starve. Feeding shall only take place after the last harvest before the season when no foraging feed is available.
- ii. At the end of the production season, hives shall be left with sufficient

reserves of honey and pollen to survive the winter. The feeding of colonies shall be seen as an exception to overcome temporary feed shortages due to climatic conditions.

- iii. The feeding of the colonies shall only be permitted where the survival of the hives is endangered due to climatic conditions and only between the last honey harvest and 15 days before the start of the next nectar or honey dew flow period. The feed supplied shall be fully organic. Feeding shall be with organic honey, organic sugar syrup or organic sugar.

3.3.6 Health care

- i. Veterinary medicine shall not be used in beekeeping.
- ii. For pest and disease control and for hive disinfection the products mentioned in **Annex -3(11)** are allowed.
- iii. For the purpose of protecting frames, hives and combs, in particular from pests, products listed in **Annex -3(11)** are permitted.
- iv. Physical treatments for disinfections of apiaries such as steam or direct flame are permitted.
- v. The practice of destroying the male brood is permitted only if the colony is infested by Varroa destructor.
- vi. If despite all the preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately and, if necessary, the colonies can be placed in isolation apiaries.

3.3.7 Breeding and Management

- i. Clipping of wings of queen bees are prohibited.
- ii. For the renovation of apiaries, 20% per year of the queen bees and swarms may be replaced by non-organic queen bees and swarms in the organic production unit provided that the queen bees and swarms are placed in hived with combs or comb foundations coming from organic sources.

3.3.8 Periodic cleaning

1. Beehives shall be cleaned periodically. Each colony shall be periodically inspected once or twice in a month and in a manner causing least disturbance and provocation to honey bees. Debris accumulated on the bottom board shall be collected in a container and incinerated. Pieces of wax combs shall be pooled together and be melted for wax recovery. Old combs shall be melted and comb renewal induced.
2. Where colonies are over- wintered and packed, periodic cleaning shall be dispensed with, during the packed period.

3.3.9 Record keeping

Records shall be maintained for each of the colonies during periodic inspections. If case of suspicion of incidence of any disease immediate remedial measures shall be taken.

3.3.10 Transport/ Migration

- i. If the local dearth period or periods are prolonged beyond 6 to 8 weeks continuously, the producer shall, if possible, migrate the colonies to the nearest sources of organic forage from farm(s) or forest(s) through individual or collective migration. The producers may also migrate in other organic localities having different flora and different flowering periods.
- ii. Prior to migration all the colonies shall be thoroughly examined for any deficiencies like absence of queen bee, food shortage, etc., and such deficiency shall be rectified.
- iii. Colonies shall be packed so as to:
 - a) Secure in position various hive components, frames in particular;
 - b) avoid shaking during transit;
 - c) provide adequate ventilation to the bees;
 - d) prevent congestion inside;
 - e) provide feeding or water in transit, if necessary; and

- f) Prevent honey bees escaping through gaps in entrance gates, and other components.
- iv. The migration shall be done preferably at night or in cool weather avoiding adverse temperature. The colonies shall be loaded with their frames parallel to the direction of movement in case of trucks and at right angles in case of train transport. Migration by air, rail or truck shall be planned well in advance so as to avoid damage due to avoidable delay in transit.
- v. Proper arrangement like cleaning the apiary site, arranging hive stands, providing clean water shall be done prior to the arrival of the colonies at the migratory site(s).
- vi. On arrival at the migratory site, the colonies shall be promptly arranged on the hive stands and the entrance gates opened at the earliest appropriate hour.
- vii. The first post-migration inspection shall be done within 7 days after the colonies settle down to work. During this inspection, it may be observed whether there are any combs broken, queens lost, bees dead, etc. The old combs which need immediate replacement shall be taken to one side of the hive where the queen does not generally lay eggs. These old combs shall be subsequently removed and wax recovered and the empty frames shall be sterilized by dipping in hot water and shall be dried in direct sun before giving foundation strips for comb renewal.
- viii. In addition to honey flow and pollination, this migration period can also be looked upon as an occasion for increase in the number of colonies by simple divisions or planned queen rearing programme. The superannuated queens shall be replaced by young mated queens.
- ix. A colony infested with any of the notified as epidemic region, inter-state or inter-regional migration from such area to other regions shall be prohibited.
- x. The possibility of moving organic hives to non-conforming areas will

now only be granted in the event of disasters such as earthquakes, fires etc that affects the source of nectar, pollen threatening the survival of the colony.

3.3.11 Product Extraction

- i. Colonies shall be developed to their full strength by the beginning of the flow season by uniting weak colonies.
- ii. Augmenting medium colonies with sealed brood combs and honey bees or both.
- iii. Giving simulative organic feeding;
- iv. Giving comb foundation strips for drawing combs and expanding brood nest.
- v. Dummy or division boards shall be used for colonies which still fall short of full strength by a couple of combs so as to induce them to the supers. The colonies which are still weak shall be transferred to nuclei, to obtain some surplus honey yield.
- vi. The moment nectar starts coming in; supers shall be added to the colonies. When the first supers are more or less filled with honey but not sealed, a fresh super shall be given in order to provide additional storing space. It may be desirable to have three supers for each colony in the apiary as the normal life of super combs is three years.
- vii. Honey shall be extracted only when the combs are sealed by the honey bees. Extract or unripe honey will lead to fermentation and spoilage.
- viii. Towards the end of the flow the brood rearing is reduced, and honey is often instinctively stored in the brood combs to provide for the ensuring local dearth. Therefore, honey shall never be extracted from brood combs.

- ix. At the end of the flow, and after the honey has been extracted, the empty combs shall be cleared of honey bees and preserved carefully in supers in a cool, dry, rat-proof enclosures with suitable preservatives against wax moth and other inspect pests. Such drawn out combs shall be reused during the next honey flow. A producer shall equip himself with at least two supers of such drawn out combs for each colony in his apiary to derive maximum harvest from each honey flow.

3.3.12 Extraction of honey

- i. Honey shall be extracted only from sealed combs.
- ii. The use of brood combs is prohibited for honey extraction.
- iii. At time of harvest, repellent consisting of prohibited substances (chemical synthetic repellents) shall not be used, except smoke.
- iv. Excessive smoke shall not be used as it may taint the flavour of honey or otherwise spoil it.
- v. Extraction shall be done only in a clean, fly-proof enclosure.
- vi. All the equipments used for extraction shall be thoroughly cleaned in boiling water, before use. The use of brood combs is prohibited for honey extraction.
- vii. During extraction, the honey shall run through a strainer of 1.40 mm.
- viii. The containers used for collecting the extracted honey shall be of stainless steel, aluminum or if of other metal, shall be thickly tinned or galvanized.
- ix. The container shall have covers and each shall carry a label specifying the name of the producer, date and place of extraction.
- x. Persons engaged in extraction of honey shall be free from any contagious disease, shall wear clean clothes and shall clean their hands with a disinfectant soap.

- xi. Honey extracted from the colonies with infectious bee diseases shall be kept separate and not mixed with general lot. This honey shall be pasteurized before marketing. It shall never be fed either in processed or unprocessed form to the bees.
- xii. The extracted honey in air-tight containers shall be taken to the pooling and processing centers as early as possible. Even during the short interval the honey remains with the producer, it shall be stored in cool, dry and hygienic place and shall be protected from smoke, heat and insects.

3.3.13 Extraction of beeswax

- i. Every producer shall scrupulously collect every bit of beeswax. This is usually obtained from the old combs during renewal, bits of bur and brace-honey cells. Wax from different honey bee species shall be kept separately.
- ii. Bees wax from cappings is the purest form of wax and, shall be stored separately without mixing it with general recovery of bees wax in apiary.
- iii. The old and discarded combs shall be stored in containers with tight-lids and shall be melted at the earliest to avoid further deterioration and infestation with wax moth. These melting can be cast in slabs of desired size, shape & mass.

3.3.14 Crop pollination

A producer shall realize that besides harvesting honey and wax, he shall also mobilize his honey bees for pollination of agricultural/horticultural crops to increase the agricultural productivity.

3.3.15 Conservation of bee flora

Viability of the beekeeping industry depends on the density and composition of local flora. Forest vegetation shall not, therefore, be destroyed. Trees, shrubs and herbs providing bee forage shall be particularly conserved.

3.4 ORGANIC AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

3.4.1 Organic Management Plan

During the registration of the farm by the Certification Body, the producer has to present an organic management plan to the Certification Body which requires to be verified during inspection. This plan should be updated annually and shall apply to all aquatic organisms cultured in fresh and brackish water ponds and open water bodies in estuaries and sea (Black tiger shrimps, Indian major carps, freshwater prawns and bivalves) for production, processing and certification under these standards. The Operators are required to inform the Certification Bodies “on real time basis” of any changes in the organic management plan.

3.4.2 Conversion Period

- i. Adoption of organic aquaculture requires an interim period, ‘the conversion period’. Commencement of the conversion period shall be taken as the date of first inspection by the Certification Body.
- ii. The conversion shall take into account the species-specific needs like the husbandry practices and management system, past use of the site with respect to waste and sediment, and water quality for welfare of the animal. Adequate separation between the organic and non-organic production unit should be maintained.
- iii. The length of the conversion period would vary depending on the species, method of production, location and local conditions. Generally, for open water facilities, including those producing bivalve molluscs, a conversion period shall be for 3 months and for drainable systems where cleaning and disinfection is carried out, the conversion period shall be 6 months/ one crop whichever is longer and in case of drainable and fallowed, the conversion period shall be 12 months. In case of non-drainable systems which cannot be disinfected, the conversion period shall be 24 months (freshwater prawn, carps). As an exception and under certain conditions, a previous period may be retroactively recognized as being part of the conversion period. The aquaculture farms that have followed organic principles of farming in the previous period may seek exception for that

period, with the support of farm records. In case of open water farming, the conversion period shall be considered as 3 months (bivalves).

- iv. In a hatchery/farm practicing parallel production, the producer shall keep the organically produced and in-conversion animals separate and maintain adequate records to show the separation.

3.4.3 Ecosystem Management

- i. Conversion of mangrove ecosystem to aqua pond is prohibited. Mangrove destruction is also prohibited while constructing water intake channels, approach roads, etc. for farming.
- ii. In existing coastal farms, wherever possible, due consideration may be given for planting mangroves as a means for ecosystem restoration and conservation.
- iii. Care shall be taken during construction of the ponds so as not to create waterlogging conditions in the adjacent area that would affect surrounding ecosystems.
- iv. Adequate buffer zone should be left between farms following organic farming principles and conventional farming. The size of the buffer zone could be increased based on the natural situation, water distribution system, tidal flow, the upstream and downstream locations of the organic production unit. The buffer zone could be a barren piece of land or a pond/cultivated land. The production of this buffer zone shall follow organic principles, but the produce will be treated as conventional.
- v. Salination of adjacent agriculture land and drinking water sources by way of organic shrimp farming is strictly prohibited. Wherever saline water culture is adopted, a buffer zone of around 200 m should be left between the pond and adjacent agriculture land/drinking water source.
- vi. Exposed area of the farm should be planted with native vegetation to prevent soil erosion and to enhance natural ecosystem dynamics. Farms located in areas free from vegetation (dunes, desert) may be excluded

from this requirement.

- vii. Adequate steps are required to minimize nutrient discharge and/or suspended solids to water bodies especially during harvesting.
- viii. Release of toxic or otherwise harmful substances in the pond, channels or the banks should be prevented. Care should be taken while handling equipments and machineries such as pumps, generators and aerators to avoid any leakage of fuels and lubricant.
- ix. Care should be taken so that the materials and substances used in the construction should not affect the biodiversity and environment.
- x. Specific measures should be adopted to minimize negative environmental impact including escape of farmed stock.
- xi. Killing predatory birds and animals are prohibited. Scaring devices/ protective fencing etc, are allowed to save aquatic animals.

3.4.4 Selection of Site

- i. In selecting the site, ensure that the surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are not adversely affected through modifications brought about by construction of the farm.
- ii. Areas with known record of contamination with heavy metals or industrial pollution may be avoided. Testing is required to be carried out for record of the contaminants in an ISO17025 approved and APEDA recognized laboratory.
- iii. Soil quality should be conducive for culture and extreme conditions like high saline or acid soil may be avoided.
- iv. Forest area or land with thick vegetation should not be used for construction of new farms.
- v. In developing new farms or expanding existing farms, the producer should ensure that the natural vegetation is protected. Care should be taken to have significant coverage of bund area with vegetation.

- vi. Use of ground water for the culture purpose of tiger shrimps is prohibited. For other species the ground water should be avoided.
- vii. In case of the bivalve farm, the location of the farm should be as close as possible to the sea to ensure maximum circulation of seawater.
- viii. The bivalve farm site should meet the criteria as per **Annex -3(12)** in terms of general water quality, trace metal contents, biotoxin levels and microbial loads (within the optimum range of pH, salinity, temperature etc.)

3.4.5 Choice of Breeds and Strains

- i. Endemic species are preferred over exotic species. If exotic species are to be selected, their impact on endemic species and environment should be ascertained.
- ii. Any kind of genetically engineered stock is prohibited. Stocks obtained through selective breeding are permitted, but seed production in this case should be based on organic principles.

3.4.6 Source of Seed and Breeding

- i. Breeds and the breeding techniques appropriate for the species, environment, production systems and local conditions should be followed for minimizing stress to the brood stock.
- ii. Locally grown species shall be utilized, with breeding efforts targeting the development of strains better suited to production conditions. This approach ensures optimal animal health and welfare, as well as efficient use of feed resources. Documentary evidence of their origin and treatment shall be furnished to the Certification Body.
- iii. Organically certified seeds shall be utilized.
- iv. Wild-caught or non-organic aquaculture animals may be introduced into a holding for breeding purposes, but only in specific cases where organic breeds are unavailable or when new genetic stock is necessary to enhance breeding outcomes. Prior authorization

from the Certification Body is required for such introductions. These animals shall be managed organically for a minimum of three months before they are utilized for breeding.

- v. For carps and fresh water prawns, the maximum percentage of non-organically produced juveniles allowed to be introduced to the farm shall be 80%, 50% and 0% by second, third and fifth year from the year of notification.
- vi. Collection of natural brood stock for tiger shrimp is prohibited, since domesticated brood stock is commercially available in the country.
- vii. As a rule physical manipulation of animals for obtaining egg/larvae as in the case of eye stalk ablation in tiger shrimp are not encouraged. This practice will be allowed up to five years from the date of notification, by when it is expected that the on-going R & D programs in the country would lead to the development of technology for natural spawning of captive brood stocks on commercial scale.
- viii. The certified organic hatchery should source Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) brood stock from the Brood stock Multiplication Centre (BMC) and raise them under organic protocol for at least three months prior to breeding.
- ix. Maintain documents to ensure traceability of brooders and all other inputs for hatchery operation.
- x. Synthetic hormone application for artificial propagation is not allowed.
- xi. Since exogenous hormone supply is an essential requisite for induced spawning of carps, use of pituitary gland may be accepted.
- xii. To avoid stress to the animal, thermal manipulation for accelerated larval development/ growth or maturation, beyond natural range is prohibited in hatcheries.
- xiii. In carps, pre and postponement of brood stock maturation through thermal/hormonal manipulation and their subsequent breeding is

- not permitted for seed production in certified organic hatchery.
- xiv. The disinfection and cleaning in the hatchery should not have any impact on the surrounding environment. Only approved disinfectant and cleaning agents should be used ensuring that there will not be residues. List of approved aquaculture inputs is at **Annex -3(13)**. List of prohibited inputs is at **Annex -3 (14)**.
 - xv. Use of antibiotics is prohibited **Annex -3(15)** but use of probiotics is allowed.
 - xvi. The soil and water quality parameters of the environment of the vicinity of the hatchery/farm should be monitored and recorded to ensure no adverse impact.
 - xvii. Proper sanitation and hygiene of the hatchery/farm and its surroundings should be maintained. Entry of stray animals such as dogs, cats, cattle, etc., should be avoided by proper fencing.
 - xviii. Transport practices shall ensure the welfare of the animals.
 - xix. A hatchery may convert in full or partial for the production of organic seed. The hatchery shall maintain organically and conventionally produced seed in separate units and maintain adequate records to show the separation.
 - xx. Hatchery/farm producers shall possess the necessary basic knowledge and skills as regards to the health and the welfare needs of the cultured species.
 - xxi. In case of bivalves, collection of natural brood stock is permitted, but use of chemicals as a means of triggering spawning is not allowed.
 - xxii. The bivalve seeds can be sourced from natural beds using spat collectors or from organic hatchery. Remote setting is allowed, but use of chemicals for spat settlements is prohibited. The producer shall maintain records for sourcing of the wild seeds to trace back to the collection area.

3.4.7 Culture practices

Husbandry practices, including feeding, design of installations, stocking densities and water quality shall ensure that the developmental, physiological and behavioral needs of animals are fully met.

3.4.8 Pond preparation

- i. For elimination of unwanted fishes, sun drying, netting or application of plant derivatives like tea seed cake (*Camellia sinensis*), mahua oil cake (*Bassia latifolia*), derris root powder (*Linchocarpus sp.*) and Neervalam (*Crotalaria tigilum*) are permitted. Use of any synthetic herbicides and pesticides are prohibited.
- ii. Use of agricultural lime, dolomite or quick lime is permitted for disinfection and acidity corrections.
- iii. Fertilizers with locally produced manures/ nutrients (organic types – farmyard manure, vermicompost) for maintaining good Phyto and zooplankton and a stable pond environment should be followed. Biodegradable processing by-products of plant or animal origin may be used depending upon the feeding behavior of the cultured organisms. The list of inputs for nutrient management should be followed as per **Annex -3(13)**. Integrated farming system can be adopted for recycling of the nutrients.
- iv. Cow-dung/poultry manure/farmyard manure/vermi-compost may be used as nutrient source for carp farming. Intermittent application of cow-dung/poultry manure during culture operation should be in the fermented form. The manure to be used should be from organic sources.

3.4.9 Stocking

- i. The production systems have to follow single-stocking unless it is defined as a polyculture system.

- ii. Stocking density to be limited so as not to compromise with the animal wellbeing, ecological capacity of the site and species-specific physiological need and animal behavior.
- iii. For shrimp farming, the maximum stocking density is 10 nos/m² and biomass in the pond shall not exceed 2000 kg/ha/crop and for freshwater prawns the stocking density up to 5 nos/m² and biomass in the pond shall not exceed 1600 kg/ha/crop.
- iv. For nursery rearing of freshwater prawns, the maximum stocking density of 20 nos/m² is permitted.
- v. For carp fry and fingerlings production in nursery, the maximum stocking density is 2 million spawn/ha (200 nos/m²) and 0.1 million fry/ha (10 nos/m²), respectively.
- vi. For grow-out production of carps, maximum stocking density of 4,000 fingerlings /ha (0.4 nos/m²) may be followed and the maximum biomass should not exceed 3 tonnes/ha at any point of time.
- vii. In case of carp farming, polyculture of compatible carp species is preferred over monoculture in order to utilize the ecological niche effectively.

3.4.10 Pond management

- i. Ponds are required to be designed to maintain suitable environment most befitting with the natural behavior of the stock. The water quality must be conducive for the species to live in (within the optimum range of pH, salinity, oxygen, temperature, nitrogen fractions, BOD, etc.) during the production cycle.
- ii. For cleaning and disinfections, only substances from approved list shall be used.
- iii. Periodic monitoring of water quality parameters (dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, temperature, ammonia etc) is to be undertaken to maintain optimum water quality and plankton.

- iv. Effluent water quality (nutrient load, suspended solids, ammonia etc) has to be closely monitored at least twice in a farming season (mid-way and during harvest).
- v. In case of carp farming, floating vegetation cover with 10–15% of the water surface should be provided in the production pond.
- vi. Energy requirements for aeration, heating, pumping, etc should be kept to the minimum. Data regarding energy consumption may be documented and subjected for inspection.
- vii. The energy requirement for pumping and aeration may be met from renewable sources like wind, solar power etc., if possible.
- viii. Measures of aeration must not be used in the pond to raise the stocking density above the permitted level. Aeration is permitted only under exigencies of culture conditions to save the stock.
- ix. Use of substrate for periphytic growth is permitted for enhancing the natural food availability in the pond. Use of plastics or any other synthetic materials may not be permitted for this purpose.
- x. As far as possible avoid use of plastics except for most essential items such as nets, crates, floats, etc.
- xi. Placing hideouts such as tiles, bamboo twigs, earthen pipes etc., are allowed for freshwater prawns for protection during moulting.

3.4.11 Bivalve farming

- i. In the case of bivalves like mussels and oysters, the grow-out methods permitted are off- bottom racks, rafts, long-lines and stakes using ropes and nets.
- ii. Production shall take place within areas delimited by posts, floats or other clear demarcations and shall as appropriate be restrained by net bags, cages or other man-made means.
- iii. In case of mussels, the stocking density should not exceed 2 kg/m

rope and the production should not exceed 15 kg/m rope.

- iv. Biofouling organisms shall be removed by physical means and appropriately returned to the sea away from the farming site. Biological control measures are allowed.

3.4.12 Supplementary Feeding

- i. Maximum advantage of the natural productivity of the pond should be exploited in order to reduce the dependence on supplementary feed.
- ii. The natural feeding behaviour of the animal should be explored to meet the nutritional and dietary needs of the species for all its life stages. To meet requirements beyond the portion met by the natural productivity, certified organic feed should be provided. Records should be maintained regarding the source of the feed/ingredients.
- iii. Farm made feeds can be used provided that the ingredients are from organic sources. The Certification Body shall verify the record of the authenticity of the ingredients. If certified organic feed is not commercially available, farm made feeds made of organic ingredients can be used.
- iv. Ingredients from Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) shall not be used.
- v. To ensure environmental sustainability use of aquatic animal protein and oil in feeds should be minimum and from verifiable source.
- vi. In case of tiger shrimp and freshwater prawn, the fish meal content in the feed should not exceed 20%, fish oil content should not exceed 10% and the total protein content of animal origin should not exceed 25%.
- vii. In case of carp farming use of animal protein including fish meal in supplementary feed should be avoided.

- viii. Feed prepared from certified organic ingredients avoiding possible entry of antibiotics/ pesticides/ heavy metals/ antioxidants / preservatives/ growth hormones during the process is to be used for supplementary feeding. Excess feeding should be avoided. Check trays may be used for assessing feed intake.
- ix. Minerals, trace elements, vitamins or pro-vitamins to be used in the feed shall be of natural origin as far as possible. Growth promoters and synthetic amino acids are not permitted.
- x. An organic feed mill may convert in full or partial for the production of organic feed. The feed mill shall maintain organically and conventionally produced feed separate and maintain adequate records to show the separation.
- xi. The daily ration should be distributed in accordance with the feeding habit of the cultured organisms and should be closely monitored and recorded.
- xii. Culture of live fish food organisms, like algae, rotifers, artemia, etc., for shrimp hatchery may be carried out in accordance with principles of organic agriculture wherever possible, otherwise permission should be obtained.

3.4.13 Health Management

- i. The animal health management plan shall outline biosecurity measures and disease prevention practices.
- ii. Use of human excrement and sewage should be prohibited. There should be routine health monitoring of stocked animals and this should be documented.
- iii. 'Prevention is better than cure should be the guiding principle for seed production as well as grow-out farming.
- iv. Chemotherapeutics with allopathic veterinary drugs, and other harmful chemicals are prohibited **Annex -3(15)**. Herbal formulation and homeopathic medicines are allowed.

- v. Yeast based organic preparations and probiotics of certified origin are permitted to improve water/animal-rearing condition and to control pathogens. GMO based preparations are not permitted.
- vi. Only authorized cleaning and disinfection substances shall be utilized for equipment and facility maintenance.
- vii. The Certification Body is responsible for assessing the need for fallowing and determining its duration. This process should be carried out and documented after each production cycle in open water containment systems at sea.
- viii. Ultraviolet light and ozone are restricted to usage solely within hatcheries and nurseries.
- ix. For ectoparasite biological control, priority should be given to employing cleaner fish and utilizing freshwater, marine water, and sodium chloride solutions.

3.4.14 Harvest and Transportation

- i. Harvesting method shall be humane and aquatic animals shall be subject to minimum stress during harvest.
- ii. Harvesting should be carried out by repeated netting or by draining the pond water slowly. Sufficient care is taken that non-target organisms like aquatic birds, reptiles and mammals are not accidentally killed.
- iii. Care should be taken that the harvesting practice should not harm the natural system and surroundings.
- iv. Animals sold live should be transported with minimum stress. Others should be slaughtered and chilled at farm site itself.
- v. Use of chemicals like sodium meta-bisulphate is prohibited, however ascorbic acid is allowed to stop discoloration. **Annex -3(16)** for approved & restricted inputs and methods.

- vi. The tanks for transportation of live fish shall be properly cleaned and disinfected.
- vii. Live fish shall be transported in tanks filled with clean water that meets the temperature and dissolved oxygen requirement. Proper care should be taken to minimize stress.
- viii. During transport of live fish, the stocking density shall be optimum and not detrimental to the live fish.

3.4.15 Processing

- i. Pre-processing and processing of the animals is not to be carried out at the farm site.
- ii. The post-harvest handling including storage and transport should be carried out hygienically.
- iii. Processing and packaging of the organic produce shall be carried out in the organic certified processing units. Defined measures shall be taken to maintain the organic integrity of the processed product. The limit of permitted and prohibited substances for use in aquaculture processing is **at Annex -3(16)**.

3.4.16 Mandatory visit for the Certification Bodies

- i. Certification Bodies shall inspect the units during the production cycle.
- ii. Bivalve production units shall be inspected before and during maximum biomass production by the Certification Bodies.

3.5 PROCESSING AND HANDLING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

3.5.1 Specific Requirements

Any handling and processing of organic products should be optimized to maintain the quality and integrity of the product.

The Operator must develop an organic production and handling plan. An organic production and handling plan must include:

- i. Description of practices and procedures to be performed.
- ii. List of substances/inputs used during production, storage and handling, indicating its composition, source, locations where it will be used and documentation of commercial availability, as applicable. The list of ingredients and additives for use in food processing of organic products with conditions for use under these standards are given at **Annex -3(17)** and **Annex -3(18)** respectively.
- iii. Description of the monitoring practices and procedures followed and maintained to verify the plan is effectively implemented.
- iv. Description of the record keeping system implemented to comply with the requirements of NPOP.
- v. Description of the management practices and separation measures established to prevent commingling of organic and non-organic products during parallel processing and handling.
- vi. Pollution sources shall be identified and contamination prevented.
- vii. Processing and handling of organic products should be done separately in time or place from handling and processing of non-organic products.
- viii. All products shall be adequately identified throughout the whole process.
- ix. Certification programme shall regulate the means and measures to be allowed.
- x. SoP for decontamination, cleaning or disinfections of all facilities where organic products are kept, handled, processed or stored.
- xi. The Operators are required to inform the Certification Bodies “on real

time basis" of any changes in the organic production and handling plan.

3.5.2 Raw material

- i. When the Operator receives raw material, they shall check the condition and label on the product.
- ii. They shall check the status of certification of product with respect to details mentioned in the Transaction Certificate (TC).
- iii. The details on the label may be cross verified with the information mentioned in the TC and observations in the cross verification shall be documented.

3.5.3 Pest control

- i. Pests should be avoided by following Good Hygienic Practices (GHP), this includes general cleanliness and hygiene.
- ii. Treatments with pest regulating agents must be regarded as the last resort.
- iii. Recommended treatments are physical barriers, sound, ultra-sound, light and UV-light, traps (including pheromone traps and static bait traps), temperature control, controlled atmosphere and diatomaceous earth.
- iv. A plan for pest prevention and pest control should be developed.
- v. For pest management and control the following measures shall be used in order of priority:
 - a. Preventive methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat and access to facilities.
 - b. Mechanical, Physical and Biological methods.
 - c. Pesticidal substances allowed/prescribed in the Appendices of the national standards.
 - d. Other substances used in traps.

- vi. Irradiation/ ionized radiation is prohibited.
- vii. There shall no direct or indirect contact between organic products and prohibited substances (e.g. pesticides).
- viii. Persistent or carcinogenic pesticides and disinfectants are not permitted.

3.5.4 Ingredients

- i. 100% of the ingredients used in processing shall be organic except where an organic ingredient is not available in sufficient quality or quantity; under those circumstances, non-organic ingredients may be used to a minimum extent only in case of essential technological need or for particular nutritional purpose. Such non-organic raw material shall not be genetically engineered. The percentage of the non-organic ingredients shall not exceed 5% of the total ingredients in products labelled as organic. This shall however not apply to imported ingredients which shall be certified organic. Details for use of imported ingredients are given at Regulation 4.7 The Certification Body may authorize the use of non-organic raw materials subject to periodic re-evaluation.
- ii. The same ingredient within one product shall not be derived both from an organic and non-organic origin.
- iii. Preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes commonly used in food processing may be used, with the exception of genetically engineered micro-organisms and their products. For the production of enzymes and other micro-biological products, the medium shall be composed of organic ingredients.
- iv. Potable Water and salt may be used in organic products.
- v. Minerals (including trace elements), vitamins and similar isolated ingredients shall not be used. The certification programme may, grant exceptions where use is legally required or where severe dietary, or nutritional deficiency can be demonstrated.
- vi. Ethylene gas is permitted for ripening.
- vii. The foodstuffs containing or consisting of engineered nano materials are prohibited.

- viii. Authorized flavour shall not be included in calculation of percentage of organic agricultural ingredients in the finished products.
- ix. The flavour must be recognizable (lemon, mint etc) and the natural flavouring part comes from at least 95% of natural source used to produce flavour.

3.5.5 Processing Methods

- i. Processing methods should be based on mechanical, physical and biological processes.
- ii. The vital quality of an organic ingredient shall be maintained throughout each step of its processing methods and shall be chosen to limit the number and quantity of additives and processing aids. The following kinds of processes are approved:
 - a. Mechanical and Physical
 - b. Biological
 - c. Smoking
 - d. Extraction
 - e. Precipitation
 - f. Filtration
- iii. Extraction shall be either with water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide, nitrogen or carboxylic acids. These shall be of food grade quality, appropriate for the purpose.
- iv. Filtration substances shall not be made of asbestos nor may they be permeated with substances which may negatively affect the product.
- v. Irradiation/ ionized radiation are not allowed.

3.5.6 Packaging

- i. Biodegradable, recyclable, reusable systems and eco-friendly packaging materials shall be used wherever possible.
- ii. Material used for packaging shall not contaminate the product. Certain additives for use in manufacturing of packaging films for packaging of organic food stuffs are allowed for restricted use **(Annex -3(19)).**

- iii. The packages shall be closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damage of the seal.
- iv. The Certification Body shall approve the packaging material for use.

3.5.7 Labelling

3.5.7.1 Labelling Requirements:

- i. Labelling shall convey clear and accurate information on the organic status of the product.
- ii. When the requirements of the standards are fulfilled in totality, products shall be sold as “produce of organic agriculture” or a similar description.
- iii. The label for conversion products shall be clearly distinguishable from the label for organic products by mentioning the year of conversion.
- iv. The name and address of the person or company legally responsible for the production or processing of the product shall be mentioned on the label. If private labelling requirements are covered in the National Regulation of the importing country, the Certification Body shall approve the labels following such requirements for export to respective country ensuring that traceability of the product can be established at any stage of handling. However, the export of private labelled products undertaken through recognition agreement with the importing country shall follow the validity and scope of agreement.

Notwithstanding the above, the requirements prescribed under Regulation 3.5.7.2 shall be complied with.

- v. Product labels should list processing procedures, which influence the product properties in a way not immediately obvious. All components of additives and processing aids shall be declared.
- vi. Additional product information shall be made available on request.

- vii. Ingredients or products derived from wild production shall be declared as such.

3.5.7.2 Processed products

- i. Single ingredient products may be labelled as “Organic” when all standard requirements have been met.
- ii. Multi ingredient products where not all ingredients, including additives, are of organic origin shall be labelled in the following way (raw material weight):
 - a. Where a minimum of 95% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, products may be labelled “Certified Organic” or similar and should carry the logo of the certification programme.
 - b. Where less than 95% but not less than 70% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, products shall not be called “Organic”. The word “Organic” may be used on the principal display in statements like “made with organic ingredients” provided there is a clear statement of the proportion of the organic ingredients. An indication that the product is covered by the certification programme should be used, close to the indication of proportion of organic ingredients.
 - c. Where less than 70% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, the indication that an ingredient is organic may appear in the ingredients list. Such product shall not be called “Organic”.
- iii. Added water and salt shall not be included in the percentage calculations of organic ingredients. For aquaculture products the use of iodized salt shall be referred on the labels.
- iv. All raw materials of a multi-ingredient product shall be listed on the product label in order of their weight percentage. It shall be apparent which raw materials are of organic certified origin and which are not. All additives shall be listed with their full name.
- v. If herbs and/or spices constitute less than 2% of the total weight of

the product, they may be listed as “spices” or “herbs” without stating the percentage.

- vi. As GMO or its derivatives are not allowed under NPOP, organic products shall not be labelled as GE (genetic engineering) or GM (genetic modification) free in order to avoid potentially misleading claims, unless it is a regulatory requirement of an importing country.
- vii. The label of a certified organic product must depict the name and logo of the Certification Body, accreditation number and the India Organic Logo.
- viii. The Certification Body shall verify the labelling requirement and approve the labels of their certified Operators before the labels are used.

3.5.8 Storage

- i. Organic, in-conversion and conventional shall be clearly identifiable at all stages of handling and storage.
- ii. Organic products shall be stored at ambient temperature. The following special conditions of storage are permitted
 - a. Controlled atmosphere
 - b. Cooling
 - c. Freezing
 - d. Drying
 - e. Humidity regulation
- iii. Product integrity should be maintained during storage of organic products. Organic Products must be protected at all times from co-mingling with non-organic products and from contact with materials and substances not permitted for use in organic farming and handling.
- iv. Where only part of the unit is certified and other products are non-organic, the organic products should be stored and handled

separately to maintain their identity.

- v. Bulk stores for organic product should be separate from conventional product stores and clearly labelled to that effect.
- vi. An organic ingredient shall not be present together with the same ingredient in conventional form.
- vii. An in-conversion ingredient shall not be present together with the same ingredient in organic or in conventional form.
- viii. Storage areas for organic product should be cleaned using methods and materials permitted in organic production. Measures should be taken to prevent possible contamination from any pesticide or other treatment not listed in **Annex -3(2)**.

3.5.9 Transport

Organic, in-conversion and conventional product shall be packed, transported in subject to following condition.

- i. The collection and transport of organic, in-conversion and conventional may be done simultaneously only when separation measures are taken to ensure that there is no possibility of contamination or commingling.
- ii. The information related to harvest period/days, procurement, transport, exact time of arrival of product to facility and storage is to be maintained by the Operator.
- iii. Transport containers for organic product should be cleaned using methods and materials permitted in organic production. Measures should be taken to prevent possible contamination from any pesticide or other treatment not listed in **Annex -3(2)**.

3.6 ORGANIC ANIMAL FEED PROCESSING AND HANDLING

Organic animal feed processing and handling involves the processing of organic feed and food for all types of domesticated animals, including livestock, poultry, aquatic animals, and pets for production of commercial organic animal feed/food products. The on-farm processing and

handling of feed as part of livestock or aquaculture farm for their captive consumption will continue to remain part of their livestock/aquaculture farm certification operations.

3.6.1 General Requirements

- i. The handling and processing Operator of organic animal feed/ food products must set up a written organic handling plan detailing all the facilities, equipments and machines, raw materials used, processing methods and processing ingredients, storage and shipment equipments.
- ii. The Operators are required to inform the Certification Bodies “on real time basis” of any changes in the organic handling plan.
- iii. Necessary measures shall be put in place to minimize air, water and soil contamination during the processing and handling operations.
- iv. Description of the monitoring practices and procedures to be followed and maintained to verify that the plan is effectively implemented.
- v. Description of the record keeping system implemented to comply with the requirements of NPOP.
- vi. Description of the management practices and separation measures established to prevent commingling of organic and non-organic feed products during parallel processing and handling.
- vii. Processing and handling of organic products shall be done separately in time or place from handling and processing of non-organic products.
- viii. All products shall be adequately identified through the whole process.

3.6.2 Raw material

- i. When the Operator receives raw material, they shall check the condition and label on the product.

- ii. They shall check the status of certification of product with respect to details mentioned in the Transaction Certificates (TC).
- iii. The details on the label may be cross verified with the information mentioned in the TC and the observation of the cross verification shall be documented.

3.6.3 Cleaning, disinfection and pest-control

- i. Preventive measures need to be put in place to protect organic feed from substances prohibited for use in production, processing, manufacturing, or handling from pests, pathogens and other alien substances.
- ii. Organic feed must not come in contact with substances used for cleaning, sterilizing and disinfection of facilities and equipments.
- iii. For cleaning and disinfection of facilities and sterilization of equipments and tools substances listed in **Annex -3(9)** of NPOP can be used.
- iv. For pest management and control, the following measures shall be used in order of priority:
 - a. Preventive methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat and access to facilities.
 - b. Mechanical, physical and biological methods.
 - c. Physical barriers, sound, ultra-sound, light and UV-light, traps (incl. pheromone traps and static bait traps), temperature control and controlled atmosphere.
 - d. Pesticidal substances contained in the **Annex -3(2)** of NPOP.
- v. Irradiation/Ionized radiation is prohibited.
- vi. Persistent or carcinogenic pesticides and disinfectants are not permitted.

3.6.4 Ingredients

- i. The ingredients and supplementary feed used for production of

organic feed shall be derived only from following sources:

- a. Organic crop products
 - b. Organic livestock product
 - c. Organic processed products
 - d. Ingredient or supplementary feed referred to in **Annex -3(5), Annex -3(6), Annex -3(13) and Annex -3(16)** of NPOP.
- ii. In cases where an organic ingredient is not available in sufficient quality or quantity, non-organic ingredients may be used to a minimum extent only in case of essential technological need or for particular nutritional purpose. Such non-organic raw material shall not be genetically engineered. The Certification Body may authorize the use of non-organic raw materials subject to periodic re-evaluation.
- iii. To fulfil the essential dietary requirements and in case of severe dietary or nutritional deficiency the use of minerals, vitamins and amino acids, derived from raw materials occurring naturally may be used. Certification bodies may allow the use of nature identical synthetic amino acids and vitamins in cases where their requirement cannot be met by other permitted sources.
- iv. Preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes commonly used in food processing may be used, with the exception of genetically engineered micro-organisms and their products.
- v. Water and salt may be used in organic feed processing.
- vi. Use of following is prohibited:
- a. Genetically modified organisms or ingredients originating from genetically modified organisms are prohibited.
 - b. Synthetic chemicals used for boosting metabolism is prohibited
 - c. Synthetic nitrogen or non-protein nitrogen compounds are prohibited.
 - d. Antibiotics, synthetic antimicrobials, growth enhancing

- substances, parasiticides, coccidiostatics or hormones.
- e. Other substances produced or modified through artificial synthesis
 - f. Feed or raw material of mammalian origin including slaughter house waste for making feed for ruminant livestock.

3.6.5 Processing

- i. Processing methods should be based on mechanical, biological, smoking, extraction, precipitation and filtration.
- ii. Water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide, nitrogen or carboxylic acids may be used for extraction.
- iii. Filtration substances shall not be made of asbestos nor may they be permeated with substances which may negatively affect the product.
- iv. Irradiation/Ionized radiation is not allowed
- v. Feed materials utilized or processed in organic production must not have undergone processing with chemically synthesized solvents.
- vi. The Operator shall maintain an up-to-date register documenting all operations and the corresponding quantities processed.

3.6.6 Processing facilities

- i. Processing facilities to be managed in such a way that organic integrity is maintained throughout the process without any chance for mixing or co-mingling with non-organic products or ingredients.
- ii. Organic feed production lines must be separated from non-organic feed production line. In case if the processing of organic feed is carried out in the same line processing non-organic feed also, then adequate measures to be put in place to clean the entire processing assembly after the production of non-organic feed.

- iii. Separate storage facilities must be in place and managed separately so that ingredients used for producing organic feed do not get mixed with non-organic ones.

3.6.7 Processed products

- i. **100 percent organic** – A raw or processed animal feed sold, labelled, or represented as “100 percent organic” must contain (by weight or fluid volume, excluding water and salt) 100 percent organically produced ingredients.
- ii. **Organic** – A raw or processed animal feed sold, labelled, or represented as “organic” must contain (by weight or fluid volume, excluding water and salt) not less than 95 percent organically produced raw or processed agricultural ingredients.
- iii. **Made with organic**– Multi-ingredient animal feed sold, labelled, or represented as “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” must contain (by weight or fluid volume, excluding water and salt) at least 70 percent organically produced ingredients.
- iv. Where less than 70 percent of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, the indication that an ingredient is organic may appear in the ingredients list. Such product shall not be called “organic”.

3.6.8 Packaging

- i. Packaging methods and materials must protect the integrity of organic feed and have no adverse effects on the environment.
- ii. Biodegradable, recyclable, reusable systems and eco-friendly packaging materials shall be used.
- iii. Material used for packaging shall not contaminate animal feed.
- iv. Packaging materials, containers and storage containing or treated with synthetic chemicals or prohibited substances must not be used.
- v. Recycled packaging materials or containers that had come in

contact with substances that may compromise the organic integrity of organic feed must not be used.

- vi. The packages shall be closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damaging the seal.

3.6.9 Labelling

All organic processed animal feed shall be labelled as per the requirements specified in Regulation 3.5.7 of NPOP.

3.6.10 Storage

Storage requirements must be in compliance with Regulation 3.5.8 of NPOP.

3.6.11 Transport

- i. Shipping and transportation requirements must be in compliance of Regulation 3.5.9 of NPOP.
- ii. If products are transported in bulk, then vehicles intended for transporting organic feed must not carry any other non-organic product alongside the organic feed.

3.7 Organic Mushroom Production

3.7.1 General

Mushroom production is although similar to crop production but with a difference that it is an indoor activity under controlled environment and without the involvement of soil as growing medium. Mushroom production standards cover all edible mushrooms intended for human consumption, whether grown on compost, raw biomass, or wood.

3.7.2 Organic Management Plan

- i. During the registration of the farm or organic mushroom production

unit with the Certification Body (CB), the Operator has to submit an organic management plan, which will be verified by the Certification Body during inspection. The organic management plan shall be updated annually.

- ii. The Operators are required to inform the Certification Bodies “on real time basis” of any changes in the organic management plan.

3.7.3 Management of production site

- i. The Operator shall maintain the entire production site including housing facilities in a way that prevents contact with prohibited substances on the production site, tools and boxes/ trays, in each and every step throughout the entire growing cycle including harvesting and post-harvesting process. Any wood or plant material used for construction of mushroom house, racks, substrate holding containers, boxes, trays etc. shall not be treated with prohibited substances.
- ii. Organic and non-organic production units must be in separate facilities separated by space and time and have separate ventilation systems, boxes, trays, tools, substrate holding racks etc. including facilities for compost production.

3.7.4 Substrate and Growing media

- i. For the production of mushrooms, substrates are permissible if they consist solely of the following components:
 - a. Farmyard manure and animal excrement, either sourced from organic production units or from in-conversion units in their second year of conversion;
 - b. Agricultural products sourced from organic production units;
 - c. Chemically untreated peat;
 - d. Chemically untreated wood after felling.
- ii. All substrate and growing media shall be prepared on the farm in

compliance of these standards or sourced from certified organic sources certified in accordance with the crop production standards prescribed under 3.1 of these rules.

- iii. In case of unavailability of certified organic raw material needed for making the substrate certification bodies may allow the use of chemically untreated conventionally grown raw material up to a maximum limit of 25% for making the compost.
- iv. The composting process shall ensure that the substrate has reached a temperature of at least 65° C for about 6-7 days prior to use. All composts and growing media used (from the commencement of the composting process) shall be audited and verified for compliance with this Standard by the Certification Body.
- v. Steam is allowed for final sterilization of compost.
- vi. In cases where raw crop residue/biomass is used without composting as substrate, such as straw, hay or grains, they shall be sourced from organic operations certified as per crop production standards prescribed under 3.1 of these rules.
- vii. Logs, sawdust or other wood based material when used as substrate shall come from wood, trees or logs that have not been treated with prohibited substances.

3.7.5 Fungus spawn

- i. Organic spawn (seed) shall only be used. Certification Bodies shall evaluate the conformance of spawn production as per the evaluation process given in **Annex -3(3)** under these rules. In case of non-availability of organic spawn Certification Bodies may allow the use of conventionally grown spawn for limited period of time.
- ii. Use of GMO products or its derivatives or genetically modified organisms (spawn) at any stage of the production process is prohibited.

3.7.6 Conversion

- i. Existing Mushroom production systems on being converted to organic management shall have to undergo a minimum period of 12 months as Conversion Period from the date of first inspection by the Certification Body. During the Conversion Period all management practices must be in compliance of these standards.
- ii. In case of new installations where the entire production system is being implemented in compliance of these standards, two or more production cycles must have been produced under organic conditions compliant with this standard prior to products being sold as organic.

3.7.7 Pest control and sanitation

- i. Preventive pest and disease management shall be the preferred approach. Methodologies and measures listed at Regulation 3.1.9 and Regulation 3.5.3 can be used in cases where preventive measures are not sufficient to tackle the problem.
- ii. For sanitation and disinfection of installation, equipments and facilities products listed in **Annex -3(9)** of these rules can be used.

3.8 Organic Seaweed, Aquatic Plants and Green House Crop Production

3.8.1 General

Organic seaweed, aquatic plants (including algae) and green house crop production being crop production activity, needs to comply the overall requirements, unless otherwise described under these rules as exception, of crop production rules prescribed under 3.1 of these rules.

3.8.1.1 Organic seaweed

Organic seaweed production includes collection of wild seaweeds and parts there of growing naturally in the sea and cultivated in the coastal

areas for use as food for human or livestock consumption or for use as raw material for processing of food or feed.

3.8.1.2 Organic aquatic plants

Organic aquatic plants includes macro and micro green plants including algae grown under aquatic environment in open natural habitat or under artificial conditions in ponds or tanks in open or under green house conditions.

3.8.1.3 Green House crops

Green house crops includes general agricultural and horticultural crops cultivated under green house conditions in permanent in-ground soil systems or in containers filled with plant and soil based growing substrate connected with soil, except nursery plants which can be grown in containers in plant based growing medium.

3.8.2 Organic Management Plan

- i. During the registration of the farm or production site/ unit with the Certification Body (CB), the Operator has to submit an organic management plan, which will be verified by the Certification Body during inspection. The organic management plan shall be updated annually. Organic management plan should be sustainable in proportion to the production unit.
- ii. The Operators are required to inform the Certification Bodies “on real time basis” of any changes in the organic management plan.

3.8.3 Specific requirements for Seaweeds

3.8.3.1 Collection from wild – The collection of wild seaweeds and parts thereof shall comply with the overall requirements specified under Regulation 3.1.12 as applicable under sea ecosystem. In addition, the wild sea weed collection shall also be subject to following:

- i. The collection area shall be far away from human habitation and human activity and free from any external contamination

source.

- ii. The collection area shall be of sound ecological quality and not declared unsuitable from human health point of view.
- iii. The collection shall not affect the long-term sustainability of the natural habitat or the maintenance of the species growing in the area.

3.8.3.2 Cultivation in sea and inland tanks – The cultivation of sea weeds can be taken up in coastal areas under natural conditions or under inland tanks with specific purpose. Following specific rule shall be followed in seaweed cultivation:

- i. Coastal area where seaweed cultivation is done must be free from any external contamination source and at a distance from human habitat.
- ii. The cultivation area shall be of sound ecological quality and not declared unsuitable from human health point of view.
- iii. Sustainable practices leading to natural conditions be used in all stages of production starting from collection of juvenile seaweed to harvest.
- iv. Seeding of seaweed can be done by indoor culture stocks grown under conditions specified in these rules.
- v. In case of non-availability of organic seed material and/or to maintain the wide gene pool with natural vigour juvenile seaweed from the wild can be supplemented in the growing area.
- vi. No fertilizers or any growth enhancing input shall be used in natural cultivation area on the coasts.
- vii. In case if seaweed is cultivated in tanks or juvenile seaweeds are raised in tanks then the coastal marine water without any treatment be used and the tanks shall have bottom surface as natural soil. Cultivation of seaweed in complete cemented tanks or made of artificial material without any contact with soil is prohibited.

- viii. Under inland tank conditions inputs authorised for use in crop production under **Annex -3(1)** and **Annex -3(2)** can be allowed by the Certification Body.
- ix. Use of synthetic inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, hormones etc and genetically modified organisms or their products are prohibited.
- x. For sanitation and hygiene maintenance of tanks inputs allowed under **Annex -3(9)** can be authorised by the Certification Body, but in all such cases it must be ensured that the washings of such operations are not drained to the sea.
- xi. In areas where cultivation is done in seacoast the product shall be allowed to be sold as organic after a minimum period of six months after the date of first inspection by the Certification Body. In case of inland tanks the product shall be allowed for sale as organic only after 24 months of starting the production after the date of first inspection by the Certification Body. In cases where Operator can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Certification Body that the land where cultivation tanks have been made has not been used for any cultivation activity then the conversion period can be reduced to 12 months after the date of first inspection.
- xii. Organic and non-organic production units must be in separate facilities separated by space and time and have separate equipments, storage, processing facilities and drying beds. Tanks used for cultivation of seaweed with prohibited inputs shall not be used for cultivation of organic seaweeds unless have gone through the Conversion Period as mentioned above.

3.8.4 Aquatic plants including algae

Cultivation of aquatic plants is a crop production activity and all requirements under 3.1, crop production, of these rules as applicable under aquatic environment. The Conversion Period shall be six months or one production cycle whichever is more.

- i. Cultivation of aquatic plants in artificial tanks without any soil base

or organic substrate/ media complying to the standards does not qualify for organic production under these rules.

- ii. Organic and non-organic production units must be in separate facilities separated by space and time and have separate equipments, storage, processing facilities and drying beds. Tanks used for cultivation of aquatic plants with prohibited inputs shall not be used for cultivation of organic aquatic plants unless they have gone through the Conversion Period as mentioned above.
- iii. The water used for cultivation shall be of potable quality and the soil shall be free from any contamination including heavy metals.
- iv. Use of synthetic chemicals/ prohibited substances for sterilization/ sanitation of production sites is prohibited, except the ones allowed under these rules.
- v. Mother culture or seeding material shall also be organic in compliance of these rules. In case of non-availability, non-organic seeding material can also be used without any chemical treatment or contamination.
- vi. Use of genetically modified seeding material is prohibited.
- vii. Weeds shall be controlled by physical or biological prevention methods.
- viii. Use of chemical fertilizers (including trace elements), pesticides, hormones etc is prohibited.
- ix. Mineral fertilizers in their natural composition can be used. Fertilization practices shall be in conformity of practices allowed under 3.1 of these rules.
- x. Physical and biological practices can be used for pest management. Use of synthetic chemical substances and plants extracts harmful to human health shall not be used.
- xi. Inputs or substances approved under these rules in 3.1 can be used with the prior permission of Certification Body.

- xii. Processing of aquatic plants and their parts thereof shall be done in accordance with the requirements specified under 3.5 of these rules.

3.8.5 Green House Crop Production

Green house crop production is a crop production activity with difference that it is done under partially controlled conditions. All the requirements specified under 3.1 shall also apply under greenhouse (Glass house, poly house or net house) conditions, including conversion requirements of land. In addition following requirement shall also be met:

- i. Green house design and its surroundings shall be orientated towards environmentally positive outcomes and resource efficiency, including water reuse where applicable.
- ii. Hydroponic and aeroponic systems where plants are fed principally through soluble fertilizers through water cannot be certified under these standards as they are not grown in healthy and complex soil ecology.
- iii. Under green house conditions parallel production or split production under same green house is prohibited. In case if an Operator cultivate both organic and conventional crops under green house then the two systems must be separate with adequate buffer zone and implements/ equipments used must be properly cleaned before using under organic operations.
- iv. During non-crop-production periods, a cover crop or green manure phase, or similar methods, shall be practiced to ensure ongoing soil life protection and enhancement.
- v. Media used to produce plants may include coconut fibre and other sources permitted under **Annex -3(1)** of these rules or have been evaluated for their suitability as per the procedure prescribed under **Annex -3(3)** of NPOP.
- vi. Media shall have contact with soil or mixed with soil and shall be incorporated or recycled during or at the end of the cropping cycle.

- vii. Where containers are used, containers shall consist of non-contaminating products of plant origin. Optimally such containers shall be reusable after phytosanitary considerations are satisfied.
- viii. Sterilization of growing containers for purposes of disease management shall either utilize steam, heat or other physical means or other practices or products listed in **Annex -3(9)** of these rules.
- ix. The fertility management shall be in accordance with the fertilization policy for crop production under these rules.
- x. A diversity of crop species shall be chosen in any one season to ensure good rotations and general diversity.
- xi. Intercrops and harboring floral species shall be encouraged for biocontrol agents.
- xii. Heating and lighting, where used, shall achieve best management practice in terms of efficiency and environmental impact, and wherever practicable shall rely upon renewable resources.

Products for Use in Fertilising and Soil Conditioning

In organic agriculture the maintenance of soil fertility may be achieved through the recycling of organic material whose nutrients are made available to crops through the action of soil microorganisms. Many of these inputs are restricted for use in organic production. In this annex “restricted” means that the conditions and the procedure for use shall be subjected to condition. Factors such as contamination, risk of nutritional imbalances and depletion of natural resources shall be taken in to consideration.

Inputs	Condition for use
Matter Produced on an Organic Farm Unit	
Farmyard & poultry manure, slurry, cow urine (used after controlled fermentation and appropriate dilution)	Permitted
Crop residues and green manure	Permitted
Straw and other mulches	Permitted
Matter Produced Outside the Organic Farm Unit	
Sawdust, wood shavings, wood provided it comes from untreated Wood after felling	Permitted
Compost from plant residues	Permitted
Blood meal, meat meal, bone meal, Hoof meal, Horn meal, feather meal, Fish meal, Hair, wool, Fur, Dairy products without preservatives	Restricted
Compost made from any carbon-based residues (animal excrement including poultry)	Restricted
Farmyard manure, slurry, cow urine (preferably after control fermentation and/or appropriate dilution) “factory” farming sources not permitted	Restricted
Fish and fish products without preservatives	Restricted
Guano	Restricted

By-products from the food and material of microbial, plant or animal origin without any synthetic additives	Restricted
Seaweed and seaweed products obtained by physical processes extraction with water or aqueous acid and/or alkaline solution	Restricted
Sewage sludge and urban composts from separated sources which are monitored for contamination	Restricted
Straw	Restricted
Vermicasts and Dejecta of worms (vermicompost)	Restricted
Compost and spent mushroom and vermiculate substances	Restricted
Compost from organic household reference	Restricted
By products from oil palm, coconut and cocoa (including empty fruit bunch, palm oil mill effluent (pome), cocoa peat and empty cocoa pods)	Restricted
Algae and algae products directly obtained by: i. Physical processes such as dehydration, freezing, and grinding. ii. Extraction using water or aqueous acid and/or alkaline solutions. iii. Fermentation.	Restricted
Peat without synthetic additives	Prohibited for soil Conditioning But the use, limited to horticulture (including market gardening, floriculture, arboriculture, nursery)
Human excrement	Prohibited
Minerals	
Calcium chloride	Permitted

Calcium carbonate of natural origin (chalk, limestone, gypsum and phosphate chalk)	Permitted
Mollusc waste exclusively sourced from organic aquaculture	Permitted
Egg shells from organic farm unit	Permitted
Sodium chloride	Permitted
Magnesium sulphate (Epsom salt)	Permitted
Calcium sulphate (Gypsum)	Permitted
Silage and silage extract	Permitted excluding Ammonium silage
Clay (bentonite, perlite, zeolite)	Permitted
Basic slag (Thomas phosphates or Thomas Slag)	Restricted
Calcareous and magnesium rock	Restricted
Mineral potassium with low chlorine content (e.g. sulphate of potash, kainite, sylvinite, patenkali)	Restricted
Natural phosphates (e.g., Rock phosphates)	Restricted
Pulverised rock	Restricted
Trace elements (Boron, Ferrous, Manganese, Molybdenum, Zinc)	Restricted
Wood ash from untreated wood after felling	Restricted
Potassium sulphate	Restricted
Aluminum calcium phosphate	Restricted
Sulphur	Restricted
Stone meal	Restricted
Microbiological Preparations	
Bacterial preparations (biofertilizers)	Permitted
Biodynamic preparations	Permitted
Plant preparations and botanical extracts	Permitted
Vermiculite	Permitted
Peat	Permitted

Biochar	Permitted
Panchagavya (Cow dung, Cow urine, Milk, Curd and Ghee)	Permitted

“Factory” farming refers to industrial management systems that are heavily reliant on veterinary and feed inputs not permitted in organic agriculture.

Annex –3(2)

Products for Plant Pest and Disease Control

Certain products are allowed for use in organic agriculture for the control of pests and diseases in plant production. Such products should only be used when absolutely necessary and should be chosen taking the environmental impact into consideration.

Many of these products are restricted for use in organic production. In this annex “restricted” means that the conditions and the procedure for use shall be subjected to conditions.

Inputs	Condition for use
Substances from plant and animal origin	
<i>Azadiracta indica</i> (neem preparations)	Permitted
Plant based extracts–garlic, etc.	Permitted
Casein	Permitted
Sucrose	Permitted
Fructose	Permitted
Sunflower oil	Permitted
Mustard seed powder	Permitted
Onion oil	Permitted
Cow milk	Permitted
Citronella oil	Permitted for all uses except herbicides
Clove oil	Permitted for all uses except herbicides
Rape seed oil	Permitted for all uses except herbicides

Spearmint oil	Permitted for all uses except herbicides
Tea tree oil	Permitted for all uses except herbicides
Orange oil	Permitted for all uses except herbicides
Neem oil	Restricted
Preparation on basis of pyrethrins extracted from <i>Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium</i> , containing possibly a synergist <i>Pyrethrum cinerifolium</i>	Restricted
Release of parasite predators of insect pests	Restricted
Lecithin	Restricted
Natural acids (vinegar)	Restricted
Tobacco tea and tobacco extracts	Prohibited
Minerals	
Copper salts/ inorganic salts (Bordeaux mixture, copper hydroxide, copper oxychloride, copper oxide, Tribasic copper sulphate) used as a fungicide depending upon the crop and under the supervision of Certification Body	Restricted
Diatomaceous earth	Restricted
Lime Sulphur (calcium polysulphide)	Restricted
Sulphur (as a fungicide, acaricide, repellent)	Restricted
Calcium hydroxide	Restricted
Sodium hydrogen carbonate	Restricted
Hydrogen peroxide	Restricted
Sodium chloride	Restricted
Potassium hydrogen carbonate	Restricted
Aluminum silicate (Kaoline)	Restricted
Mineral powders eg: stone meal	Prohibited

Microorganism used for biological pest control	
Viral preparation (eg. Granulosis virus, Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus etc.	Permitted
Fungal preparations (<i>Trichoderma spp.</i>)	Permitted
Bacterial preparations (<i>Bacillus spp</i>)	Permitted
Parasites, Predators and sterilized insects	Permitted
Others	
Soft soap (potassium soap)	Permitted
Homeopathic and Ayurvedic preparations	Permitted
Herbal and biodynamic preparations	Permitted
Fatty acids	Permitted for all uses except herbicides
Quartz sand	Permitted
Eugenol	Permitted
Maltodextrin	Permitted
Geraniol	Permitted
Thymol	Permitted
Ethylene	Only allowed in Bananas and Potatoes. It also may be used in citrus to prevent fruit fly damage
Carbon dioxide	Restricted
Ethyl alcohol	Prohibited
Traps	
Physical methods (Chromatic traps, Mechanical traps, sticky traps and Pheromones	Permitted (pheromones are permitted only in traps)

Procedure to Evaluate Additional Inputs to Organic Agriculture

- I. **Annex 3(1) & 3(2)** refer to products for fertilizing of the soil and control of plant pest and diseases in organic agriculture. But there may well be other products which may be useful and appropriate for use in organic agriculture which may not fall under these headings. **Annex 3(3)** outlines the procedure to evaluate other inputs in to organic production.
- II. The following checklist should be used for amending the permitted substance list for fertilizing the soil conditioning purposes:
 - i. The material is essential for achieving or maintaining soil fertility or to fulfil specific nutrient requirements, for specific soil-conditioning and rotation purposes which cannot be satisfied by the practices outlined in Chapter 3 or of other products included in **Annex 3(1)** and the ingredients are of plant, animal, microbial or mineral origin which may undergo the following processes:
 - a. Physical (mechanical, thermal)
 - b. Enzymatic
 - c. Microbial (composting, digestion)
 - ii. Their use does not result in, or contribute to, unacceptable effects on, or contamination of, the environment, including soil organisms.
 - iii. Their use has no unacceptable effect on the quality and safety of the final product.
- III. The following checklist should be used for amending the permitted substance list for the purpose of plant disease or pest and weed control:
 - i. The material is essential for the control of a harmful organism or a particular disease for which other biological, physical or plant breeding alternatives and/or effective management techniques are not available.
 - ii. The substances (active compound) should be plant, animal, microbial or mineral origin which may undergo the following processes:

- a. Physical
 - b. Enzymatic
 - c. Microbial
- iii. Their use does not result in, or contribute to, unacceptable effects on, or contamination of, the environment.
- iv. Nature identical products such as pheromones, which are chemically synthesized may be considered if the products are not available in sufficient quantities in their natural form, provided that the conditions for their use do not directly or indirectly contribute to contamination of the environment or the product.

IV. **Evaluation**

- i. When an input is to be evaluated it must first be investigated by certification programmes to see whether it fulfils the following six criteria. An input must fulfil all 6 requirements before it can be accepted as suitable for use in organic agriculture.
- ii. Inputs should be evaluated regularly and weighed against alternatives. This process of regular evaluation should result in organic production becoming ever more friendly to humans, animals, environment and the ecosystem.

1. **Necessity**

- i. The necessity of each input must be established. This will be investigated in the context in which the product will be used.
- ii. Arguments to prove the necessity of an input may be drawn from such criteria as yield, product quality, environmental safety, ecological protection, landscape, human and animal welfare.
- iii. The use of an input may be restricted to:
 - a. Specific crops (especially perennial crops)
 - b. Specific regions
 - c. Specific conditions under which the input may be used

2. Nature and Way of Production

a. Nature

- i. The origin of the input should usually be (in order of preference):
 - a. Organic-vegetative, animal, microbial
 - b. Mineral
- ii. Non-natural products which are chemically synthesized and identical to natural products may be used.
- iii. When there is any choice, renewable inputs are preferred. The next best choice is inputs of mineral origin and the third choice is inputs which are chemically identical to natural products. There may be ecological, technical or economic arguments to take in to consideration in the allowance of chemically identical inputs.

b. Way of Production

The ingredients of the inputs may undergo the following processes:

- i. Mechanical
- ii. Physical
- iii. Enzymatic
- iv. Action of micro-organisms
- v. Chemical (as an exception and restricted)

c. Collection

The collection of the raw materials comprising the input must not affect the stability of the natural habitat nor affect the maintenance of any species within the collection area.

3. Environment

i. Environmental Safety

The input must not be harmful or have a lasting negative impact on the environment. Nor should the input give rise to unacceptable pollution of surface or ground water, air or soil. All stages during processing, use

and breakdown must be evaluated.

The following characteristics of the input must be taken into account:

ii. Degradability

All inputs must be degradable to their mineral form. Inputs with a high acute toxicity to non-target organisms should have a maximum half-life of five days. Natural substances used as inputs which are not considered toxic do not need to be degradable within a limited time.

iii. Acute toxicity to non-target organisms

When inputs have a relatively high acute toxicity for non-target organisms, restrictions for their use is needed. Measures have to be taken to guarantee the survival of these non-target organisms. Maximum amounts allowed for application may be set. When it is not possible to take adequate measures, the use of the input must not be allowed.

iv. Long-term chronic toxicity

Inputs which accumulate in organisms or systems of organisms and inputs which have, or are suspected of having, mutagenic or carcinogenic properties must not be used. If there are any risks, sufficient measures have to be taken to reduce any risk to an acceptable level and to prevent long-lasting negative environmental effects.

v. Chemically synthesized products and heavy metals

- i. Inputs should not contain harmful amounts of man-made chemicals (xenobiotic products). Chemically synthesized products may be accepted only if identical to the natural product.
- ii. Mineral inputs should contain as few heavy metals as possible. Due to the lack of any alternative, and long-standing, traditional use in organic agriculture, copper and copper salts are an exception for the time being. The use of copper in any form in organic agriculture must be seen, however, as temporary and use must be restricted with regard to environmental impact.

4. Human Health and Quality

a. Human Health

Inputs must not be harmful to human health. All stages during processing, use and degradation must be taken into account. Measures must be taken to reduce any risks and standards set for inputs used in organic production.

b. Product Quality

Inputs must not have negative effects on the quality of the product- e.g. taste, keeping quality, visual quality.

5. Ethical Aspects-Animal Welfare

Inputs must not have a negative influence on the natural behaviour or physical functioning of animals kept at the farm.

6. Socio Economic Aspects

Consumers' perception: Inputs should not meet resistance or opposition of consumers of organic products. An input might be considered by consumers to be unsafe to the environment or human health, although this has not been scientifically proven. Inputs should not interfere with a general feeling or opinion about what is natural or organic - e.g. genetic engineering.

Minimum Surface Area Indoors & Outdoors and Other Characteristics of Housing in Different Species and Types of Production

1. Bovines, Ovine, Caprine and Pig

Livestock	Indoor Area (net area available to animals)		Outdoor Area (exercise area, excluding pasturage)
	Live Weight Minimum (kg)	M ² / Head	M ² / Head
Breeding & fattening bovine	Up to 100	1.5	1.1
	Up to 200	2.5	1.9
	Up to 350	4.0	3
	Over 350	5 with a minimum of 1m ² /100 kg	3.7 with a minimum of 0.75m ² /100kg
Dairy Cows		6	4.5
Bulls for breeding		10	30
Sheep & Goats		1.5 for sheep/ goat	2.5
		0.35 for lamb/ kid	0.5
Farrowing Pigs with piglets up to 40 days		7.5 for sow	2.5

Fattening pigs	Up to 50	0.8	0.6
	Up to 85	1.1	0.8
	Up to 110	1.3	1
Piglets	Over 40 days and up to 30 Kg	0.6	0.4
Brood Pigs		2.5 for female	1.9
		6 for male (If pens are used for natural service: 10m ² /boar)	8.0

Poultry

Poultry	Indoor Area (net area available to animals)	Outdoor run
Layers	6 birds m ²	4 bird/ m ²
Pullets 0–8 weeks	24 birds m ²	16 birds m ²
Pullets 9–18 weeks	15 birds m ²	10 birds m ²
Broilers/ fattening chickens	10 birds m ² with maximum of 21 kg live weight/ m ²	10 birds m ² with maximum of 21 kg live weight/ m ²
Turkeys/ large birds	Up to 26 kg live weight/ m ²	Up to 17 kg live weight/ m ²

Outdoor runs are not required when flocks are undergoing immunization programme and when in the final phases of fattening		
---	--	--

Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for rabbits

Rabbits	Indoor Space	Outdoor –runs and concrete exercise	Outdoor – pasture
From weaning to slaughter	0.3 m ² / head	2 m ² / head	5 m ² / head
Pregnant does	0.5 m ² / head	2 m ² / head	5 m ² / head
Does and litters	0.7 m ² /head	2 m/head	-
Bucks	0.3 m ² / head	2 m ² / head	5 m ² / head

Permitted List of Feed Materials, Feed Additives & Processing Aids for Animal Nutrition

1. Feed materials from plant origin

1.1 Cereals, grains, their products and by-products. The following substances are permitted:

- i. Oats as Grains, Flakes, Middlings, Hulls and Bran;
- ii. Wheat as Grains, Wheat as Germ, Middling, Bran **[IS 2239:1971]**, Gluten Feed, Gluten and Germ; **[IS 2239:1971]**
- iii. Barley as Grains, Protein and Middlings;
- iv. Maize as Grains; Bran **[IS 2153:1985]** Middling; Germ Expeller and Gluten **[IS 2152:1972]**;
- v. Sorghum as Grains;
- vi. Rice Germ Expeller and bran;
- vii. Millet as Grains;
- viii. Rye as Grains and Middlings;
- ix. Triticale as Grains, Bran, Middlings, Brewers' Grains.
- x. Other cereals & grains

1.2 Oil seeds, oil fruits, their products and by-products. The following substances are permitted:

- i. Rape seed and mustard **[IS 1932:1986]** as expeller and hulls;
- ii. Soya bean as bean, toasted, expeller and hulls;
- iii. Sunflower seed **[IS 14702:1999]** as seed and expeller;
- iv. Cotton as seed and seed expeller;
- v. Linseed **[IS 1935:1982]** as seed and expeller;
- vi. Sesame seed **[IS 1934:1982]** as expeller;
- vii. Groundnut seed **[IS 3441:1982]** as expeller;
- viii. Palm kernels as expeller;
- ix. Safflower decorticated cake **[IS 6242:1985]**
- x. Toria Cake
- xi. Taramira Cake
- xii. Pumpkin seed as expeller;
- xiii. Other oilseeds

- xiv. Vegetable oils (from physical extraction).

1.3 Legume seeds, their product and by-products. The following substances are permitted:

- a. Bengal gram as seeds, middlings and hulls
- b. Black gram as seeds, middlings and hulls
- c. Pigeon pea as middlings and hulls
- d. Green gram as middlings and hulls
- e. Horse beans as seeds middlings and bran
- f. Lentil as middlings and hulls
- g. Chickpeas as seeds, middlings and bran;
- h. Ervil as seeds, middlings and bran as seeds submitted to heat treatment, middlings and bran,
- i. Peas as seeds, middlings, and bran;
- j. Broad beans as seeds middlings and bran; and
- k. Lupin as seeds, middlings and bran.
- l. Other legumes

1.4 Tuber, roots, their products and by-products. The following substances are included in this category:

- a. Sugar beet pulp, potato
- b. Sweet potato as tuber,
- c. Potato pulp (by-product of the extraction of potato starch), potato starch, potato protein and manioc
- d. Carrot
- e. Turnip
- f. Other tubers

1.5 Other seeds and fruits, their products and by-products. The following substances are permitted:

- a. Fruits & Fruit Pulps of apple, citrus fruits, pears, peaches, grapes, figs, Pineapple, quinces, pumpkins;
- b. Chestnuts, walnut expeller, hazelnut expeller; cocoa husks and expeller; acorns.
- c. Mango seeds **[IS 12829:1989]**, tamarind seeds meal.

1.6 Forages and roughages. The following substances are permitted:

- i. Cultivated fodder crops. Only the following fodder crops are included in this category:
 - a. Sorghum (*Sorghum vulgare*)
 - b. Maize (*Zea Mays*)
 - c. Bajra (*Pennisetum typhoides*)
 - d. Teosinte (*Euchlaena Mexicana*)
 - e. Cow Pea (*Vigna unguiculata*)
 - f. Guar (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*)
 - g. Oats (*Avena sativa*)
 - h. Berseem (*Trifolium Alexadrinum*)
 - i. Lucerne (*Medicago Sativa*)
 - j. Senji (*Melilotus Parviflora*)
 - k. Hybrid Napier
 - l. Para Grass (*Brachiaria mutica*)
 - m. Rhodes Grass (*Chloris Gayana*)
 - n. Guinea Grass (*Panicom Maximum*)
 - o. Sudan Grass (*Soreghum Sudanenes*)
 - p. Mustard (*Brassica spp*)
- ii. Clover, Clover meal, Grass (obtained from forage plants), Grass meal,
- iii. Hay, Silage & Straw of cereal crops and Root vegetables for foraging.
- iv. Pasture Grass & Legumes: Following are included in this category:
 - a. Anjan (*Cenchrus ciliaris*)
 - b. Marvel (*Dichanthium Annulatum*)
 - c. Dinanath (*Penniactum pedicellatum*)
 - d. Kazungla (*Setaria Sphacelata*)
 - e. Sain (*Sehima nervosum*)
 - f. Siratro (*Macroptilum atropurpureum*)
 - g. Stylo (*Stylosanthes Humilis*)
 - h. Bankulthi (*Atylosia Scarabaeoides*)
 - i. Field bean (*Dolichos lablab*)
 - j. Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria termatea*)
- v. Leaves of common Indian trees. Following tress are included in this category whose leaves can be fed to animals.

- a. *Acacia Arabica* (Babul)
- b. *Acacia Senegal* (Kumat)
- c. *Adina cordifolia* (Haldu)
- d. *Ailanthus excelsa* (Ardu)
- e. *Amaranthus spinosus* (Goja),
- f. *Albizia lebbeck* (Siras)
- g. *Azadirachta indica* (Neem)
- h. *Banhinia variegata* (Kachnar)
- i. *Cassia auriculata* (Tarwad)
- j. *Dalbergia Sissoo* (Sissoo)
- k. *Ficus benghalensis* (Bargad)
- l. *Ficus religiosa* (papal)
- m. *Ficus Glomerata* (gular)
- n. *Hardwickia binata* (Anjan)
- o. *Leucaena leucocephala* (Subabul)
- p. *Morus alba* (Tut)
- q. *Marus indica* (Mulberry)
- r. *Prosopis cineraria* (Khejri)

1.7 Other plants, their products and by-products. The following substances are included in this category:

- a. Molasses
- b. Seaweed meal (obtained by drying and crushing seaweed and washed to reduce iodine content),
- c. Powders and extracts of plants,
- d. Plant protein extracts (solely provided to young animals),
- e. Spices and herbs.

2. Feed materials from animal origin

2.1 Milk and milk products. The following substances are included in the category provided produced organically:

- i. raw milk
- ii. milk powder, skimmed milk, skimmed-milk powder,
- iii. buttermilk, buttermilk powder,
- iv. whey, whey powder, whey powder low in sugar, whey protein powder

- (extracted by physical treatment),
- v. casein powder, lactose powder, curd and sour milk.

2.2 Fish, other marine animals, their products and by-products. Only the following substances are included in the category:

- a. fish, fish oil and cod-liver oil not refined;
- b. fish molluscan or crustacean autolysates, hydrolysate and proteolysates obtained by an enzyme action, whether or not in soluble form, solely provided to young animals.
- c. Fish meal [IS 4307:1983]

2.3 Eggs and egg products for use as poultry feed, preferably from the same holding.

**3. Feed materials from mineral origin [IS 1664:2002]
The following substances are included in this category:**

- i. **Sodium:**
 - a. sodium sulphate
 - b. sodium carbonate
 - c. sodium bicarbonate
 - d. sodium chloride [IS 920:1972]
- ii. **Potassium:**
 - a. potassium chloride;
- iii. **Calcium:**
 - a. lithotamnion and maerl
 - b. shells of aquatic animals (including cuttlefish bones)
 - c. calcium carbonate
 - d. calcium lactate
 - e. calcium gluconate;
- iv. **Phosphorus:**
 - a. defluorinated dicalcium phosphate
 - b. defluorinated monocalcium phosphate
 - c. monosodium phosphate
 - d. calcium-magnesium phosphate
 - e. calcium-sodium phosphate;

- v. **Magnesium:**
 - a. magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia)
 - b. magnesium sulphate
 - c. magnesium chloride
 - d. magnesium carbonate
 - e. magnesium phosphate;

- vi. **Sulphur:**
 - a. sodium sulphate

4. **Feed additives, certain substances used in animal nutrition and processing aids used in feeding stuffs**

4.1 **Feed additives**

4.1.1 **Trace elements the following substances are included in this category:**

- i. **Iron**
 - a. ferrous (II) carbonate
 - b. ferrous (II) sulphate monohydrate and / or heptahydrate
 - c. ferric (III) oxide;
- ii. **Iodine:**
 - a. calcium iodate, anhydrous
 - b. calcium iodate, hexahydrate
 - c. sodium iodide;
- iii. **Cobalt:**
 - a. cobaltous (II) sulphate monohydrate and/or heptahydrate
 - b. basic cobaltous (II) carbonate, monohydrate;
- iv. **Copper:**
 - a. copper (II) oxide
 - b. basic copper (II) carbonate, monohydrate
 - c. copper (II) sulphate, pentahydrate;
- v. **Manganese:**
 - a. manganous (II) carbonate
 - b. manganous oxide and manganic oxide
 - c. manganous (II) sulfate, mono- and/or tetrahydrate;

- vi. **Zinc:**
 - a. zinc carbonate
 - b. zinc oxide
 - c. zinc sulphate mono- and/or heptahydrate;
- vii. **Molybdenum:**
 - a. ammonium molybdate,
 - b. sodium molybdate;
- viii. **Selenium:**
 - a. sodium selenate
 - b. sodium selenite

4.1.2 Vitamins, pro-vitamins and chemically well defined substances having a similar effect. The following substances are included in this category:

- i. Preferably derived from raw materials occurring naturally in feeding stuffs, or
- ii. Synthetic vitamins identical to natural vitamins only for monogastric animals

By derogation from the first subparagraph, and during a transitional period as determined by the competent authority, the use of synthetic vitamins of types A, D and E for ruminants may be authorized in so far as the following conditions are met:

- i. The synthetic vitamins are identical to the natural vitamins and
- ii. The authorization issued by the Competent Authority is founded on precise criteria.

Producers may benefit from this authorization only if they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the inspection body or authority that the health and welfare of their animals cannot be guaranteed without the use of these synthetic vitamins.

4.1.3 Microorganisms: following microorganisms are included in this category:

- i. Microorganisms such as lactobacillus, yeast, etc., that are not genetically modified.

4.1.4 Preservatives: the following substances are included in this category:

- a. Sorbic acid
- b. Formic acid
- c. Acetic acid
- d. Lactic acid
- e. Propionic acid
- f. Citric acid
- g. Sodium Formate

The use of lactic, formic, propionic and acetic acid in the production of silage shall be only permitted when weather conditions do not allow for adequate fermentation.

4.1.5 Binders, anti-caking agents and coagulants. The following substances are included in this category:

- i. Calcium stearate of natural origin
- ii. Colloidal silica
- iii. Kieselgur
- iv. Bentonite
- v. Kaolinitic clays
- vi. Natural mixtures of stearites and chlorite
- vii. Vermiculite
- viii. Sepiolite
- ix. Perlite
- x. Guar Gum
- xi. Sodium Ferrocyanide
- xii. Natrolite-phonolite
- xiii. Clinoptilolite of sedimentary origin

4.1.6 Antioxidant substances. The following substances are included in this category:

- i. Tocopherol – rich extracts of natural origin

4.1.7 Silage additives authorized only to ensure adequate fermentation. The following substances are included in this category:

- i. Enzymes, yeasts and microorganisms that are not genetically modified.
- ii. Sodium Propionate
- iii. Sodium formate
- iv. Formic acid
- v. Propionic acid

4.2 Certain products used in animal nutrition

The following products are included in this category:

- i. Brewer's yeasts

4.3 Processing aids used in feeding stuffs

4.3.1 Processing aids for silage. The following substances are included in this category:

- i. Sea salt, coarse rock salt, whey, sugar, sugar beet pulp, cereal flour and molasses.

4.4 Biologicals and Immunologicals in feed:

- i. Colostrum powder / whole colostrum provided that it is preferably derived from animals that are reared under organic farming.
- ii. Ayurvedic and plant-derived products that are claimed to have immune potentiating properties

Enzymes and heir Sources Permitted for Use in Animal/Poultry

Name of the Enzyme	Source
alpha-Amylase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , var. <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> <i>Bacillus lentus</i> <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> <i>Bacillus stearothermophilus</i> <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , var. Barley malt <i>Rhizopus niveus</i> <i>Rhizopus oryzae</i> , var.
Maltogenic alpha-Amylase	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>
beta-Amylase	Barley malt
Cellulase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Humicola insolens</i> <i>Trichoderma longibrachiatum</i> (formerly <i>reesei</i>)
alpha-Galactosidase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Mortierella vinaceae</i> var. <i>raffinoseutilizer</i> <i>Saccharomyces</i> sp.
beta-Glucanase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Bacillus lentus</i> <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , var. <i>Humicola insolens</i> <i>Trichoderma longibrachiatum</i> (formerly <i>reesei</i>)
β-Glucosidase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>
Glucoamylase also known as amlyo – glucosidase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , var. <i>Rhizopus niveus</i> <i>Rhizopus oryzae</i> , var.

Name of the Enzyme	Source
Hemicellulase	<i>Aspergillus aculeatus</i> <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Bacillus lentus</i> <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , var. <i>Humicola insolens</i> <i>Trichoderma longibrachiatum</i> (formerly <i>reesei</i>)
Invertase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Saccharomyces</i> sp.
Lactase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , var. <i>Candida pseudotropicalis</i> <i>Kluyveromyces marxianis</i> var. <i>lactis</i> (formerly <i>Saccharomyces</i> sp.)
beta-Mannanase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Bacillus lentus</i> <i>Trichoderma longibrachiatum</i>
Pectinase	<i>Aspergillus aculeatus</i> <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Rhizopus oryzae</i>
Pullulanase	<i>Bacillus acidopullulyticus</i> <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> containing <i>Bacillus deramificans</i> gene for pullulanase
Xylanase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Bacillus lentus</i> <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , var. <i>Humicola insolens</i> <i>Trichoderma longibrachiatum</i> (formerly <i>reesei</i>)

Name of the Enzyme	Source
Lipase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , var. <i>Candida rugosa</i> (formerly <i>cylindracea</i>) <i>Rhizomucor</i> (<i>mucor</i>) <i>miehei</i> <i>Rhizopus oryzae</i> <i>Rhizomucor</i> (<i>Mucor</i> -) <i>miehei</i> <i>Rhizopus oryzae</i>
Bromelain	Pineapples – stem fruit
Ficin	Figs
Papain	Papaya
Protease (general)	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , var. <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , var
Catalase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Micrococcus lysodeikticus</i>
Phytase	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , var. <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , var.

List of Diseases for Herd / Flock Diagnosis

In consultation with the veterinarian should draw a program of health management of the animals and carry out testing of the herd for following diseases:

Cattle including buffaloes:

- i. Brucellosis:
- ii. Leptospirosis
- iii. Mastitis
- iv. Tuberculosis
- v. Para-tuberculosis

Sheep and Goat:

- i. Brucellosis:
- ii. Leptospirosis
- iii. Tuberculosis
- iv. Para-tuberculosis

Pigs:

- i. Swine fever
- ii. Brucellosis

Poultry:

- i. *Mycoplasma gallinarum*
- ii. Fowl Typhoid

Antibiotic / Antibacterial Withdrawal Period

Intramammary Preparations		Discard time for milk
1	Benzathine cloxacillin	72 Hrs (of milk discard)
2	Cloxacillin sodium	48 Hrs (of milk discard)
3	Hetacillin potassium	72 Hrs (of milk discard)
4	Procaine penicillin G (Peanut oil)	84 Hrs (of milk discard)

Withdrawal periods (Sheep and Goats)

Sr. No.	Drug	Pre-slaughter withdrawal time (days)
1	Chlortetracycline (Oral)	2
2	Procaine penicillin-G	9
3	Procaine penicillin-G, dihydrostreptomycin Sulphate	30
4	dihydrostreptomycin sulphate	30
5	Erythromycin	3
6	Sulphamethazine	10
7	Sulphamethazine (Oral)	10
8	Sulphaquinoxaline(Oral)	10
9	Sulpfisoxazole(Oral)	10
10	Tetracycline(Oral)	--
11	Thiabendazole (Oral)	30

Withdrawal periods (Swine)

Sr. No.	Drug	Pre-slaughter withdrawal time (days)
1	Chlortetracycline (Oral)	2
2	Procaine penicillin-G	30
3	Procaine penicillin-G, dihydrostreptomycin Sulphate	30
4	Dihydrostreptomycin sulphate	30
5	Erythromycin	7
6	Ampicillin trihydrate	15
7	lincomycin hydrochloride	2
8	Oxytetracycline HCl	26
9	Tylosin	4
10	Amoxycillin trihydrate (oral)	15
11	Ampicillin trihydrate (oral)	15
12	Chlortetracycline, Sulphathiazole, Procaine penicillin (oral)	7
13	Chlortetracycline, sulphamethazine, penicillin (oral)	15
14	Chlortetracycline HCl (oral)	5
15	Dihydrostreptomycin (oral)	30
16	Erythromycin (oral)	7
17	Furazolidine (oral)	5
18	Hygromycin B (oral)	2
19	Lincomycin (oral)	6
20	Nystatin (oral)	--
21	Oxytetracycline (oral)	26
22	Penicillin 50gm/900kg feed (oral)	0
23	Spectinomycin dihydrochloride pentahydrate (oral)	21

24	Streptomycin, sulphathizole, phthalylsulphathiazole (oral)	10
25	Sulphachloropyridazine sodium (oral)	4
26	Sulphaethoxypyridazine (oral)	10
27	Sulphamethazine (oral)	15
28	Sulphaquinoxaline (oral)	10

Withdrawal periods (Poultry)

Sr.No.	Drug	Pre-slaughter withdrawal time (days)
1	Bacitracin	0
2	Carbomycin	1
3	Chlortetracycline	1
4	Erythromycin	2
5	Gentamycin sulphate (inj)	35
6	Lincomycin	5
7	Monensin sodium	5
8	Novobiocin	4
9	Oleandomycin	--
10	Oxytetracycline (50-200gm/900kg feed)	0
11	Penicillin (2.4-125 gm/900kg)	0
12	Spectinomycin	5
13	Sulphadimethoxine	5
14	Sulphaquinoxaline	10
15	Tylosin Phosphate	5

Products Authorized for Cleaning and Disinfection of Livestock Buildings and Installations

- i. Potassium and sodium soap
- ii. Water and steam
- iii. Milk of lime
- iv. Lime
- v. Quicklime
- vi. Sodium hypochlorite (e.g. as liquid bleach)
- vii. Hydrogen peroxide
- viii. Natural essences of plants with the exception of linseed oil, lavender oil and peppermint oil
- ix. Citric, peracetic acid, formic, lactic, oxalic and acetic acid
- x. Alcohol
- xi. Formaldehyde

List of Notifiable Honey Bee Diseases (IS6695:1998)

1. American Foul Brood (AFB)
2. European Foul Brood (EFB)
3. Acarine Disease
4. Nosema Disease

Approved Products in Beekeeping for Disinfestations/Cleaning/ Disease-Pest Control

- I. Caustic soda
- II. Lactic acid, Oxalic acid, Acetic acid
- III. Formic acid
- IV. Sulphur
- V. Ethericoils
- VI. *Bacillus thuringiensis*
- VII. Menthol
- VIII. Thymol
- IX. Eucalyptol
- X. Camphor
- XI. Azadirachtin
- XII. Gelatine
- XIII. Hydrolysed Proteins
- XIV. Lecithin
- XV. Plant Oils
- XVI. Pyrethrins
- XVII. Quassia
- XVIII. Rotenone extracted from *Derris* spp., *Lonchocarpus* spp .and
- XIX. *Terphrosia* spp.
- XX. Micro-organisms
- XXI. Diammonium phosphate in traps
- XXII. Pheromones (*intraps & dispensers*)
- XXIII. Soft Soap
- XXIV. Lime Sulphur
- XXV. Paraffin Oils
- XXVI. Mineral Oils
- XXVII. Quartz sand
- XXVIII. Sulphur
- XXIX. Potassium bi-carbon

Classification of Water bodies for Bivalve Farming

The site should meet the criteria of the 'approved' in terms of general water quality and microbial load as per the specification given below:

Class	Microbial standard	Post-harvest treatment
A	Live bivalve molluscs from these areas must not exceed 230 MPN <i>E.coli</i> per 100g of flesh and intra-valvular liquid	None
B	Live bivalve molluscs from these areas must not exceed the limits of a five tube, three dilution Most Probable Number (MPN) test of 4,600 <i>E.coli</i> per 100g of flesh and intra-valvular liquid	Purification, relaying in class A area or cooking by an approved method
C	Live bivalve molluscs from these areas must not exceed the limits of a five tube, three dilution Most Probable Number (MPN) test of 46,000 <i>E.coli</i> per 100g of flesh and intra-valvular liquid	Relaying for along period or cooking by an approved method
Prohibited	46,000 <i>E.coli</i> per 100g of flesh and intra-valvular liquid	Harvesting not permitted

Approved List of Aquaculture Inputs

Piscicides of Herbal Origin

- i. Mahua Oil Cake (*Bassia latifolia*)
- ii. Tea Seed Cake (*Camellia sinensis*)
- iii. Neervalam (*Crotalaria tigilum*)
- iv. Derris root powder (*Linchocarpus* sp.)

Water/Soil reformers/conditioners

- i. Agrilime (CaCO_3)
- ii. Quick Lime

Biofertilizers/manures/nutrients (from organic sources)

- i. Compost from FYM
- ii. Vermi-Compost
- iii. Cow-dung
- iv. Biodegradable processing by-products of animal/plant origin
- v. Micronutrients and essential chemical fertilizer for microalgal culture
- vi. Mushroom spent wash

Chelating Agents

- i. EDTA

Disinfectants

- i. Iodine (IP Grade)

Live feed from hatchery

- i. Micro Algae
- ii. Artemia
- iii. Moina
- iv. Branchionus
- v. Copepodes

Seed

- i. Seed material from Certified Organic Hatchery (as 1st choice)
- ii. Seed from conventional hatcheries (in the absence of certified organic hatchery)

Feed

- i. Compounded feed from Certified organic feed-mill with certified ingredient from organic agriculture.
- ii. Live feed reared under the principles of organic agriculture/aquaculture.

Processing

- i. Cleaning Compounds
 - a. Teapol (Labolene)
- ii. Sanitizers
 - a. Chlorine
- iii. Processing Additives
 - a. Food Grade Oxygen (O₂)
 - b. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
 - c. Nitrogen (N₂)
- iv. **Taste/Flavouring agents**
 - a. Table Salt

Prohibited List of Aquaculture Inputs

1. All synthetic weedicides, piscicides, pesticides and insecticides
2. Chemical fertilizers
3. Wild seeds and seeds from GMO's and their derivatives
4. Synthetic hormones
5. Processing chemicals such as Ethylene oxide, Methyl bromide, Aluminium phosphide, Hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) Lindane, Pyrethrum extract and Sulphite

List of Prohibited Antibiotics and Pharmacologically Active Substances for Aquaculture

1. Chloramphenicol
2. Nitrofurans including Furazolidone, Nitrofurazone, Furaltadone, Nitrofurantoin, Furfuramide, Nifuratel, Nifursoxime, Nifurprazine and all their derivatives
3. Nemoycin
4. Nalidixic Acid
5. Sulphamethoxazole
6. *Aristolochia spp* and preparations thereof
7. Chloroform
8. Chlorpromazine
9. Colchicine
10. Dapsone
11. Dimetridazole
12. Metronidazole
13. Ronidazole
14. Ipronidazole
15. Other nitroimidazoles
16. Clenbuterol
17. Diethylstilbestrol(DES)
18. Sulfonamide except approved sulfadimethoxine, sulfabromomethazine and sulfaethoxyrpyridazine
19. Fluroquinolones
20. Glycopeptides

List of Permitted & Prohibited Substances for Use in Aquaculture Processing

A. Processing Additives

Permissible additives

- i. Nitrogen (N₂) (E941)
- ii. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) (E290)
- iii. Natural vegetable substances for neutralization of unwanted components of taste upon explicit approved under this standards

Prohibited additives

- i. Sulphite (Sodium metabisulphite (E223) for stabilization of colour
- ii. Phosphate (for using in order to make fish fillets look better)
- iii. Carbon monoxide (CO) for stabilization of colour

B. Processing Methods

Allowed methods

All common methods used for the treatment of aqua produce and for the production and preservation of the final products.

Prohibited methods

The use of smoking process using smoke from the household fireplace with the product to be smoked hanging from the roof

- i. Black smoking
- ii. Liquid smoke treatment
- iii. Salting by injection

Food Additives Including Carriers for Use in Production of Processed Organic Food

International Numbering System	Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use
INS170	Calcium carbonate	Products of plant and animal origin	Not for use for colouring /calcium enrichment of products
INS220	Sulphur dioxide	Products of plant and animal origin	: Allowed to use in wines made from fruits other than grapes including cider and made with or without sugar (maximum concentration shall be 100 mg/lit expressed as SO ₂)
INS270	Lactic acid	Products of plant and animal origin	For concentrated fruit/veg. juice & fermented veg. products
INS296	Malic acid	Products of plant origin	
INS290	Carbon dioxide	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS300	Ascorbic acid	Products of plant and animal origin	For meat products

INS306	Tocopheroles, mixed, Natural concentrates	Products of plant and animal origin	Antioxidant for fats and oils
INS322	Lecithins	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk products (to be obtained without use of bleaches and organic solvents)
INS325	Sodium lactate	Products of animal origin	For milk based and Meat products
INS330	Citric acid	Products of plant and animal origin	For concentrated fruit/veg. Jam, fermented veg. product
INS331	Sodium citrate	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS333	Calcium citrate	Products of plant origin	
INS334	Tartaric acid	Products of plant origin	
INS335	Sodium tartarate	Products of plant origin	
INS336	Potassium tartrate	Products of plant origin	
INS341	Monocalcium Phosphate	Products of plant origin	For raising flour only
INS400	Alginic acid	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk based products

INS401	Sodium alginate	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk based products and sausage based on meat
INS402	Potassium alginate	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk based products
INS406	Agar	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk based and Meat products
INS407	Carrageenan	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk products
INS410	Locust bean gum	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS412	Guar gum	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS414	Arabic gum	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS415	Xanthum gum	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS422	Glycerol	Products of plant origin	For use in plant extracts and only from plant origin solvent and carrier in plant extract and flavourings
INS440	Pectin	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk based products

INS464	Hydroxy propyl methyl Cellulase	Products of plant origin	For encapsulation Material for capsules
INS500	Sodium carbonate	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk product substances
INS501	Potassium carbonate	Products of plant origin	For drying of grape resins
INS503	Ammonium carbonate	Products of plant origin	
INS504	Magnesium carbonate	Products of plant origin	
INS509	Calcium chloride	Products of plant and animal origin	For milk coagulation
INS516	Calcium sulphate	Products of plant origin	Restricted for use only as carrier
INS524	Sodium hydroxide	Products of plant origin	Surface treatment and acidity regulator
INS551	Silicon dioxide	Products of plant origin	Anticaking agent for Herbs & spices
INS553	Talc	Products of animal origin	Coating agent for meat products
INS938	Argon	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS939	Helium	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS941	Nitrogen	Products of plant and animal origin	
INS948	Oxygen	Products of plant and animal origin	

INS 160b	Annatto bixin	Products of plant and animal origin	cheese
INS 160b	Annatto norbixin	Products of plant and animal origin	cheese
INS 301	Sodium ascorbate	Products of animal origin	May only be used in connection with nitrates and nitrites
INS 417	Tara gum	Products of plant and animal origin	Thickener Only from organic production
INS 418	Gellan gum	Products of plant and animal origin	High- acyl form only from organic production
INS 460	Cellulose	Products of plant origin	Gelatin
INS 901	Beeswax	Products of plant origin	Used in Confectionery as glazing agent Only from organic production
INS 903	Carnauba wax	Products of plant origin	Used in Confectionery as glazing agent
INS 968	Erythritol	Products of plant and animal origin	Only from organic production without using ion exchange technology

The List is dynamic in nature and may be reviewed whenever any changes in Appendix A of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011, as amended ("FSSR"), or any organic regulations of importing countries.

**Processing Aids and Other Products for Use in processing of
ingredients of Agricultural Origin from Organic Production**

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Water	Products of plant and animal origin	Potable water standards	Water, wherever used, should be potable.
Calcium chloride	Products of plant origin sausages based on meat	Coagulation agent	Buffering agent in alcoholic beverages only at residue level of GMP)
Calcium carbonate	Products of plant origin	Coagulation agent	lubricants, release and antistick Agent, Polishing agent at residue level of GMP in all food products
Calcium hydroxide	Products of plant origin		The use of this Processing aid will be as per the technological function and food category listed in Appendix C of FSSR

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Calcium sulphate	Products of plant origin	Coagulation agent	Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Magnesium chloride	Products of plant origin	Coagulation agent	Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Potassium carbonate	Products of plant origin	Drying of grapes	Allowed as pH control agent in Cocoa mixes (powders) and cocoa mass/cake at GMP residue level
Sodium carbonate	Products of plant and animal origin	Sugar production	Allowed as pH control agent in all foods at GMP residue level
Lactic acid	Products of animal origin	For regulation of pH of brine bath in cheese production	As flocculating agent in Unripened cheese – Paneer and Chhana at GMP residue level.

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Citric acid	Products of plant and animal origin	For regulation of pH of brine bath in cheese production; oil production and hydrolysis of starch	As flocculating agent in Unripened cheese – Paneer and Chhana and sequesterant in oils and fats at GMP residue level.
Sodium hydroxide	Products of plant origin	Sugar production, oil Production from rapeseed	Allowed as pH control agent in all foods at GMP residue level
Sulphuric acid	Products of plant and animal origin	Gelatin production Sugar production	Allowed as pH control agent in all foods at GMP residue level
Hydrochloric acid	Products of animal origin	Gelatin production	Allowed as Protein hydrolysing agent in protein products at GMP residue levels.
Ammonium hydroxide	Products of animal origin	Gelatin production	Allowed as acidity regulator in all foods at GMP residue level

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Hydrogen peroxide	Products of animal origin	Gelatin production	Permitted in Fruits and vegetables, flours and starches As bleaching, washing, denuding and peeling agents at 5 mg/kg residue level
Carbon dioxide	Products of plant and animal origin		The use of this Processing aid will be as per the technological function and food category listed in Appendix C of FSSR
Nitrogen	Products of plant and animal origin		The use of this Processing aid will be as per the technological function and food category listed in Appendix C of FSSR
Ethanol	Products of plant and animal origin	Solvent	Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Tannic acid	Products of plant origin	Filtration aid	As Clarifying agent, flavouring agent, flavour adjunct in juices at GMP residue levels

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Egg white albumin	Products of plant origin		Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Casein	Products of plant origin		Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Gelatin	Products of plant origin		Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Isinglass	Products of plant origin		As clarifying agents and filtration aids in Fruit or vegetable juices, fruit nectars, syrups and Alcoholic beverages including low alcoholic and alcohol-free counterparts at GMP residue levels

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Vegetable oils	Products of plant and animal origin	Greasing, releasing or Antifoaming agent	As Lubricant for conveyor belts for countline products at GMP residue levels. As lubricants, release and antistick agents in all foods at GMP residue levels
Silicon dioxide gel	Products of plant origin		Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Activated carbon	Products of plant and animal origin		As Adsorbent, decolourizing agent in Sugars, oils and fats, juices, 81[alcoholic beverages]at GMP residue levels
Talc	Products of plant origin	In compliance with the Specific purity criteria for Food additive	As lubricants, release and antistick agents in confectionary at GMP residue levels
Cellulose	Products of plant origin	Gelatin production	Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Diatomaceous earth	Products of plant origin	Gelatin production	As clarifying agents and filtration aids in Fruit or vegetable juices, Alcoholic beverages including low alcoholic and alcohol-free counterparts (as filter powder), 81[non-alcoholic beverages, sharbat, sugar syrups, synthetic syrups and fruit syrups] 82[and honey] at GMP residue levels
Perlite	Products of plant origin	Gelatin production	as clarifying agents and filtration aids in starch hydrolysis at GMP residue levels
Hazelnut shells	Products of plant origin		Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR

Product	Organic food products to which it may be added	Conditions for use (for export only)	Conditions for use (domestic market only)
Rice meal	Products of plant origin		Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Bee wax	Products of plant origin	Releasing agent	Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Bentonite	Products of plant origin	Sticking agent for mead	Not allowed as processing aid in any food category of FSSR
Carnauba wax	Products of plant origin	Releasing agent, Only from organic production	As lubricants, release and antistick agents in confectionary at GMP residue levels
Acetic acid/ vinegar	Products of plant origin	Only from organic production from natural fermentation	Vinegar is listed As flocculating agent in unripened cheese – Paneer and Chhana at GMP residue level.

I. Flavouring Agents:

- (i) Essential oils produced by means of solvents such as oil, water, ethanol, carbon dioxide and mechanical and physical processes
- (ii) Natural smoke flavour
- (iii) Use of natural flavouring preparations should also be approved by the Certification Body.

II. Preparations of Micro-organisms

- (i) Preparations of micro-organisms accepted for use in food processing
- (ii) Genetically modified microorganisms are excluded
- (iii) Bakers yeast produced without bleaches and organic solvents
- (iv) For the production of organic yeast, only organically produced substrates can be used.

III. Ingredients

- (i) Drinking water
- (ii) Salt
- (iii) Minerals (including trace elements) and vitamins where their use is legally required or where severe dietary or nutritional deficiency can be demonstrated.

- IV.** The List is dynamic in nature and may be reviewed whenever any changes in Appendix C of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011, as amended ("FSSR"), or any organic regulations of importing countries.

Approved Products for Packaging of Organic Foodstuffs

Certain products are allowed for use in organic agricultural for packaging of foodstuffs, however, many of these are restricted for use in organic production. In this annex “restricted” means that the conditions and procedures for use shall be set by the accredited certification programme.

Use of plastics for packaging of organic food stuffs

S. No.	Products	Limitation
1.	4,4'-Bis(2-benzoxazolyl)stilbene	Restricted
2.	9,9-Bis(methoxymethyl)fluorine	Restricted
3.	Carbonic acid, copper salt	
4.	Diethyleneglycol	Restricted
5.	2-(4,6-Diphenyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)-5-(hexyloxy) phenol	
6.	Ethylenediaminetetra acetic acid, copper salt	Restricted
7.	2-(2-Hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butyl-phenyl-5-Chloro benzotriazole	
8.	2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one	Restricted
9.	Phosphoric acid, trichloroethylester	
10.	Polyesters of 1,2 propanediol and/or 1,3-and 1,4 butanediol and/or polypropyleneglycol with adipic acid, also end-capped with acetic acid or fatty acids C10-C18 or n-octanol and/or n-decanol	Restricted
11.	1,1,1-Trimethylolpropane	
12.	3-hydroxybutanoic acid 3-hydroxy pentanoic acid, copolymer	Restricted

Permissible Packaging Material for aquaculture

- Polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyacrylic, polyamide (PA) (single compound or as coating)
- Polystyrene cold boxes with PE coating film or inside bag
- Textile packaging (tested for harmful substances)
- Glass other methods (clip seals)
- Paper, wax paper, paper coated with PE

APEDA shall function as the Secretariat for implementation of the NPOP. The responsibilities of APEDA, as a Secretariat are mentioned in Chapter 2. APEDA shall meet the requirements of ISO17011 and shall have documented policies and procedures for implementation of accreditation and surveillance of the Certification Bodies.

4.1 Categories for Accreditation

Accreditation under the NPOP may be sought in respect of the following:

- (i) Crop production
- (ii) Livestock, Poultry and Products
- (iii) Beekeeping/Apiculture
- (iv) Aquaculture Production
- (v) Food Processing & Handling
- (vi) Animal Feed Processing & Handling
- (vii) Mushroom Production
- (viii) Seaweed, Aquatic plants and Green house Crop Production, and
- (ix) Any other categories of product standards of which have been approved under the NPOP from time to time.

The NAB shall decide on the categories for accreditation based on the assessment of the Certification Bodies.

4.2 Accreditation Criteria

4.2.1 General criteria and principles

- i. The Certification Bodies shall meet the criteria laid down under NPOP. The general criteria and principles of accreditation shall be as per

ISO17065. The Certification Body shall have a valid accreditation as per ISO17065 granted by an accreditation body, a member/signatory of International Accreditation Forum.

- ii. The Certification Body shall have clearly laid out Policies and Procedures in their Quality and Operating Manual(s) for inspection and certification for the categories for which accreditation has been sought. The policy and procedures shall be based on the following criteria and principles.

4.2.2 Legal Entity

- i. The applicant body seeking accreditation under the NPOP shall have a functional office in India for carrying out certification of organic products of Indian origin. The applicant body shall comply with all applicable Indian laws.
- ii. An international applicant body seeking accreditation for carrying out certification of organic products in a foreign country under NPOP shall have registered office in that Country.
- iii. The applicant body may either be a company, society, trust, cooperative society, Government Organization, registered under applicable law.

4.2.3 Organizational Structure

The applicant body shall have an organizational structure with defined roles, responsibilities and authorities of management, certification personnel and any committee within the ambit of the certification programme. The organizational structure of the Certification Body shall be such so as to foster confidence in the implementation of its certification programme.

4.2.4 Liability and financial status

- (i) The applicant body shall have adequate financial ability to cover liabilities arising from its operations and activities.
- (ii) The applicant body shall have financial stability and resources

required for the formulation and implementation of its certification programme.

4.2.5 Quality Management system (QMS)

- (i) The Certification Bodies shall have documented policy and procedures for operations and implementation of its inspection and certification programme.
- (ii) The Certification Body shall have documented organization structure, roles and responsibilities of the management and personnel involved in the inspection and certification programme.
- (iii) The management of the Certification Body shall ensure that the Quality Management System is implemented effectively.
- (iv) The Certification Body shall define the overall responsibility of its management to address *inter alia* the following:
 - a. Formulating policies relating to functioning of the Certification Body and its operations
 - b. Certification procedures including inspection, review and certification decision and be responsible for decisions relating to the grant, maintenance, extension, suspension and withdrawal of certification.
 - c. Devise formal rules and regulations for the appointment and functioning of committees and groups involved in the certification programme.
 - d. Supervising the implementation of internal policies
 - e. Supervision of finances
 - f. Delegating authority to committees or individuals as required for the implementation of its certification programme.
 - g. Have financial stability and resources required for the formulation and implementation of its certification programme.
 - h. Employ a sufficient number of personnel having necessary qualification and technical capability for the formulation and implementation of its certification programme.
 - i. Have policies and procedures to distinguish between product certification and other activities in which it is engaged.

- j. Ensure that decisions on certification are taken by persons other than those who conduct the inspection and evaluation of the Operators.
 - k. Ensure freedom from any commercial, financial and other pressures which might influence the results of the certification process.
 - l. Ensure activities of related bodies do not affect the confidentiality, objectivity and impartiality of its certification and it shall not supply or design products of the type it certifies.
 - m. Have policies and procedures for redressal of grievances arising from its certification programme.
 - n. Have structures that enable participation of all groups/individuals concerned with the formulation and development of policies pertaining to its certification programme.
 - o. Information available in the public as well as advice through newsletters, seminars etc., may be offered to Operators by the Certification Body in a non- discriminatory manner.
- (v) The Certification Body shall designate a Quality Manager for ensuring that the quality system is established, implemented and maintained in accordance with the standards and criteria provided in this document. The Quality Manager should be a regular and/or full-time employee of the Certification Body. He/she should not be engaged as a sub- contractor, consultant, or any similar arrangement.

The quality manual shall, *inter alia*, include the following:

- a. A statement of intent (Quality Policy).
- b. Brief description of the legal status of the Certification Body and its activities, specifically in the field of certification activities for the last 3 years.
- c. The names, qualifications and experience of the Certification Body's management and personnel involved in the certification programme.
- d. The Certification Body's organizational set-up showing the allocation of duties
- e. Functions of personnel involved in the certification programme.
- f. The procedures for conducting internal audits.
- g. The policy and procedures for conducting internal management

- reviews including the review of the certification programme.
- h. Administrative procedures including document control and record keeping and maintenance.
 - i. The operational and functional duties and responsibilities of those personnel involved in the quality system.
 - j. The policy and procedures for the selection, recruitment, training and monitoring of personnel involved in the certification programme.
 - k. The policy and procedures for handling non-conformities and for assuring the effectiveness of any corrective and preventive actions taken.
 - l. The procedures for evaluating products and implementing the certification programme. This shall include the conditions for the issue, retention and withdrawal of the certification granted
 - m. The policy and procedures for dealing- with- complaints, appeals and disputes.

4.2.6 Personnel

- i. The Certification Body's personnel shall be competent and technically qualified to perform their roles and functions based on the operational requirements of the certification programme. Specifically, the Certification Body shall state in its quality manual, the names, positions, descriptions, qualification including experience, reference check, training and education of all the personnel involved in the certification programme.
- ii. The Certification Body's personnel involved in inspection and certification processes should have minimum 2 years of work experience in the relevant field.
- iii. The Certification Body shall engage adequate number of qualified personnel in proportion to number of Operators certified by it and the scope of certification for effective implementation of certification process.
- iv. The Certification Body shall ensure that their personnel involved in the certification programme are well trained in their area of operations.

- v. Inspectors must successfully complete minimum one external training programme (in addition to in-house trainings) annually covering their area of operation.
- vi. Trainee Inspectors with less than 2 years of experience must complete at least two trainings and 2 shadow inspections annually prior to performing inspections independently upon completion of 2 years.
- vii. All certification review personnel must possess expertise and experience of minimum two years relevant to certification review.
- viii. Freelancers and consultants shall be excluded from the Certification Programme to prevent potential conflict of interest due to their engagements with multiple certification bodies. However, the CBs can utilise their expertise in training and capacity building of their human resource and technical guidance.

4.2.7 Sub-contracting

- i. The Certification Body shall not outsource or sub-contract any certification activity to another Certification Body under NPOP.
- ii. The Certification Body shall not be involved in any kind of consultancy related work.

4.2.8 Competence

- i. Certification Body shall ensure that its management and all personnel concerned with its certification programme demonstrate professional competence in the formulation and implementation of its certification programme.
- ii. The Certification Body shall specify the basic minimum qualification which are consistent with the NPOP for all the persons involved in the organic certification programme in its Quality and Operating Manual(s).
- iii. The Certification Body shall ensure that the personnel involved in the certification programme possess the required competencies.
- iv. The Certification Body shall provide regular training for personnel involved in certification process. The training programme shall be held

on regular intervals and should clearly specify the purpose of training.

- v. The Certification Body shall also carry out the assessment on the implementation of the training programme.
- vi. The Certification Body shall conduct annual performance review for all personnel who conduct inspections, certification review and associated with implementation of the Quality Management System.
- vii. The Certification Body shall conduct witness/shadow inspections for each inspector periodically (at least once in two years) and twice annually for trainee inspectors (with less than two years of experience) and complete record of such inspections shall be retained by the Certification Body.

4.2.9 Impartiality

- (i) The Certification Body and all those involved in the certification programme shall be impartial.
- (ii) The inspection and certification of Operators shall be based on an objective assessment of the relevant factors specified in the NPOP.
- (iii) It shall ensure freedom from any commercial, financial and other pressures that might influence the results of the certification process.
- (iv) It shall ensure that decisions on certification are taken by persons other than those who conduct the inspection and evaluation of the Operators.

4.2.10 Non-discrimination

The Certification Body shall ensure that its policies and procedures are formulated and implemented on a non-discriminatory basis and no distinction shall be made on the basis of race, nationality, religion, gender, caste, etc.

4.2.11 Independence

The Certification Body shall have clearly laid down policy and procedures in its manual to enable it to be free to operate without undue influence from vested interest or otherwise.

4.2.12 Confidentiality

- i. The Certification Body shall have adequate arrangements consistent with applicable laws to safeguard confidentiality of the information obtained during its certification programme at all levels of its organization, including committees and external bodies or individuals acting on its behalf.
- ii. Except as required in the NPOP or by law, the information collected during the implementation of the certification programme about a particular product or Operator shall not be disclosed to a third party without the written consent of such Operator. Where the law requires information to be disclosed to a third party, the Certification Body shall inform the Operator in question of such a requirement.

4.2.13 Conflict of Interest

- (i) The Certification Body, its senior management and all its personnel involved in the certification programme should not have any conflict of interest.
- (ii) The Certification Body's personnel involved in the formulation and implementation of its certification programme shall declare in writing to the Certification Body that they have no relation whatsoever, whether personal or professional, with any Operator certified under NPOP.
- (iii) All personnel with a potential conflict of interest shall be excluded from participating in the certification program in all manners.
- (iv) The Certification Body shall not involve any personnel in the certification programme with a prior conflict of interest for at least two years prior to date of joining the Certification Body.
- (v) The Certification Body shall not provide any product or services, which could compromise the integrity, confidentiality and/ or implementation of its certification programme.
- (vi) The Certification Body shall ensure that the functions of any of its related entities or parties (as defined under the Companies Act, 2013,

as amended) do not affect the implementation of its certification programme.

- (vii) The Certification Body shall not provide any paid consultancy services to the Operators. It may provide information to Operators regarding the standards prescribed in the NPOP.
- (viii) The Certification Body personnel shall submit an annual declaration regarding adherence to this clause.
- (ix) In case, a conflict of interest is observed, the Certification Body shall be called upon to show cause why the accreditation of such Certification Body shall not be withdrawn. After receipt of reply from such Certification Body and after affording personal hearing to such Certification Body (if sought by the Certification Body), the accreditation of such Certification Body shall be withdrawn by way of a reasoned order by the NAB. Such Certification Body may reapply after a period of two years from resolution of the conflict of interest. Further, prescribed penalty may be imposed as prescribed under NPOP.
- (x) An applicant body shall declare in writing that its senior management, directors and/or personnel do not have any conflict of interest. In case, a conflict of interest is observed, the application will be rejected in writing. The applicant body may reapply after a period of two years from resolution of the conflict of interest.

4.2.14 Credibility

The Certification Body shall have procedures to ensure that there is no misuse of the certification granted to the Operator and of the implementation of the certification programme.

4.2.15 Accountability and Responsibility

- i. The management and personnel of the Certification Body shall be accountable for their actions in the discharge of their functions in the certification programme.

- ii. The Certification Body shall be responsible for all the actions taken in furtherance of its certification programme by its management, personnel and sub-contractors.

4.2.16 Documentation and Document Control

- (i) The Certification Body shall maintain the following documents (in both physical and electronic form):
 - a. Information about the authority under which the Certification Body is conducting its activities
 - b. A documented statement of its certification program including the policies and procedures for the grant, maintenance, extension, suspension and withdrawal of certification
 - c. Information about the inspection and evaluation procedures and certification process relating to each category of certification
 - d. A description of the means by which the Certification Body obtains financial support and general information on the fees charged to Operators desirous of being certified
 - e. Information about the procedures for handling complaints, appeals and disputes
 - f. A directory of the certified products
 - g. Any other information deemed relevant
- (ii) The Certification Body shall establish and maintain policies and procedures for the creation and control of all documents and data that relate to its certification programme. These documents shall be available to the Evaluation Committee during their visit. The Evaluation Committee shall have the right to give its feedback and recommendations to the Certification Body on the better maintenance of documents, if required.
- (iii) The Certification Bodies shall maintain a system for the control of all documentation relating to the certification system and shall ensure that:
 - a. The latest issue of the relevant documents is available
 - b. All corrections in the documents are made by the authorized persons

- c. All changes are processed in a manner, which will ensure direct and speedy action
- d. Obsolete documents are removed from use
- e. All certified Operators are notified of the changes
- f. Documents shall be re-issued when substantial amendments are made
- g. A register of all appropriate documents with the respective date of issues shall be maintained.

(iv) The documentation of information on the training shall be open to inspection by the Evaluation Committee.

4.2.17 Annual Report

The Certification Body shall be required to prepare and submit an annual report covering all the details of the certification activities of the calendar year (January to December) in the prescribed format (as prescribed and updated by APEDA from time to time) to APEDA-NPOP Secretariat every year by 31st January of the following year.

4.2.18 Internal Audit and Management Review

- i. The Certification Body shall conduct periodic internal audits, on an annual basis, in a planned and systematic manner to ensure effective implementation of the certification program.
- ii. The internal audit shall cover evaluation of inspection staff including outcome of the shadow audits/witness inspections.
- iii. The Certification Body shall ensure that:
 - a. Personnel responsible for the competency(s) audited are informed of the outcome of such audit.
 - b. Corrective action is taken in a timely and appropriate manner and
 - c. Results of the audit are documented.
- iv. The Certification Body's management shall periodically review its quality system to ensure effective implementation of the Certification programme. Such reviews shall be documented.

4.2.19 Public Information

- (i) The Certification Bodies shall actively inform the public of the scope of its certification and its accreditation status.
- (ii) The Certification Bodies shall ensure disclosure of the following:
 - A. Standards and a general description of the Certification Bodies;
 - B. Updated list of its certified Operators and details of farmers under the Grower Group, including,
 - a. Name of farmer(s) in full, with father's/ husband's name,
 - b. Addresses with pin code (location),
 - c. Crop grown and/or product details, as applicable,
 - d. Farm location,
 - e. Details of farm holding(s),
 - f. Organic status,
 - g. Other details and information as may be specified from time to time. etc.
 - C. Such information shall be updated from time to time at regular intervals and shall be made available in public domain and published on respective Certification Body's website and with respect to the Grower Groups also at their ICS office. The information should be readily accessible to the concerned stakeholders, Government (Central/State) Agencies for their schemes related to organic production and for verification purposes etc.
- (iii) APEDA-NPOP Secretariat may seek such information from time to time based on regulatory requirements for ensuring transparency and credibility of the organic certification system.

4.3 Accreditation Process

4.3.1 Application for Accreditation

- i. Any organization (herein after referred to as 'applicant body') seeking accreditation as a Certification Body under NPOP shall make an application to the Secretariat (APEDA) along with all the requisite details,

documents and applicable fees as prescribed under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), and its procedures, as notified from time to time.

- ii. Upon receipt of application and documents, the Secretariat (APEDA) will determine the eligibility of the applicant body for accreditation as a Certification Body under NPOP based on the accreditation criteria and information/documents provided by the applicant within 30 days of receipt of the application.
- iii. The applicant must meet the accreditation criteria and eligibility criteria set out at Regulations 4.2 and 4.3.2, respectively, of the NPOP and the procedures notified from time to time.
- iv. The application format, required documents, and details are prescribed under the NPOP procedures and as notified from time to time.

4.3.2 Eligibility Criteria

- i. The applicant body should be a Legal Entity registered under applicable law with three years of operation.
- ii. Have an established registered office in their Country of operation
- iii. Have a defined and functional organizational structure with authorities of Management, roles and responsibilities.
- iv. Adequate arrangement to cover liabilities
- v. Financial status for last three years (balance sheet, ITR etc)
- vi. Well defined and functional Quality Management System for operations and implementation of the certification programme.
- vii. Details of its activities specifically in the field of certification for last three years.
- viii. Qualified and experienced personnel to perform their roles and functions based on operational requirements.
- ix. The entity and its personnel shall be free from conflict of interest.

The applicant body should ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria before applying for accreditation.

4.3.3 Evaluation of Application

- i. The application and documents submitted by the applicant body will be scrutinized for fulfillment of the accreditation criteria. The review of application will comprise of prima facie and technical review. This will be followed by physical evaluation/onsite audit by an evaluation committee under NPOP.
- ii. The physical evaluation/onsite audit of the applicant body will comprise of office audit and witness audit to determine its compliance to the requirements under the NPOP.
- iii. The onsite audit will include evaluation of the quality management system, competence and skill sets of its personnel, fulfillment of the accreditation criteria under NPOP, inspection and certification process and any other requirement within the scope of the audit.
- iv. The witness audit will be carried out for assessing the audit skills of the applicant body's inspector(s).
- v. The observations of the onsite audit and corrective action taken by the applicant body against the non-conformities raised by the evaluation committee will be submitted to APEDA within the time period stipulated in the NPOP Procedures 2024.
- vi. APEDA shall review the compliance report submitted by the applicant body and upon successful rectification of the non-conformities, APEDA shall prepare a detailed assessment report for review by the NAB.
- vii. The assessment report of the applicant body shall be placed before NAB for review and decision on grant of accreditation to the applicant body.

The detailed accreditation procedures are prescribed under the NPOP procedures 2024, as amended by NAB from time to time.

4.3.4 Grant of Accreditation

The NAB's decision for accreditation of the applicant body as a Certification Body shall be granted for a period of three years and only in respect

of identified categories of accreditation for which it is competent and qualified under the NPOP.

4.3.5 Accreditation Contract

- i. Upon communication of decision of the NAB to grant accreditation the Certification Body shall then sign an accreditation contract and code of conduct. The Certification Body shall submit a bank guarantee for an amount as decided by NAB. In case of major non-conformities and willful violation by a Certification Body, an amount as directed by the NAB, in writing, will be deducted from the bank guarantee, after giving a personal hearing to the defaulting Certification Body.
- ii. The Certification Body shall also submit the tariff structure leviable on Operators to APEDA annually or in case of any change for various activities and shall also display it prominently on their website and office site.

4.3.6 Certificate of Accreditation

On receipt of the duly executed Accreditation Contract, code of conduct, bank guarantee and tariff structure from the Certification Body, APEDA, on behalf of the NAB shall issue the Certificate of Accreditation to the Certification Body valid for a period of 3 years from the date of issuance of the certificate clearly mentioning the categories of accreditation.

The Certification Body shall ensure to depict the accreditation number on all its certificates and approved labels. The accreditation granted may be renewed in accordance with the procedure laid down under NPOP.

4.3.7 Tracenet

It will be incumbent upon all Certification Bodies and Operators to operate through APEDA's traceability and certification portal called 'TRACENET', access to which shall be provided by APEDA.

4.3.8 Annual Surveillance and Review Evaluations of Certification Bodies

All the Certification Bodies under the NPOP shall undergo an annual evaluation/assessment process by the Evaluation Committee.

4.3.9 Unannounced Evaluation Visits

In addition to an annual surveillance visit, two unannounced evaluation visits shall be organized by the NPOP Secretariat to the Certification Body's office or to any of their Operator's premises/farms during its period of accreditation. Further, additional unannounced inspections may be conducted, in case of complaints and investigations, or as directed by the NAB.

4.3.10 Renewal of Accreditation

- i. The Certification Body shall, three months prior to the date of expiry of its accreditation, apply in writing for renewal of its NPOP accreditation along with the prescribed fee, to APEDA.
- ii. The extension of accreditation for a further period of 3 years shall be subject to evaluation by NAB for compliance with the NPOP requirements.
- iii. In the event of major/repeated non-conformities in the certification programme reported by the EC, NAB shall have the power to reduce the scope of certification, area of jurisdiction or reduce validity period of accreditation or reject the renewal of accreditation, after giving a personal hearing to such Certification Body and with reasons to be recorded in writing.

4.4 Inspection and Certification Process

The process mentioned in this chapter along with the National Standards for Organic Production (Chapter 3) and the NPOP procedures 2024 (*amended from time to time*) cover the requirements to be fulfilled by the Certification Bodies under NPOP for certification of Operators under this Chapter. Certification Bodies shall demonstrate a high degree of competence, consistency, and effectiveness in the practical application of these procedures which shall be covered in the operating manual of the Certification Body.

4.4.1 Inspection

The Certification Bodies shall follow Standard inspection procedures as per ISO19011 and the NPOP procedures 2024 *as amended from time to time*.

4.4.1.1 Inspection methods and frequency

- (i) The Certification Bodies shall have laid down policy and procedure on inspection methods and frequency which shall be determined by, among others:
 - a. Intensity of production
 - b. Type of production
 - c. Size of operation
 - d. Outcome of previous inspections and the Operator's record of compliance
 - e. Any complaints received-under NPOP
 - f. Whether the unit or Operator is engaged only in certified production
 - g. Contamination and drift risk
 - h. Complexity of production

The detailed methodology for the inspections is specified in the NPOP procedures 2024 *as amended from time to time*.

The Certification Body shall ensure that the requirements of inspection as prescribed under the NPOP and procedure as prescribed under NPOP procedures 2024 (*amended from time to time*) shall be followed for inspection of different operations such as production, wild collection, processing, handling etc. and Grower Group.

a) Announced annual Inspections

- i. Inspection of Operators shall take place at least once annually. This will include inspection of all the facilities/units either owned or contracted by the Operator.
- ii. The timing of inspections shall not be so regular, so as to become predictable.

- iii. Apart from annual inspections, additional and unannounced inspections will be carried out by the Certification Body based on risk assessment. The Certification Body shall have laid down policy and procedure and criteria for additional and unannounced inspection.

b) Additional Inspections

The Certification Body shall carry out a minimum of 10% additional inspections annually based on risk assessment of the Operators.

c) Unannounced Inspections

- i. In addition to annual inspections (100%) and 10% additional inspections, the Certification Body shall carry out a minimum of 10% unannounced inspections (total of annual and additional inspections), based on risk assessment.
- ii. The selection of Operators for unannounced inspection shall be based on risk analysis carried out by the Certification Body annually.

d) Inspections of Grower Group

The process of inspection of Grower Group is set out in Chapter 5 as per the parameters set out in the NPOP.

4.4.1.2 Risk Assessment

- i. The Certification Body shall have documented procedure for risk assessment of non-compliance with the organic process of its registered Operators covering all scope of activities. This should include risk of fraudulent activities and misrepresentation of non-organic products as organic.
- ii. The risk assessment procedure shall cover the criteria for determining the risk category as high, medium or low.

- iii. The selection of the Operators shall be based on the risk assessment and the identified level of risk and shall cover all scope of activities.
- iv. The risk assessment carried out for its registered Operators shall be documented and available with the Certification Body for verification.

4.4.1.3 Analysis and Residue Testing

Apart from the advisories/directions issued by APEDA-NPOP Secretariat on this subject,

- i. The Certification Bodies shall have documented policies and procedures on residue testing, genetic testing and other analysis.
- ii. These policies must, *inter alia*, include:
 - a. Identification of cases in which samples shall be taken for analysis based on the general evaluation of risk of noncompliance with the organic process.
 - b. The general evaluation shall take into account all stages of production, processing and chain of custody.
 - c. The Certification Body shall have procedures for risk-based sampling in different stages of crop production.
 - d. Further, the Certification Body shall have adequate post sampling procedures and measures to avoid contamination of samples during and post sampling till testing.
- iii. The Certification Body shall take and analyze samples for detecting presence of unauthorized substances in the organic processes. The number of samples to be taken and analyzed by the Certification Body every year shall be at least 5% of the total number of Operators under its control. Additionally, samples from minimum 2% farmers of each Grower Group shall also be analyzed for detecting presence of unauthorized substances in the organic process.
- iv. The Certification Body shall bear the cost of analysis and residue testing for the mandatory 5% testing required under the regulation.
- v. The Certification Body shall take and analyze samples in each case where the use of products or techniques not authorised for organic

- production is suspected. In such cases, samples in addition to 5% shall be drawn and tested.
- vi. Testing to be carried out in ISO17025 certified and APEDA recognized laboratories for testing of organic products
 - vii. Testing should include the required range of unauthorized substances in the laboratory analyses as per the importing country's requirements and as notified from time to time.
 - viii. The Certification Body shall ensure that testing is carried out in laboratories accredited for that entire range.
 - ix. For export consignments, testing parameters are to be fixed as per the importing countries requirements.
 - x. If required, additional testing shall be carried out based on risk or complaints from importing countries as intimated by APEDA.
 - xi. Third party sampling to be carried out for analysis and testing of organic products under NPOP.
 - xii. Sample should be drawn by trained laboratory personnel/ Certification Body inspector.

4.4.1.4 Inspection of parallel production of farms

If a farm is engaged in parallel production, the Certification Body through its policies and procedures shall ensure, in addition to the requirements for part conversion, the following:

- a. Buffer zones are maintained for demarcation
- b. Crops are visually distinguishable.
- c. Inspections are carried out at critical stage of the crop cycle.
- d. Inspection is done in a timely manner within the scope cycle
- e. Testing to be carried out where in risk of cross contamination is identified.
- f. Samples for analysis and testing should be drawn from the buffer zones where risk of contamination is determined.
- g. Accurate production estimates are available
- h. The crops are harvested in such a way that there are reliable methods to verify the actual harvest of the respective crops

- i. Appropriate storage capacity exists to ensure separate handling
- j. The documentation regarding the production is well managed and makes a clear distinction between certified and non-certified production

Such a system shall be approved by the Certification Body for each individual operation of the Operator.

4.4.1.5 Inspection of Packed Products

Under standard circumstances, the Certification Bodies are not obliged to have a system for inspection of products that are further handled after being packed in the final consumer package, and/or after issuing of a transaction certificate. The Certification Bodies, however, are obliged to take action where there is reason to believe on the basis of information received or in its possession that the standards have been or may be violated at such later stages.

4.4.1.6 Inspection of Storage Facilities

Depending on the kind of storage, the product, packing, prevailing storage practices and the time of storage, inspections shall be required. Certification Bodies shall conduct a risk assessment to determine future need for inspection for all storage facilities including port facilities.

4.4.1.7 Inspection of Transport Facilities

Transport is not certified as such but remains under the responsibility of the Operator owning the product during the transport including the transport of a product from a warehouse to a processing unit or vice-versa.

4.4.1.8 Inspection of Chain of Custody

Certification Body shall not issue any license to use its certification mark or issue any certificate for any products unless it is assured of the chain of custody of the product where steps in the production chain have been certified by other Certification Bodies under NPOP as per the National Standards of Production.

4.4.1.9 Inspection for detection of use of Genetically Engineered Products

Certification Bodies shall implement a system of inspection for potential use of genetically engineered products. When use of such products is detected at any stage, certification shall not be granted.

When there is a risk of contamination of genetically engineered products, the following samples shall be tested in identified APEDA recognized laboratories.

- a. Seeds and planting stock
- b. Production inputs
- c. Livestock feed
- d. Processing aids
- e. Ingredients

4.4.2 Certification by Certification Body

The certification system shall be based on written agreements, with clear responsibilities of all parties involved in the chain of operations for production of a certified product.

The certified Operators shall sign contract/agreement with the Certification Body obliging them *inter alia* to:

- i. Follow the standards prescribed under NPOP and other published requirements for certification.
- ii. Accept inspections
- iii. Provide accurate information
- iv. Inform the Certification Body of any changes
- v. Maintain timelines for certification including submission of data, compliance to the non-conformities and other certification requirements etc.

4.4.2.1 Certification of producers

- i. As defined at Definition Clause 62 of Chapter 1, a producer shall mean an individual farmer or group of farmers/business enterprise practicing organic farming. An individual farmer may get certified by

a Certification Body under NPOP, for the scope of crop production and the said scope certificate shall be issued to the individual producer. The details of inspection and certification requirements are provided in NPOP procedures 2024, as amended from time to time.

- ii. A group of farmers may get certified as a single entity (group) following the requirements of grower group certification, prescribed in Chapter 5 of NPOP and NPOP procedures 2024. In this case, the scope certificate shall be issued to the farmer group.

4.4.2.2. Certification Procedures

The requirements are prescribed in the NPOP procedures 2024 (*amended from time to time*)

4.4.2.3. Re-certification

- i. Certification Bodies of the same operators shall not re-certify same activity for production, processing and trading units already certified by another Certification Body under NPOP within the validity period of the certificate.
- ii. The Operators shall not have multiple certifications for the same scope of activity under different Certification Bodies under NPOP.

4.4.2.4. Certification Decisions

- i. Certification decision will be taken after carefully examining the inspection and review reports. It will not only include approval of Operators but also approval of area and products certified, disciplinary measures etc.
- ii. The Certification Body shall ensure that each decision on certification is taken by person(s) different from those who carried out the inspection and review.
- iii. Where certification decisions are delegated to a small committee or officers, the Certification Body shall review their functions.

4.4.2.5. Recertification of Terminated Operators

- i. In cases where certification of an Operator (including Director/Promoter) has been terminated, the Operator can apply for recertification after a period of two years from the date of termination. In such cases, the producer shall have to undergo the full conversion cycle (2 years for annuals & 3 years for perennials).
- ii. The same or another Certification Body while recertifying such Operators (including Director/Promoter) must ensure due diligence and compliance by the Operator to the certification requirements.
- iii. In case of Operators (including Director/Promoter) where in certification has been terminated twice, such Operators shall be debarred from organic certification for five years.
- iv. In case it is revealed that the Operator/Company, its directors and promoters have changed their identity to register by another identity, strict action as deemed fit by NAB shall be taken.

4.4.3 Certification Records and Reports

4.4.3.1 Contract with Operator

The Certification Bodies shall have written agreements/signed contracts with their registered Operators obliging them *inter alia* to:

- i. Follow the standard prescribed under NPOP and other published requirements for certification.
 - a. Accept inspections.
 - b. Provide accurate information
 - c. Inform and surrender the Scope Certificate to their Certification Body in case they decided to withdraw from organic certification.
 - d. Notify the Certification Body of any changes in their operations.
- ii. Maintain timelines for certification including submission of data, compliance to the non-conformities and other certification requirements etc.

- iii. The Operators shall inform the Certification Bodies “on real time basis” of any changes in the organic system plan/ organic production and handling plan.

4.4.3.2 Operator Files

The Certification Bodies shall maintain an Operator file for each certified Operators.

- i. The Operator file shall have relevant data available for the certified production units, including any subcontractors and members of Grower Groups.
- ii. Such Operator files shall be up to date and contain all relevant information, including history, product specifications, maps, label approval.
- iii. Inspection reports and written documentation shall provide sufficiently comprehensive information to enable the Certification Bodies to make competent and objective decisions.
- iv. This file shall demonstrate the way in which each certification procedure was applied, including inspection reports and outcome of imposed disciplinary measures.

4.4.3.3 Records

- i. The Certification Body shall maintain a record (digital/physical) system to comply with existing regulations. The records shall demonstrate that the certification program has been effectively implemented. The records shall be identified, managed and disposed of in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the process and the confidentiality of the information. The record system shall be maintained throughout the duration of the accreditation.
- ii. The Certification Bodies shall keep records of:
 - a. Complaints
 - b. Violations

- c. Precedents
 - d. Exceptions
 - e. Disciplinary measures
- iii. This will normally mean that such information shall be available both in the Operator's file as well in a separate record, or registered in a database system of the Certification Body
 - a. Inspection reports, certification decisions, certificates and other relevant records shall be signed by the authorized person.
 - b. The record keeping system shall be transparent and enable easy retrieval of information.
 - c. The Certification Body shall make the record system open for inspection by the Evaluation Committee, as and when required.
 - d. All records shall be safely stored and held secure and in confidence, for a minimum period of five years.

4.4.4 Marks and Certificates

- i. The Certification Bodies shall exercise proper control over the use of its licenses, certificates and certification marks. The Certification Bodies shall establish the following:
 - a. Develop guidelines concerning the use of its mark, accreditation number, National Organic Logo or other reference to the certification.
 - b. Use of India Organic logo shall be permitted subject to the conditions and rules of its application referred in Chapter 7 of this document.
 - c. Incorrect references to the certification system or misleading use of licenses, certificates or marks shall be dealt with by suitable disciplinary actions by the Certification Body. This shall also be applicable to use of these marks, license or certificates by any non-certified Operator(s).

- ii. The Certification Bodies shall have documented procedures for withdrawal and cancellation of contracts, certificates and certification marks.

4.4.4.1 Scope Certificate

Scope Certificate shall be issued annually by Certification Body on Tracenet as per the prescribed format.

4.4.4.2 Transaction Certificate

- i. The Certification Bodies shall issue Transaction Certificates (TC) for all transactions.
- ii. It shall be mandatory for all the organic Operators who are involved in transaction of organic products either in the domestic or export market to take a TC. In case the organic product is intended for sale in the domestic market only, the TC shall be taken mandatorily till final packing to consumer product in the supply chain. Thereafter, the stock shall be closed as domestic consumption.
- iii. Transaction Certificates are issued on Tracenet in the prescribed format after the certified Operator has provided all the required documents. The Certification Body shall take reasonable measures to verify that the information provided is correct and all the documents have been submitted in original before issuance of the Transaction Certificate.
- iv. The Certification Body shall not delay issuance of the transaction certificate after receipt of all documents and verifying that they are in order and issue the same as per the following timelines:
 - a. TC from grower group/ individual producer to trader/processor: within 5 working days
 - b. TC between processor/trader & processor/trader/retailer (domestic transactions): within 3 working days
 - c. Export TC: within 7 working days.
- v. Above timelines are subject to submission of complete documents

and will not be applicable in cases where physical verification is required, based on risk analysis. Wherever applicable, the original Transaction certificate(s) of a purchased product that has been sourced and certified by another Certification Body shall be verified before issuance of the Transaction Certificate.

- vi. Copies of Transaction Certificates and supporting documents issued to Operators shall be stored in a manner that enables easy retrieval of information on each Operator.

4.4.5 Certified Operators

The Operators certified by Certification Body shall be obliged to meet the following requirements and shall maintain necessary documents.

4.4.5.1 Information to the Operators

The Certification Bodies shall ensure that each certified Operator shall be provided at the time of application:

- a. An up-to-date version of the National Standards for Organic Production.
- b. An adequate description of the procedure for inspection, certification and appeals.

4.4.5.2 For the Existing Operators

- a. Communication of any changes in the standards and relevant procedures
- b. Valid contract with the Certification Body
- c. A valid certificate depicting the certified products

Operators shall have the right to get copies of inspection report and other documentation related to the certification of their products.

4.4.5.3 Records and Documentation Maintained by the Certified Operator

The Certification Body is required to ensure that each certified Operator has proper record keeping system adapted to the type of production that enables the Certification Body to retrieve necessary information and to seek verification of the production, storage, processing, purchase

and sales. The visiting inspector shall sign the verified documents.

4.4.6 Input approval of Off-Farm Inputs

Certification Bodies shall approve off farm organic inputs/manufacturing units without issuing any form of license or rights to the use of India organic logo to the producer/manufacturer.

4.4.7 Approval of Commercial Inputs

- i. Certification Bodies shall have documented procedures for evaluating the product's (commercial input) compliance with the NPOP standards as mentioned in chapter 3 of this document under **Annex-3(3)**.
- ii. The approval procedure, shall include the following:
 - a. Visit the units annually for verification of the necessary documents of the producer related to composition of the product manufactured.
 - b. Period for which approval is granted.
 - c. Requirement for the manufacturer to report changes in composition or other relevant factors.
 - d. A clear statement of the nature and guarantee of the approval.

4.4.8 Shifting of Operators

- i. When an Operator wants to change his Certification Body, he shall apply for the No Objection Certificate (NOC) on Tracenet to the existing Certification Body. The application for NOC shall be made at least 45 days before the expiry of scope certificate. At the time of filing NOC application, the Operator shall ensure that it has cleared all dues of the existing Certification Body and submitted the corrective action for the pending non compliances, if any.
- ii. The Certification Body shall issue the NOC within three weeks from date of filing of the application by the Operator subject to clearance of all dues and closure of pending non compliances on the part of the Operator, if any.

- iii. The issuance of NOC will result in online transfer of the Operator file along with the reports to the subsequent Certification Body.
- iv. The Operator shall have a valid certificate during issuance of NOC and registration with new Certification Body.
- v. After expiry of the scope certificate, the Operator shall not be able to register with another Certification Body even after obtaining NOC.
- vi. The new Certification Body shall ensure that the non-conformities reported by the earlier Certification Body are closed before issuance of scope certificate.

4.4.8.1 Shifting of farmers

- i. The farmer(s) of a Grower Group may shift to another Grower Group under the same or another Certification Body if the farmer(s) does not want to continue with their existing Grower Group.
- ii. The farmer(s) belonging to a Grower Group can take No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Certification Body at the start of a new season for transfer to another Grower Group in the same geographical area or to form another Grower Group with other farmers in the same geographical area.
- iii. In the above instances, the farmer(s) of the Grower Group who wants to shift shall place a request to the Certification Body for issuance of NOC on Tracenet. After receiving the request for NOC from farmer(s), the Certification Body shall verify the details of the applicant farmer(s) including past record, sanctions (if any), etc. from its ICS and dispose the NOC application within 30 days of receipt of such request.
- iv. If the Certification Body does not dispose the NOC application of the applicant farmer within 30 days from the receipt of such application, such NOC application shall be automatically forwarded to APEDA, via Tracenet, and APEDA shall conduct the necessary verification and if satisfied, APEDA shall direct the concerned Certification Body

to issue the NOC.

- v. If the Certification Body rejects the NOC application of the applicant farmer, then the applicant farmer may file an appeal against such decision of the Certification Body before the NAB Sub Committee. The NAB Sub Committee shall conduct the necessary verification and if satisfied, APEDA shall direct the concerned Certification Body to issue the NOC.
- vi. Any decision taken by APEDA herein shall be final and shall be complied with by the Certification Body within one week of the date of receipt of the same.
- vii. Failure of the Certification Body to dispose of the NOC application within 30 days from the receipt of such application shall be considered a non-conformity under Regulation 6.1.4 of the NPOP.
- viii. If the farmers are unable to operate the software themselves, the Certification Body shall facilitate the farmer to apply for NOC on Tracenet software, on charge of reasonable fee.

4.4.9 Exchange of Information

- i. In case of irregularity or infringements observed by the Certification Body of its registered Operator, it shall without delay inform to APEDA.
- ii. When a Certification Body finds any irregularity or infringements with regard to the products of the Operator which was under the certification of the previous Certification Body, he shall inform the latter without delay.
- iii. When APEDA observes and finds any irregularity or infringement, it will inform all the Certification Bodies about such infringement. It may also reflect such infringement in its official website.

4.5 Reciprocity

Products certified as organic by any Certification Body under the NPOP shall be accepted as being organic by other Certification Bodies also.

4.6 Import of Organic Products

4.6.1 Import of organic products from a Country shall be allowed only if the product is certified under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) by a Certification Body.

4.6.2 However, organic products or ingredients imported under a recognition agreement (Mutual recognition Agreement-MRA), on the basis of equivalence of standards between the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and the organic standards of the respective exporting country shall not be required to be re-certified under NPOP on import to India, subject to their compliance with the provisions of the domestic Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

4.7 Use of imported organic ingredients.

4.7.1 Imported organic ingredients, as per the terms prescribed at regulation 4.6 may be used for manufacturing a multi-ingredient organic product in India for re-export as per the importing country's regulations.

4.7.2 Prior approval must be taken from the Certification Body before import of the organic ingredients and for their use as an ingredient in manufacturing a multi-ingredient product.

4.7.3 The Certification Body must ensure that only such imported ingredients have been used and in percentage that has been approved. Based on risk, the Certification Body may conduct testing of the imported ingredients.

4.7.4 In such cases, the labelling in the final organic product should clearly list out the imported ingredients separately beneath the composition in the label.

4.7.5 Further, the entire traceability documents of the imported ingredients along with country of origin, percentage of composition of that ingredient and certification should be maintained with the Certification Body and Operator and available for inspection as per requirement.

Detailed procedures have been prescribed in the NPOP procedures 2024 (*amended from time to time*)

4.8 Re-export of a product made from imported Organic Ingredients

4.8.1 Re-export of products made from imported Organic Ingredients shall be as per the importing country's regulations. The exporters and Certification Bodies are required to ensure that the products made with imported ingredients are in compliance with the organic standards of that Country.

4.8.2 For countries with whom there is a recognition agreement, the re-export of value-added organic products made with the other party's organic ingredients shall be as per the scope of such agreement.

4.8.3 The imported organic products for re-export shall be accompanied by all the required documents including organic scope and transaction certificates issued by the Certification Body under NPOP or by the Certification Body of the importing Country as per their regulation where in there is a recognition agreement for organic products.
Detailed procedures have been prescribed in the NPOP procedures 2024 (*amended from time to time*)

4.9 Violations by Operator and Investigation by Certification Body

4.9.1 Disciplinary measures and sanctions

- (i) The Certification Body shall have a clear policy for sanctions and sanction catalogue in the event of non-compliances by the Operators.
- (ii) The Certification Bodies shall have a documented range of disciplinary measures (sanctions) including measures to deal with minor and major infringements of the standards. The sanction catalogue should have provision for upgrading repeated minor non-conformity to major non-conformity.
- (iii) In case of Grower Group, sanction should be applied to the entire Grower Group when inspections, based on the representative sample of farmers, show that the ICS has failed to comply with the certification norms applicable to a Grower Group.

4.9.2 Withdrawal of certification

Where an infringement that affects the organic integrity is found, the Certification Body shall ensure that the non-compliant lot of production is removed from the entire lot of the production cycle which is affected by the infringement concerned.

In case of any violation by the Operator, the Certification Body shall withdraw certification from the Operator for a specified period in case serious non compliances affecting the organic integrity are observed. In case of severe infringement or repeated violations of the NPOP norms, the certification of the Operator shall be terminated. and The Certification Body shall inform about their decision to APEDA and shall also publish the same on their website.

4.9.3 Appeal against decision of the Certification Body

4.9.3.1 First appeal:

- (i) The Operator can appeal to the appeal committee of the Certification Body against the decision of the Certification Body within 30 days of communication of the decision. The appeal shall be disposed of within two months.
- (ii) The Certification Body shall have policy and procedures for handling appeals by its certified Operators against its certification decision.
- (iii) The Certification Body shall inform the Operators of the appeal procedures at the time of certification.
- (iv) The appellate/ appeal committee shall be independent from the certification activities and free from conflict.

4.9.3.2 Second appeal

If the Operator is not satisfied with the decision of the appeal committee of the Certification Body, it can file a second appeal with the NAB Sub Committee constituted by the NAB for hearing such appeals. The Committee shall ordinarily dispose of the appeal within three months.

In case more time is required, the same shall be communicated to the appellant in writing stating the reasons thereof for such delay.

4.9.4 Complaints record

The Certification Body shall have policies and procedures for dealing with complaints against its operation and against certified Operators. It shall keep a record of all complaints and remedial actions relating to certification. When a complaint is resolved a documented resolution shall be made and forwarded to the complainant and the party concerned.

4.9.5 Appeals record

The Certification Body shall have procedures for the consideration of appeals against its decisions and shall maintain the record of all appeals.



CERTIFICATION OF GROWER GROUPS

5.1 Scope

Grower Group is defined in Clause 30 of Chapter 1 of NPOP.

5.2 Requirements for Grower Groups

- i. The Grower Group shall be a registered legal entity in the form of,
 - a. Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or relevant State Societies Act/Rules,
 - b. Farmers Producer Organization (FPO)/Farmers Producer Company (FPC) incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, as amended from time to time,
 - c. Co-operative society.
- ii. The producers in the Grower Group must apply similar production systems.
- iii. Land or unit, as applicable, of each member of the Grower Group shall be in geographical proximity and preferably in the same village or adjacent villages of the same district/border districts within a radius of maximum 50 Km.
- iv. A Grower Group shall market its products as a single entity.
- v. A Grower Group shall consist of a minimum 25 and maximum of 500 farmers. Notwithstanding this, for aquaculture, the minimum group size is 10. The numbers in the Grower Group shall be reviewed from time to time by NAB based on performance and compliance of the Grower

Group to the NPOP requirements and accordingly modified by NAB as deemed fit.

- vi. Individual farms with land holding of 4 ha (10 acres) and above can also be a part of the Grower Group but will have to be inspected separately every year by the Certification Body. The total area of such farms shall be less than 50% of the total area of the group.
- vii. Each Grower Group shall have an Internal Control System (ICS) for implementing the requirements of certification of the Grower Group under NPOP.
- viii. The ICS shall conduct 100% internal inspections of all farmers in the Grower Group twice a year.
- ix. The Grower Group and ICS are required to follow the NPOP Procedures 2024 and as amended from time to time.

5.3 Prerequisite for farmers registered in the Grower Group under NPOP. (This requirement will be implemented after the formal operationalization of the Unique ID system by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers welfare)

- i. The farmers interested in organic farming shall register themselves with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) through its centralized portal.
- ii. Upon farmer registration, a unique ID shall be generated.
- iii. The farmers shall provide the unique ID to the ICS of the Grower Group for registration under NPOP.
- iv. During registration under NPOP through the unique ID, the farmer information shall be validated from the centralized portal and farmers database of MoA&FW and transferred electronically to NPOP database through an Application Based Interface (API)
- v. Upon successful verification and transfer of farmer information to the "*Tracenet*", the subsequent process for registration of the Grower Group shall be carried out.

5.4 Internal Control System

- i. Internal Control System or ICS acts as the control system organized by the member farmers in the Grower Group to ensure that the NPOP requirements are met by the Grower Group.
- ii. The ICS of the Grower Group and an identified person shall be responsible for compliance of the Grower Group with the requirement under the NPOP and such person shall be called the ICS Manager. The ICS Manager should preferably be an existing member of the Grower Group.

5.5 Constitution, Requirements & Duties of ICS of Grower Group

- i. The ICS of the Grower Group shall have an office at the location or in proximity of the Grower Group. Certification Body shall conduct physical verification of the office of the ICS to ensure compliance with this requirement. Before accepting any group through NOC, the Certification Body shall ensure compliance to this requirement.
- ii. ICS shall be established for functioning of the Grower Group and shall be responsible for compliance with the requirements under the NPOP.
- iii. The ICS of the Grower Group shall have a defined organizational structure, with an organizational chart, with defined roles and responsibilities for the personnel of the ICS.
- iv. The Grower Group may identify qualified and experienced personnel for functioning and maintenance of the ICS. It shall verify the credential of the personnel including previous employment.
- v. The ICS shall formulate internal standards in local language under the framework of NPOP.
- vi. The ICS shall have adequate internal inspectors for ensuring that 100% inspection of all farmers in the Grower Group is carried out twice a year.
- vii. There shall be at least one internal inspector per 50-60 farmers.
- viii. The inspectors shall be well versed with the standards to perform internal inspections.
- ix. All the farmers shall maintain the farm diary for noting their activities on their farms.

- x. The farm diaries should be available for inspection with the respective farmers.
- xi. The ICS shall also be responsible for organizing required training to the farmers in production and Grower Group certification requirements.
- xii. Details of farmers, including name of the Farmer, Father's/Husband's name, the geo-location of the farm, its area, crops grown in the farm, Farmer's unique ID as given by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, who are the members of Grower Group shall be displayed at the ICS office of the Grower Group.
- xiii. A manual for the ICS shall be formulated by the Grower Group comprising policy and procedure for functioning of the ICS and the Grower Group including procedures for inclusion of members in the group and exit from the group, agreement of the members with the ICS. Model format for such ICS manual is available in NPOP Procedures 2024.
- xiv. The ICS Manager shall be responsible for compliance of the Grower Group with the requirements under NPOP. Such ICS Manager shall be the contact person for the ICS and shall be resident from within the geographical limits of the Grower Group.
- xv. In case the farmers are unable to run and operate its ICS, such farmers may enter into a contract with an external service provider to act as the ICS. Such service provider shall perform all duties and responsibility of the ICS under the NPOP and all provisions applicable to an ICS under the NPOP, including sanctions, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to such external service provider.
- xvi. The ICS shall have procedure and terms of reference for engagement of an external service provider (if any) with defined roles and responsibilities.
- xvii. The service provider so contracted will facilitate the maintenance of the internal control system, training, co-ordination and marketing of certified produce and certification from a Certification Body. The service provider will also ensure that all requisite documents are maintained at the ICS office.

5.6 Default by members

- i. If a farmer in a Grower Group defaults in following the requirements under the NPOP, the ICS shall remove such farmer from the Grower Group and ensure that the produce of such default units does not get mixed with the produce originating from the group. Moreover, the ICS manager must ensure that all the neighboring farmers in the group take requisite contamination control measures.
- ii. The Grower Group and its ICS shall follow the NPOP Procedures 2024 and shall maintain all the documents as prescribed in the procedures as amended from time to time.

5.7 ICS Personnel

- i. The Grower Group shall have designated personnel for its ICS. All personnel of the ICS shall be preferably from within the Grower Group. In case, the Grower Group engages an external service provider for running the ICS through a contractual arrangement, the internal inspectors should preferably be from within the Grower Group.
- ii. The ICS shall have following designated personnel:

5.7.1 Internal Control System Manager (ICS Manager)

- i. The Grower Group shall designate personnel as an ICS Manager (preferably from within the Grower Group) who shall be responsible for the functioning and operations of the ICS and compliance to the NPOP standards. In case the ICS manager is contracted from outside, such ICS manager shall manage only those Grower Groups which are operational in the geographical proximity of 50 Kms.
- ii. ICS manager shall develop and implement the Internal Control System of the Grower Group and shall be responsible for organizing internal inspections, coordination between field staffs, approval staff, and the Certification Body. The ICS manager shall define procedures for the following:
 - a. For approval for inclusion of new members in the existing group.
 - b. Rating of non-conformities as major if found using prohibited substances and as minor in case of inadequate documentation.
 - c. For verification of implementation of corrective actions taken by the defaulting farmers.

- d. For imposing sanctions on defaulter members of the group (including removal from the group, downgrading the organic status)
- e. The ICS Manager shall be responsible for ensuring that all the requirements under NPOP are fully implemented by the group.

5.7.2 Internal inspectors

- i. The ICS shall nominate adequate number of internal inspectors from their group and there shall be at least one internal inspector per 50-60 farmers for ensuring 100% inspection of all farmers in the group is carried out twice a year.
- ii. The inspectors shall be well versed with the standards to perform internal inspections. The ICS shall maintain profile of the internal inspectors.

5.7.3 Approval Committee

A three members approval Committee shall be constituted from within the Grower Group to take the approval decision. The approval committee shall be well versed with organic procedures of ICS, internal standards and NPOP standards.

5.7.4 Field officers

Field officers shall be identified from among the group, one at each production area. The field officer shall train the farmers by organizing field extension services.

5.7.5 Purchase officers

Purchase officers shall be identified who would be responsible for correct purchase of produce from the farmers. The purchase officer is required to be well versed with ICS.

5.7.6 Warehouse manager

If there are separate warehouses, it may be necessary to have a warehouse manager who would be responsible for handling the produce. He / she shall be well versed with the procedures of ICS for proper implementation.

5.7.7 Accounts/ record keeper

A person shall be identified from among the group to maintain the accounts and records of the ICS.

5.8 Public information

- i. The ICS of the Grower Group shall ensure disclosure of updated list of the farmers under its Grower Group, including:
 - a. name of farmer(s) in full, with father's/ husband's name,
 - b. addresses with pin code (location),
 - c. crop grown and/or product details, as applicable,
 - d. details of farm holding(s) with their location
 - e. organic status,
 - f. other details and information as may be specified from time to time, etc.
- ii. Such information shall be updated from time to time at regular intervals and shall be published at the ICS office.
- iii. The information should be readily accessible to the various Government Agencies (Central/State/Local) for the effective implementation of their schemes related to organic production and for the purpose of verification etc.
- iv. APEDA-NPOP Secretariat may seek such information from time to time based on regulatory requirements for ensuring transparency and credibility of the organic certification system.

5.9 Internal Standards

The internal standards shall be prepared in local language by the ICS manager for the region of operations under the framework of NPOP standards. If the farmers are illiterate, the internal standards shall contain illustrations in the text for better understanding. The internal standards would contain:-

- i. Definition of production unit
- ii. How to deal with part conversion
- iii. Conversion period
- iv. Maintenance of buffer zone
- v. Farm production norms for the entire production unit (e.g. seeds, nutrient management, pest management, soil management, approved inputs, prevention of drifts, livestock husbandry management)

- vi. Harvest and post-harvest procedures

5.10 Conflict of Interest

The ICS personnel shall not have any conflict of interest that might affect the credibility of the organic certification processes. All potential conflicts of interest shall be declared in a written statement to the ICS. In such cases, the ICS shall ensure effective resolution of the same.

5.11 Certification

- i. Certification shall be granted by the Certification Body to the Grower Group as per NPOP.
- ii. The Certification Body shall ensure that address mentioned in the scope certificate of the Grower Group should be the actual location and address of the Grower Group and its ICS.

5.12 Trade

- i. The Grower Group shall market the produce as a single entity.
- ii. The ICS shall make all possible efforts to procure the entire organic produce of the member farmers of the Grower Group. In case the ICS is unable to sell the total produce, it shall arrange market linkage for the unsold quantity.

5.13 Yield Estimates

Yields will be estimated for each crop for individual farmer in the group by the ICS. This activity should be carried out especially during harvesting and the estimate should be counter-checked during external inspection by the Certification Body.

5.14 Procurement Process

For procurement from the farmers in the group, the ICS has to verify the organic status, compliance of the product procured, product reconciliation etc. The ICS has to maintain purchase record and issue a signed purchase receipt to the farmer. The procured products (bags) should be labelled as organic or in conversion as per the status.

5.15 Storage and Handling

- i. The purchase or the warehouse manager during the handling of produce shall check the document to ensure the compliance with

the NPOP standards. The following are the minimum requirement that shall be followed during storage and handling:

- a. Identification of the organic product at all stages of product flow during transition.
- b. Segregation of organic products from in-conversion products.
- c. Fumigation of containers, irradiation/ionization, etc. are prohibited.
- d. The location in the warehouse during storage must be labelled as 'organic' or 'in-conversion'.

5.16 Training of ICS Personnel

- i. The ICS shall ensure that each internal inspector is trained annually by an external person/agency well versed in the NPOP requirements and organic processes.
- ii. The date of the training, course content, list of participants and photographs will be documented.

5.17 Training of Farmers

The ICS manager will organize regular trainings for the farmers in the group:-

- i. Each farmer needs to receive at least one initial advisory visit and training on organic farming and group certification requirements.
- ii. Besides, farmers should receive one regular training annually from central and state agencies responsible for promotion of organic farming.
- iii. The date of training, course content and list of participants with photographs, videos to be documented.
- iv. The training session should be in simple and local language. Training videos and pictorial graphics should also be used for better understanding.

5.18 External inspections by Certification Bodies

- i. The Certification Bodies shall undertake inspections of the ICS after ensuring that 100% internal inspections by the ICS have been undertaken at least twice in a calendar year/scope cycle for all the registered members of the Grower Group.

- ii. The Certification Body will inspect some of the farms for the evaluation of the Grower Group for efficient internal control system for compliance with the NPOP Standards.
- iii. The Certification Body shall inspect farms of 4 Hectare and above separately in addition to the sample of farms having the area of less than 4 Hectare.

5.18.1 Sampling Plan

- i. The sampling plan for inspection shall be based on the following factors to be taken into account for risk assessment:
 - a. Size of land holding
 - b. Number of the members in the group
 - c. Degree of similarity between the production system and crop system
 - d. Co-mingling
 - e. Contamination
 - f. Parallel production
 - g. Split production
 - h. Local hazards
 - i. Change in the production plan
 - j. Joining of new members in the group
 - k. Past certification history and sanctions

5.18.2 Risk Assessment

- (i) A minimum sample size of the members in the Grower Group shall be inspected by the Certification Body.
- (ii) The Certification Body shall establish criteria for assessment of risk under high, medium and low categories.
- (iii) Based on the risk assessment made by the Certification Body prior

to the inspection visit, the number of sample inspections shall be planned.

- (iv) The sample size shall be determined as below:
 - a. High risk: 2 X square root of number of farmers
 - b. Medium risk: 1.5 X square root of number of farmers
 - c. Low risk: square root of number of farmers (min 20 farmers)
- (v) A min of 20 farmers shall be inspected during external inspections.
- (vi) The sampling plan should be such that all the farmers are covered in the external inspection in due course and the same farmer is not repeated except in case of verification/suspicious of non-compliance is there.
- (vii) The risk assessed by the Certification Body shall be documented.

5.18.3 External Inspection

- (i) The Certification Body shall conduct the external inspection as per the requirements specified in this Chapter, inspection, and certification requirements as per Chapter 4 and production standards as per Chapter 3 of the NPOP. The Grower Group shall be provided a maximum of 30 days' time to address the non-compliances observed by the Certification Body during external inspection.
- (ii) Certification Body shall impose sanctions on the Grower Group based on non-conformity during inspections/investigations etc. as per their sanction catalogue.
- (iii) Sanctions should be dissuasive and should be applied to entire Grower Group when inspections, based on the representative sample of farmers, indicate serious non-compliances affecting the integrity of organic process. In the event, it is found that the Grower Group is not compliant with the NPOP in so far as it is affecting the integrity of the organic production, the transaction certificate of the Grower Group shall be immediately cancelled by the Certification Body.
- (iv) A list of all Grower Groups that have been sanctioned under the NPOP shall be published on the website of the Certification Body.

5.18.4 Non-compliance by members of Grower Group and Sanctions imposed by ICS

- 5.18.4.1** In case of non-compliance with applicable provisions of the NPOP, the ICS shall have power to impose sanctions on its members and take corrective or mitigating measures. For this purpose, ICS may refer to the model procedures formulated in this respect by the NPOP Secretariat, for adoption.
- 5.18.4.2** If required, a minimal pecuniary penalty, (upto Rs. 5000/-) may be imposed on farmers for violations of NPOP requirements. The acreage of the farm holdings of the concerned farmer shall be taken into consideration while imposing the pecuniary penalty. However, this amount may be adjusted by the ICS in case of full compliance during the sanction period.
- 5.18.4.3** Sanctions imposed shall be documented (list of farmers issued sanctions, documentation of identified non-conformities in the files).
- 5.18.4.4** Farmers who have used prohibited inputs on their farms must undergo the full conversion period (if they remain in the Grower Group). In such cases, it is required to be verified whether such farmers have already delivered produce and whether such “now no longer certified” produce has been mingling with other produce. If this has been the case, the Certification Body needs to be notified immediately and the mingled produce to be removed from the supply chain.

6.1 Violations by Certification Body and/or Operator

6.1.1 Complaints & Investigation Procedure of Certification Body and/or Operator

- i. APEDA, the NPOP Secretariat, on receipt of a complaint against an Operator / Certification Body shall investigate the complaint by obtaining relevant documents from the concerned stakeholder(s).
- ii. If any non-conformities are observed and notwithstanding Regulation 6.1.1(i), if APEDA learns of any major non-conformity by an Operator and/or a Certification Body under the NPOP, APEDA shall issue a show cause notice to the said Operator and/or Certification Body as the case may be.
- iii. The Operator/Certification Body shall respond to the show cause notice within 15 days from the date of receipt of such Show Cause Notice.
- iv. APEDA will thereafter place the matter, with all the records, before the NAB/Sub Committee of NAB for examination.
- v. Thereafter, the NAB/Sub Committee of NAB shall give adequate opportunity, including but not limited to a personal hearing to such Operator/ Certification Body, to defend itself.
- vi. If the non-conformities are confirmed against the Operator and/or Certification Body, NAB/ Sub Committee of NAB shall impose appropriate sanctions by way of a speaking order.

6.1.2 Sanctions

- i. If the NAB/ Sub Committee of NAB finds that an Operator/ Certification Body has committed a non-conformity, the NAB/ Sub Committee of NAB may impose such sanctions, as may be deemed fit, after taking into consideration the severity of such non-conformity committed. The condition for imposing sanctions is prescribed in **Annex-6(1)**.

6.1.3 Categories of non-conformities

Under the NPOP, non-conformity is categorized in terms of their degree of severity as major or minor non-conformity. Accordingly, the sanctions to be imposed shall depend on the nature, degree and extent of such non-conformity.

6.1.4 Minor non-conformity

Minor non-conformity shall include,

- i. In case of a Certification Body, a non-conformity that does not affect the integrity of the accreditation process and is rectifiable,
- ii. In case of an Operator, a non-conformity occurs when it does not impact the organic status of the produce like non-adherence to documentary requirements, disclosure norms etc.

and shall include but are not limited to:

- a. Failure to submit information on time,
- b. Failure to exercise proper document control,
- c. Failure to carry out internal audit and management review as per requirements,
- d. Unavailability of documents /declaration on conflict of interest and/ or confidentiality,
- e. No time frame on the handling of complaints and appeals etc.
- f. Inadequate disclosure of information to the public authority,
- g. Wrongful disclosure of information by an Operator,
- h. Any other non-conformity that the NAB may declare as a minor non-conformity from time to time.

6.1.5 Major non-conformity

Major non-conformity shall include:

- i. In case of a Certification Body, a non-conformity that adversely affects the integrity of the accreditation process and is non rectifiable,
- ii. In case of an Operator, a non-conformity occurs when it adversely impacts the organic status of the produce and is non rectifiable, and shall include but is not limited to:
 - a. Non-compliance with NPOP standards,
 - b. Knowingly providing false information/documents,
 - c. Misrepresentation of accreditation status,
 - d. Repetition of same non-conformities,
 - e. Failure to rectify previously committed major non-conformities etc., or
 - f. Any other non-conformity that the NAB may declare as a major non-conformity from time to time.

6.1.6 Categories of Sanctions

The NAB may impose one or more of the following sanctions on the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator:

- (i) Pecuniary penalty
- (ii) Suspension of accreditation
- (iii) Termination of accreditation
- (iv) Reduction in the scope of certification
- (v) Imposition of any other additional penalties/limitations
- (vi) A combination of the penalty mentioned at (i) above along with any of the penalties mentioned at (ii) to (iv)

6.1.7 For imposition of Pecuniary Penalty

The following factors shall be taken into consideration:

- i. The amount of undue gains or unfair advantage, wherever quantifiable, derived by the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator as a result of the non-conformity,
- ii. The amount of loss caused or likely to be caused wherever quantifiable to any person as a result of the contravention by the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator,

- iii. The repetitive nature of contraventions by the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator, whether the contravention is without the knowledge of the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator,
- iv. Any other relevant factor.

6.1.8 Penalties not to interfere with other punishments

- (i) No penalty imposed under the NPOP shall prevent imposition of any other punishment/liabilities to which the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator is liable under any other law for the time being in force.
- (ii) The defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator shall be given an opportunity to rectify the non-compliance during the suspension period. In the event the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator fails to remedy the non-conformities during the term of suspension and or fails to pay the fine, the accreditation of the said Certification Body shall be terminated. In such a case, the defaulting Certification Bodies and/or Operator shall be barred from re-applying for accreditation or certification, as applicable, for a period of up to three years, as may be decided by NAB/ Sub Committee of NAB.
- (iii) Upon termination, in addition to pecuniary penalty (if any) the Certification Body is required to refund the certification fee of Operator who has certified within period of six months before the termination. The refund of certification fee shall be done within one week of application by the Operator.

6.1.9 Appeal by Certification Body/Operator

- (i) Certification Body/Operator that is found to have committed any non-conformity shall have a right to file an appeal against the decision (whole or part) passed by the NAB within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of the decision of the NAB.
- (ii) Appellate Authority may condone the delay, in cases where an appeal has been filed after the expiry of prescribed period as specified above, only if sufficient cause for such delay is shown.

- (iii) Such an appeal shall be filed with a Sub Committee constituted by the NSC for hearing such appeals. The NSC Sub-Committee so constituted, shall act as 'Appellate Authority' and shall be chaired by the Commerce Secretary, Government of India with the Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DGFT) and CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) as members.
- (iv) The Appellate Authority shall provide the Certification Body/Operator a reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing any order.
- (v) The Appellate Authority may undertake further inquiries, if required, for effective disposal of the appeal.
- (vi) The Appellate Authority may pass an order either confirming, modifying, or reversing the decision or order appealed against, or may remand the case back to the NAB with such directions as it may deem fit, including for taking a fresh decision after taking additional evidence, if necessary.

Provided that any order enhancing or imposing a penalty of a greater value shall not be passed under this provision unless the Certification Body/Operator has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

- (vii) The appeal under this provision shall desirably be disposed of within six months from the date of its filing.
- (viii) The order made by the Appellate Authority shall be final and binding on all parties.

6.2 Violations by Service Provider of the ICS

6.2.1 In the case of a Grower Group managed by an external Service Provider, provisions of this Chapter shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to an external Service Provider of the ICS.

6.2.2 Violations by external Service Provider as set out in **Annex -6(1)** and shall be punishable as specified therein.

Conditions for Imposing Sanctions

A. Certification Bodies /Applicant Body

S. No.	Nature of non-conformity	Prescribed sanction
1	Where for the purpose of obtaining accreditation or subsequent to receiving accreditation, a Certification Body is found to have knowingly provided any false or misleading information or document	Punishable with a fine extending upto Rupees 10 Lakhs (10,00,000). In addition, the accreditation granted to the Certification Body may be terminated
2	False information and/ or documents have been provided by an applicant body seeking accreditation	The application for accreditation may be rejected
3	Where a Certification Body seeking accreditation, fails to submit information and/ or documents within the prescribed time period	Application for accreditation may be rejected
4	<p>If a Certification Body fails to comply with standards prescribed under the NPOP and fails to administer the certification programme as required under the NPOP.</p> <p>(Instances of such failure may include but shall not be limited to improper inspection and certification, issuance of scope and/or Transaction Certificate to Operators not practicing organic and exercise of undue influence, compromise impartiality, and/or collusion)</p>	<p>One or more of the following penalties may be imposed based on the severity of Non-Conformity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Accreditation may be suspended for a term extending upto one year. ii. Reduction in the Scope of certification. iii. Restricting registration of new Operators. iv. Restricting area of certification programme.

		<p>v. Pecuniary Penalty which may extend upto Rupees twenty-five Lakhs. (Rs. 25,00,000/-)</p> <p>vi. Accreditation may be terminated</p>
5	Where a Certification Body fails to update and verify the entered data on Tracenet relating to the organic production including but not limited to the nature and quantity of the product, area of the farm and movement of the products in the chain of custody	Pecuniary penalty extending upto Rupees Five Lakhs (Rs.5,00,000/-) may be imposed.
6	Where a Certification Body knowingly updates or enters wrong data on Tracenet relating to the organic production including but not limited to the nature and quantity of the product, area of the farm and movement of the products in the chain of custody	Pecuniary penalty extending upto Rupees Ten Lakhs (Rs. 10,00,000/-) may be imposed.
7	When a Certification Body makes a misrepresentation to the accreditation status or scope of the certification in any manner whatsoever such as <i>"it is an agency accredited under the NPOP when in fact it is not", it is suspended or terminated but continues to claim that it is accredited through its website and other means, false representation of scope which it does not possess to name a few"</i> .	Pecuniary penalty extending upto Rupees Ten Lakhs (Rs. 10,00,000/-) may be imposed.

8	If a Certification Body commits a subsequent offence, whether of the same or similar nature as the previous offence or of a different kind within a period of 5 years.	<p>One or more of the following penalties may be imposed based on the severity of non-conformity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Suspension for a period extending upto two years. ii. Pecuniary Penalty extending upto Rupees twenty-five Lakhs (Rs. 25,00,000/-) may be imposed. iii. Termination of Accreditation of the Certification Body and debarred from re-applying for accreditation for a period extending upto 3 years.
9	If a Certification Body commits an offence for which no penalty is provided herein	<p>Accreditation shall be suspended for a period as may be deemed reasonable upto a maximum of one year</p> <p>Pecuniary penalty extending upto Rupees Ten Lakhs (Rs.10,00,000/-) may be imposed.</p>

10	Where the NAB has imposed fines on the delinquent Certification Body, in accordance with the above provisions, and the said delinquent Certification Body has failed to pay such fines	NAB may blacklist such Certification Body along with its promoters/owners for a period extending upto 5 years. In addition, NAB shall have the right to initiate appropriate legal action for recovery of such fines.
11	Where the delinquent Certification Body has committed an offence of a civil nature, such as breach of contract, breach of trust etc.	NAB shall have the right to initiate appropriate legal action.
12	Where the Certification Body refuses/ fails to disclose any information which is required to be disclosed under the NPOP Standards without justifiable cause	Pecuniary penalty extending up to Rupees Five Lakhs (Rs. 5,00,000/-) may be imposed.
13	When a Certification body has not taken adequate corrective action in their certification programme due to which non-conformities are being repeatedly reported.	In the first instance: Issuance of a warning letter. For subsequent infractions: i) The scope of certification may be modified; and/ or ii) Area of operation may be restricted and/or iii) A restriction may be imposed on registration of new Operators for such period as may be deemed reasonable; and /or iv) A pecuniary penalty upto 5 lakhs may be imposed v) Accreditation may be suspended for a period upto six months.

B. Operator

1	If an Operator fails to comply with the standards prescribed under the NPOP	Pecuniary Penalty extending upto Rupees Ten Lakhs (Rs.10,00,000/-) may be imposed. In addition, the certification may be withdrawn for upto one year
2	If non-conformities on the part of the Operator (trader including exporter, processor, producer including grower group or wild collector as the case may be) are established for the presence of residues of prohibited substances in certified organic product	Pecuniary Penalty extending upto Rupees Five Lakhs (Rs.5,00,000/-) may be imposed.
3	If the non-conformities on the part of the Operator (trader including exporter, processor, producer including grower group or wild collector as the case may be) for presence of residues of prohibited substances in certified organic products is repeated	Pecuniary Penalty extending upto Rupees Ten Lakhs (Rs.10,00,000/-) may be imposed. In addition, the exporter may be banned for a period extending upto 3 years.
4	If an Operator fails to pay the pecuniary penalty imposed in accordance with the above provisions	NAB may blacklist such Operators along with its promoters/owners for not more than 3 years. NAB shall have the right to initiate appropriate legal action for recovery of such fines.
5	If an Operator is found to have knowingly/willfully provided any false or misleading information or document	Pecuniary penalty extending up to Rupees Five Lakhs (Rs. 5,00,000/-) may be imposed.
6	Use of 'India Organic' certification mark by a Certified Operator for products which are not certified under NPOP	Pecuniary Penalty extending upto Rupees Two Lakhs (Rs.2,00,000/-) may be imposed.

7	If a Certified Operator commits a subsequent offence, whether of the same or similar nature as the previous offence or of a different kind.	Pecuniary Penalty extending upto Rupees Ten Lakhs (Rs.10,00,000/-) may be imposed. In addition, the Operator may be banned for a period extending upto 3 years.
---	---	--

C. External Service Provider, if any, of the ICS

S. No.	Nature of non-conformity	Prescribed sanction
1	Submission of wrong/incorrect particulars of ICS Manager, growers etc.	Pecuniary penalty extending up to Rupees One Lakh (Rs. 1,00,000/-) may be imposed.
2	Misrepresentation of ICS Office	Pecuniary penalty extending up to Rupees One Lakh (Rs. 1,00,000/-) may be imposed.
3	Submission of incorrect/wrong identity documents of growers	Pecuniary penalty extending up to Rupees Five Lakh (Rs. 5,00,000/-) may be imposed.
4	Submission of incorrect legal entity documents of the grower group	Pecuniary penalty extending up to Rupees Five Lakh (Rs. 5,00,000/-) may be imposed.
5	Any other violation determined by NAB or in cases of repeated violations	Pecuniary penalty extending up to Rupees Five Lakh (Rs. 5,00,000/-) may be imposed. NAB may also blacklist the service provider for a period extending upto 3 years. NAB shall have the right to initiate appropriate legal action for recovery of such fines.



ORGANIC CERTIFICATION MARK

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- i. Organic Certification Mark – “India Organic Logo” on a product indicates that the product has been duly certified by a Certification Body under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). All products certified as organic under NPOP shall be granted license to use India Organic Logo, subject to the conditions specified herein.
- ii. The License to use the Trademark – “India Organic Logo” will be granted on the basis of compliance of the standards laid down under NPOP. The “India Organic” Logo shall depict that the organic product has been produced, processed, packed and transacted under the NPOP.
- iii. The Trademark “India Organic” is owned by the Government of India. License to use the “India Organic” Logo will be granted to such producers, manufacturers, processors, and exporters whose products are duly certified by the Certification Bodies under NPOP. The use of the “India Organic” Logo shall be governed by Regulations prescribed/notified herein.

7.2 INDIA ORAGNIC LOGO

- i. The India Organic Logo under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) is given below:



The Indian Organic Logo must comprise of the colour specifications listed below:-



C - 52 M - 8
Y - 100 K - 0



C - 0 M - 78
Y - 77 K - 0



C - 44 M - 11
Y - 0 K - 0

- ii. The India Organic Logo under NPOP may also be used in black and white as given below, as an exception at the primary production level only and under circumstances where it is not feasible to apply it in colour:



- iii. For use of India Organic Logo in black and white, prior written permission will be sought from the Certification Body stating clearly the justification for such request.

- iv. The India Organic Logo in Black and White shall be used only at the primary production level and for those products and scope for which permission has been granted in writing.

7.3 CONCEPT OF ORGANIC LOGO

Symbolizing the rhythm of cosmic and earth forces represented by the blue and coral waves of force and energy, 'India Organic' logo celebrates the essence of nature. These forces work in harmony upon the earth's environment and this rhythm is reinforced and supported by the green plant growth. The colours used have a special significance in the logo concept. The cosmic force in blue symbolizes universal purity. The plant in green uses the colour of nature and natural products untouched by chemicals. The blue background is symbolic of earth's environment that is congenial for life to thrive in and is also free of pollution and harmful chemicals. India Organic etched over the surface authenticates the carrier as "Organic" and also establishes the Indian connection for all the carriers of the mark. Words "Jaivik Bharat" are etched at the bottom in devnagri and roman script to re-affirm India's resolution to promote Organic Farming practices. Beautifully synthesizing all the elements of our environment, the logo also communicates total adherence to the National Organic Standards.

7.4 REGULATIONS GOVERNING USE OF THE CERTIFICATION TRADEMARK 'INDIA ORGANIC LOGO'

The following regulations, which include any modifications and additions thereto, shall apply for grant of a license for use of the Certification Trademark only on the certified products produced, processed, packed, and labelled as per the National Standards for Organic Products.

7.4.1 Short Title and Commencement– (1) These regulations may be called the India Organic Certification Trademark Regulations, 2024.

7.4.2 Definitions– In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires–

- a. "Applicant" means any manufacturer, processor, exporter who applies to the Certification Body for grant of a license to use the Certification Trademark.

- b. "Certification Trademark" means the India Organic logo as shown in Regulation 7.2(i) above.
- c. "Certification Body" shall mean an agency accredited and authorized by NAB to operate and promote the NPOP on behalf of the NAB.
- d. "Licensee"/ "Authorized User" shall mean an applicant who has been granted the license to use the Certification Trademark.
- e. "National Accreditation Body (NAB)" means a body appointed by the National Steering Committee constituted under the National Programme for Organic Production by the Government of India.
- f. "National Steering Committee" (NSC) is the Committee responsible for the implementation and administration of the NPOP and comprises members from APEDA, Tea Board, Spices Board, Coffee Board, Ministry of Agriculture etc. and may include any other body as may be notified from time to time.
- g. National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) refers to a Programme of the Government of India which provides for an institutional mechanism for implementation of the National Standards for Organic Production.
- h. "National Standards for Organic Production" shall refer to standards contained in the National Programme for Organic Production.
- i. "Regulations" shall refer to the instant Regulations governing use of the India Organic Logo, as amended from time to time by the NAB. The Regulations are open to public inspection in the same way as the Indian Register of Trademarks is open to public inspection, any amendment of the Regulation is not effective until the amended Regulation have been accepted by the Indian Registrar of Trademarks.
- j. All other words and expressions used in the Regulations and not defined herein shall have the ordinary meanings assigned in the English language.

7.4.3 Use of the India Organic Logo; Authorized Users

7.4.3.1 A product will be allowed to be exported as “Organic Product” only if it is produced, processed and packed under the Certification Trademark issued by Certification Bodies authorized by the NAB, constituted under the provisions of the NPOP.

7.4.3.2 Ministry of Commerce & Industry is the sole, absolute, and exclusive owner of the Certification Trademark. The Certification Bodies are agents of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The relationship between Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Certification Bodies is governed by the terms of an Agency Agreement entered into between the Parties.

7.4.3.3 The Certification Body, while granting certification to an applicant is merely acting as an agent of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and any certification conferred on such applicant is deemed to have been ultimately conferred and authorized by Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

7.4.3.4 Revocation of License: A license to use the Certification Trademark may be revoked if the licensee:

- a. Challenges the validity of the Certification Trademark; or
- b. Challenges the Ministry of Commerce & Industry as the sole, absolute, and exclusive owner of all right, title, and interest in the Certification Trademark, and the goodwill associated therewith; or
- c. Takes any action, which would impair the rights of Ministry of Commerce & Industry in and to the Certification Trademark or the goodwill associated therewith.

7.4.3.5 A license granted to an applicant to use the Certification Trademark in India is a privilege bestowed at will and does not constitute a legally enforceable right, title or interest. At all times this permission is subject to the rights, duties, and restrictions contained in the Regulations. By accepting Certification, the Licensee acknowledges and accepts that:

- a. Grant of a license to use the Certification Trademark is not an assignment or grant of any right, title or interest in or to the Certification Trademark.
- b. No right, title or interest in or to the Certification Trademark can be acquired or claimed by virtue of the permission granted herein or through any use of the Certification Trademark;
- c. All goodwill deriving from use of the Certification Trademark inures to and for the benefit of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry; and
- d. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry is the sole, absolute, and exclusive owner of the Certification Trademark.

7.4.3.6 Register of Licensee/Authorized User: NAB through the Certification Body(s) shall maintain a register of the licensees/authorized users who are authorized to use the Certification Trademark

7.5 Manner of Applying for License

7.5.1 Every application for the grant of a license to use the Certification Trademark shall be made to the Certification Body on **Form I** prescribed herein.

7.5.2 Every application for a license shall be accompanied by a statement furnishing in detail any scheme of inspection and testing, which the applicant maintains or has been in use or proposes to maintain or to put into use and which is designed to regulate, during the course of manufacture or production, the quality of the product or process for which the license is applied for.

7.5.3 Every application shall be signed in the case of an individual, by the applicant or, in the case of a firm, by the proprietor, partner or the managing director of the firm or by any other person authorized to sign any declaration on behalf of the firm. The name and designation of the person signing the application shall be recorded legibly in the space set apart for the purpose in the application form.

7.5.4 Every application for a license shall, on receipt by the Certification Body, be numbered in the order of priority of the receipt and be acknowledged.

7.5.5 The Certification Body may call for any supplementary information or documentary evidence from any applicant in support of or to substantiate any statement made by him in his application, within such time as may be directed by the Certification Body, and non-conformity with such direction may have the effect of the application being summarily rejected by the Certification Body.

7.5.6 On receipt of an application for a license and before granting a license, the Certification Body may:

- a. Require evidence to be produced that the product or process in respect of which a license has been applied for conforms to the standards and specifications set out in the NPOP and the NSOP;
- b. Require evidence to be produced that the applicant has in operation a scheme of routine inspection and testing, which will adequately ensure that all marked products or process shall conform to the standards and specifications set out in the NPOP and the NSOP;
- c. Require all reasonable facilities to be provided to an Inspector of the Certification Body to inspect the farms, processing units, office, workshop, testing laboratories or godowns and any other premises of the applicant and to draw and test a sample or samples for the purpose of verifying the evidence produced by the applicant under clause (a) or clause (b) or both;
- d. For the purpose of clause (a), direct the applicant to submit samples to such testing authority as Certification Body may consider appropriate. The expenses for testing shall be borne by the applicant; and
- e. On the basis of any report received under clause (c) or clause (d) or both, the Certification Body may, as deemed fit, require the applicant to carry out such alterations in, or in addition to, the process of manufacture or production in use by the applicant.

7.6 Grant of License

7.6.1 If, after having regard to requisite skill, resources, production, processing previous performance and antecedents relevant to the issuance of the license, the Certification Body, is satisfied that the applicant is fit to use the Certification Trademark, the Certification Body shall grant a license in **Form 2** authorizing the use of the Certification Trademark in respect of the product or class of products manufactured by the applicant in respect of the process employed in any production, manufacture or work, subject to such terms and conditions as specified in these regulations. The Certification Body shall intimate the applicant about grant of license.

- a. The applicant shall be entitled to use the Certification Trademark and restrict its use to such products or services, which will meet the norms and standard specifications of the products, set out in the NPOP. The Certification Trademark may be affixed to the products and/or used on packaging or promotional material or in the context of advertising activities.
- b. In the event of a withdrawal of the right to use the aforesaid Certification Trademark, the certificate or the license shall be returned to the Certification Body. The right to use the Certification Trademark expires at the same time without giving rise to any indemnification claim against the NAB and/or the Certification Body.
- c. The applicant is entitled to use the aforesaid Certification Trademark in accordance with these Regulations governing its use.
- d. Where the application for a license is made by a person, whose license is cancelled by the Certification Body due to furnishing of incorrect information or use of the Certification Trademark in relation to any product other than that for which it has been granted license, he shall not be eligible to reapply for a period of time as determined by the Certification Body having regard to the facts and circumstances of each case. In any event, such period shall not exceed one year.

- 7.6.2** A license shall be granted on Form 2 prescribed in the NPOP from time to time for a period of one year and a declaration by licensee shall be given on Form 3.
- 7.6.3** The Certification Body may by giving one month's notice to a Licensee, alter any terms and conditions subject to which the license has been granted during the validity of the license.
- 7.6.4** Where the Certification Body, after a preliminary inquiry, is of the opinion that a license should not be granted, it shall give a reasonable opportunity to the applicant of being heard, either in person or through a representative authorized by him on his behalf and may take into consideration any fact or explanation urged on behalf of the applicant before rejecting the application.
- 7.6.5** A license shall expire at the end of the period for which it is granted.

7.7 Conditions of a License

- 7.7.1** The Certification Trademark shall be applied in such manner as it may be easily visible as a distinct mark on the products or the packaging or on test certificates relating to articles which cannot be labelled or covered. The Certification Trademark shall be applied to only such types, grades, classes, varieties, sizes of the products for which the license has been granted. The manner, in which the licensee proposes to place or use the Certification Trademark, must be approved by the Certification Body.
- 7.7.2** When a Certification Trademark has been specified in respect of an article or process, no person other than the licensee in possession of a valid license shall make any public claim, through any advertisement, sales promotion leaflets, pricelists or the like, that his product conforms to the relevant Certification Trademark or carries the Certification Trademark.
- 7.7.3** Every licensee shall institute and maintain, to the satisfaction of the Certification Body, a system of control to keep up the quality of his

production or process by means of a scheme of testing and inspection, so as to ensure that the articles or process, in respect of which the Certification Trademark is being used, comply with the relevant norms and procedures of the Certification Body and the NPOP.

The licensee shall maintain a complete record of the tests and inspection and such other data as specified in the scheme for testing and inspection, to establish to the satisfaction of the Certification Body that the required control of production or process has been and is being satisfactorily maintained. Such records shall, on demand, be made available for inspection to the Certification Body.

- 7.7.4** a. Any license granted by the Certification Body may be suspended or cancelled by it, if it is satisfied:
- i. that the products marked with the Certification Trademark under a license do not comply with the related norms and procedures as prescribed in the NPOP; or
 - ii. that the licensee had used the Certification Trademark in respect of a process which does not comply with the procedures and specifications prescribed in the NPOP; or
 - iii. that the licensee failed to provide reasonable facilities to the Certification Body to enable them to discharge the duties imposed on them; or
 - iv. that the licensee has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the license.
- b. Before the Certification Body suspends or cancels any license, it shall give the licensee not less than fourteen days notice of its intention to suspend or cancel the license.
- c. On the receipt of such notice, the licensee may submit an explanation on its behalf to the Certification Body within fourteen days from the receipt of the notice. If an explanation is submitted, the Certification Body may consider the explanation and give a hearing to the licensee within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such explanation or before the expiry of the notice whichever is longer.

- d. If no explanation is submitted, the Certification Body may, on the expiry of period of the notice, suspend or cancel the license by addressing a written communication within 14 days of the expiry of the period stipulated in sub-paragraph (c) herein above.
- e. Where a license has been suspended or cancelled, the licensee shall forthwith discontinue the use of the Certification Trademark notwithstanding the pendency of any proceeding before an arbitrator and if there be, with the licensee or his agents, any articles in stock which have been improperly marked, the licensee or his agents, as the case may be, shall take steps to get the Certification Trademark on such articles either removed, cancelled, defaced or erased.

7.7.5 When a license has been suspended or cancelled, the Certification Body shall so advise the licensee in writing and publish such a suspension or cancellation in a manner as found appropriate by the said Certification Body.

7.7.6 If, at any time,

- a. there is some difficulty in maintaining the conformity of the product or articles to the specification or if the testing equipment goes out of order, the marking of the product shall be stopped by the licensee, under intimation to the Certification Body. The marking may be resumed as soon as the defects are removed and information regarding such resumption of marking be sent to the Certification Body, immediately thereafter.
- b. the Certification Body has sufficient evidence that the product carrying the Certification Trademark may not be conforming to designated norms and procedures, the licensee shall be directed to stop the marking of such product. The resumption of marking on the product shall be permitted by the Certification Body after satisfying itself that the licensee has taken necessary actions to remove the deficiencies.

- 7.7.7** The decision of the Certification Body for arriving at such decision shall be communicated, in writing by registered post, to the applicant or the licensee, as the case may be.
- 7.7.8** An inspection, specially made at the request of an applicant or a licensee, shall be chargeable to the account of the applicant or the licensee. Charges for such special inspection or inspections shall be such as may be decided by the Certification Body.
- 7.7.9** When the designated norms and procedures of the Certification Body are withdrawn and not superseded by any other norms and procedures, any license issued in respect thereof shall be deemed to have been cancelled from the date of withdrawal of such designated norms and procedures as stated above and any such license shall be forthwith surrendered to such Certification Body by the licensee. In the case of such cancelled license, a part of the license fee, if paid in advance, proportionate to the unexpired period of the license shall be adjusted against any future fee payable by the licensee or the said part of the license fee can be refunded depending on the decisions of the Certification Body.
- 7.7.10** The following procedures shall apply in the case of inspection in respect of any product or process where a license for the use of Certification Trademark in respect of that article or process has been issued, or an application has been made for a license.
- a. When the Certification Body proposes to inspect the process or product of an applicant, it shall, preferably, give reasonable notice of its visit to the applicant. However, where the Certification Body proposes to inspect the premises of a licensee, such notice is not necessary;
 - b. If during an inspection, the Certification Body wishes to take one or more samples of any product, material or substance, it shall do so in the presence of the applicant or a responsible person belonging to the establishment of the applicant, as the case may be;
 - c. The Certification Body may at its discretion, and shall if the applicant or the responsible person belonging to the establishment demands it, take duplicate samples and give one sample to the applicant or such responsible person;

- d. The Certification Body may at its discretion, and shall if the applicant or the responsible person belonging to the establishment demands it, place each such sample in a covering and jointly seal each sample. In the case of samples drawn by the Certification Body which cannot be so sealed, such samples shall be marked with certain identification to establish their identity;
- e. Impression of the seals and details of identification shall be given in the Certification Body's report. The samples shall be labelled giving complete details; and
- f. The Certification Body shall give a receipt for a sample or samples taken and retain a duplicate copy of the receipt duly signed by the person in whose presence the sample was taken.

7.7.11 The Certification Body may take samples of products marked with the Certification Trademark from the godowns or any such premises of any agent of the applicant or from the articles put up for sale in the open market by the applicant or its agent.

7.7.12 The Certification Body shall arrange at least one inspection visit in a year in respect of each license granted.

7.7.13 The Certification Body shall make a detailed report of every inspection made by it.

7.8 Fees

7.8.1 Every application for the grant of a license shall be accompanied by a fee payable to the NPOP Secretariat prescribed for this purpose by the NAB from time to time.

7.8.2 The application for grant of license to the Certification Body should be accompanied by the fee receipt.

7.8.3 No such fee or part there of shall, in any circumstances, be refunded in any situation except otherwise provided herein.

7.9 Undertaking

Prior to the grant of license, the applicant shall sign an undertaking to the effect that he will make no claim, direct or implied, that the license to be granted relates to any products or processes other than those that will be set out in the license.

7.10 Surveillance and regular review

- a. The grant of a license shall be followed by surveillance visits. The frequency and extent of visits shall be determined by the Certification Body.
- b. The surveillance visits may be without notice to the applicant to ensure that the systems and procedures already assessed are being maintained.
- c. The special reassessment visit shall be necessary where an applicant fails to observe the conditions of the license or where there have been significant changes in the organization of the applicant. The licensee shall be liable for the costs of such special visits.

7.11 Use of Certification Trademark

- a. The licensee may use the Certification Trademark only as authorized by the Certification Body.
- b. An applicant who has been granted a license for using the Certification Trademark for a certain product under these regulations, shall use the license only for that particular product.

7.12 Publicity

- a. The Certification Body shall maintain a list of licensees and make it available to APEDA;
- b. The list shall be updated periodically;
- c. The licensee shall inform potential customers, purchasers or purchasing authorities of the full and exact details of the license;

- d. The licensee shall display the license in his premises;
- e. The licensee shall make use of the Certification Trademark as authorized;
- f. The licensee shall state in documentation brochures or through advertising media that the organization or location to which the license applies have been assessed and approved by the Certification Body. In such advertisement the standards pertaining to the products or process for which a license has been granted is to be stated and a higher level of approval than granted is not to be implied;

7.13 Obligations of the applicant

An applicant on grant of a license to use of the Certification Trademark shall:

- a. At all times comply with the requirements of the license as set out therein and comply with these Regulations or any amendments thereto;
- b. Only claim that it is holding a license in respect of the capability which is the subject of the license and which relates to the products or processes in accordance with the license requirements;
- c. Not use the license in any manner to which the Certification Body may object and shall not make any statement concerning the authority of the applicant's use of the license which in the opinion of the Certification Body may be misleading;
- d. Submit to the Certification Body for approval the form in which it proposes to use its license or proposes to make references to the license;
- e. Upon suspension or termination of the license, however determined, discontinue its use forthwith and withdraw all promotional and advertising matter which contains any reference thereto;
- f. Permit access to the Inspector of the Certification Body for purposes of assessment, audit or surveillance. The licensee shall give full details of all actions taken in response to field problems arising from allegations

of defects in products or processes covered in the license and allow the Inspector of the Certification Body access to all relevant records and documents for the purpose of verifying such details;

- g. Be required to produce evidence of continuing operations for the products or processes covered by the license. The licensee shall notify the Certification Body in writing of discontinuance in such operations exceeding three months. Discontinuance of a license in excess of six months or more may lead to cancellation of license. In such cases, a new application shall be lodged with the Certification Body and an assessment visit will be necessary prior to grant of a new license;
- h. Pay all financial dues to the Certification Body in the manner prescribed by it, even for the period of discontinuance or suspension of license.

7.14 Surrender of License

A license may be surrendered by the licensee at any time in writing to the Certification Body. In the case of surrender, the licensee shall return the license with all the related documents to the Certification Body.

7.15 Powers of the Certification Body

The Certification Body may at its discretion:

- a. Refuse to grant a license or extend its scope or cancel or alter so as to reduce the scope of the license provided that the refusal, cancellation or alteration is a recommendation of the Inspector of the Certification Body as to which a decision by the committee constituted by the Certification Body shall be conclusive. The refusal to renew or cancel a license for failure to discharge its obligations shall be based on the report of the Inspector of the Certification Body on assessment/audit during surveillance and regular review. Such decisions shall be communicated to the licensee in writing;
- b. The Certification Body shall be entitled to suspend a license if there are sufficient grounds of non-compliance of the following:
 - i) If surveillance by the Certification Body proves non-conformity to the relevant requirements, but immediate termination is not

considered necessary;

- ii) If improper use of the license, related documents, is not remedied to the satisfaction of the Certification Body;
 - iii) If there has been any contravention of the procedures set out by the Certification Body;
 - iv) If the licensee fails to meet financial obligations to the Certification Body; and
 - v) On any other grounds specifically provided for under the procedures, rules or formally agreed between the licensee and the Certification Body.
- c. Where a license has been suspended or cancelled on the expiry of the period of its validity, the licensee shall forthwith discontinue the use of the license notwithstanding the pendency of any Appeal in terms of para 16 hereinafter and shall return the license and related documents to the Certification Body.
- d. Where the licensee is unable, in a reasonable period of time, to rectify any deficiencies, which makes the licensee unable to comply with the requirements of this scheme, the license may be cancelled. Cancellation of the license in such case shall require the licensee to lodge a fresh application followed by the procedure prescribed in these regulations for the grant of a new license.

7.16 Misuse of License

- i. The licensee shall be deemed to have misused the license, if it does not cease to display or otherwise use the license for use of the India Organic Certification Trademark immediately after:
 - a. Surrender, suspension, withdrawal or termination of Accreditation under NPOP;
 - b. Surrender, suspension or cancellation of license;

- c. The licensee has failed to implement changes as advised by the Certification Body.
- ii. In case of misuse of license for use of India Organic Certification Mark, the licensee shall be liable to be prosecuted as per applicable law.

7.17 Appeals

- i. Any appeal arising from any order of the Certification Body under this Chapter shall lie before the National Accreditation Body (NAB) and shall be filed within 30 days from the receipt of such order. NAB may condone the delay, in cases where appeal has been filed after the expiry of 30 days if sufficient cause is shown.
- ii. Decision of the NAB while disposing the appeal shall be final and binding on parties thereto.

FORM 1

Application for Grant of License to use the Certification Trade Mark Under the Organic Products Certification Mark Regulations 2024

*I/We carrying on business at _____

Under the style of _____

Hereby apply for a license to use the Indian Organic Logo Certification in respect of the product/process which conforms to the National Standards for Organic Products norms and procedures listed below:

a) **Product _____ Type.

Size _____ Grade

Related norms of Standards for Organic Products

b) **Process _____ Related norms of Standards for Organic Products.

2. The above product is manufactured by _____ process is carried out

_____ Name of location (address)

* Strike out one not applicable

** Only one of the two items under (a), (b) may be covered by one application strike out the other.

3. a) The composition of the top Management of my/our firm is as follows:

S. No.	Name	Designation
--------	------	-------------

b) I/we undertake to intimate to the Certification Body any change in the above composition as soon as it takes place.

4. I/We hereby enclose an attested copy/photocopy of the certification of incorporation issued by the Registrar of firms or Societies/Companies/director of Industries (In case of Small Scale Units) or similar other Documents authenticating the name of the firm and its producing location.

1. a) I/We have testing arrangements as per enclosed list and as per norms and procedures of Standards for Organic Products.

OR

b) The following testing arrangements as per norms and procedures of Standards for Organic Products are still to be made:

OR

c) Details of Accredited Laboratory

Name

Job

a) Trade-Mark (s)/Brand Name (s) used by us as follows:

b) I/We intended to apply the India Organic Logo Certification with our following Trademark (s)/Brand Name (s):

c) Registration No. and Date of the Trademark (s)/Brand Name (s) proposed to be used with the India Organic Certification Mark.

OR

In case of non-registration, I/We enclose documentary evidence in form of publicity/packing material, etc. in support of the Trademark(s) Brand Name(s)

5. Production figures of the said product/process and the value thereof to the best of my/our knowledge and estimates are as follows:

Last year from

to

Current year from

to -----
(estimate)

6. In order to ensure conformity of the said product/process to the related norms and procedures of the Standard for Organic Products.

*I/We have in use/propose to use the scheme of Inspection and Testing described in the Statement attached hereto. Routine records of all the inspections and tests are being/will be kept in the form detailed in the Statement. I/We further undertake to modify, amend or alter my/our Scheme of Inspection and Testing to bring it in line with that which may be specified by you from time to time.

**I/We have at present no scheme of Inspection and Testing in operation. I/We, however, undertake to put in operation any such as recommended by the Certification Body.

7. Should any initial enquiry be made by the Certification Body, I/We agree to extend to the Certification Body all reasonable facilities at my/our command and I/We also agree to pay all expenses of the said enquiry, including charges for a testing, as and when required by the Certification Body.

I/We request that the preliminary inspection of location may be carried out by _____ (indicate date)

OR

I/We shall intimate the time, date etc. suitable for carrying out the preliminary Inspection as soon as production of the product applied for is undertaken and I/We are ready for drawl of samples.

8. a) Certified that earlier I/we had applied and the application No. was It did not mature into a license because of _____
- b) Certified that earlier I/We held CMS/T, No. _____ which was lapsed/cancelled because of vide letter No. _____ dated _____ from Certification Body.
- c) I/We have never been warned/advised by the Certification Body for any of our actions violative of the norms and procedures of the Standards for Organic Products.

OR

The details of warning/advice received by me/us for violating the norms and procedures of the Standards for Organic Products are as under:

9. I/We undertake that should any of the information supplied above in the application form is found to be wrong, the application may be rejected forthwith.
10. Should the license be granted and as long as it will remain operative, I/We hereby undertake to abide by all the terms and conditions of the license

and the prescribed regulations. In the event of the license being suspended or cancelled, I/we also undertake to cease with immediate effect to use the Certification Mark on any product covered by the license and to withdraw all relevant advertising matters and to take such other steps as may be necessary to fulfill the provisions of the aforesaid Regulations with immediate effect. We also undertake to comply with each and every provision contained in the aforesaid Regulations, where a license is granted to us.

Date this _____ day of _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Designation _____

For and on behalf of _____

(Name of the firm)

FORM 2

License for the Use of Certification Trademark – “India Organic Logo”

LICENSE NO. CMS –

1. By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the Regulations pertaining to Certification Trademark of India Organic Logo, the Certification Body hereby grants to

(hereinafter called ‘the licensee’) this license to use India Organic Logo Certification Trademark set out in the first column of the first Schedule hereto, upon or in respect of the product/process set out in the second column of the said Schedule which is produced or processed in accordance with/ conforms to the related norms and procedures of Standard for Organic Products.

2. This license carries the rights and obligations stipulated in the above mentioned Regulations.
3. This license shall be valid from to
4. This license is being granted to _____ subject to the condition that _____ has agreed to be subjected to the provisions contained in the Organic Products (Certification) Regulations, 2012.

Signed, Sealed and Dated this

day of

For CERTIFICATION BODY

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

**CERTIFICATION MARK
(1)**

**PRODUCT
(2)**

--	--

FORM 3 DECLARATION

To

The Chairman NAB

I/We, of declare
that we have been granted license no. dated
to use of the INDIA ORGANIC LOGO, and we undertake to be subjected to the
Regulations for INDIA ORGANIC LOGO Certification Trademark.

Dated

.....



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce