

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The National Programme for Organic Production (hereinafter referred to as ‘NPOP’) provides for Standards for organic production, systems, criteria and procedure for accreditation of Certification Bodies, the National (India Organic) Logo and the regulations governing its use. The standards and procedures have been formulated in harmony with other International Standards regulating import and export of organic products. This document also proposes to provide an institutional mechanism for the implementation of National Standards for Organic Production (hereinafter referred to as ‘NSOP’).

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of implementation of organic production system and exports, the guidelines laid down under NPOP would be followed. For the purpose of this regulation, 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 Products.

2. ACCREDITATION BODY

The Accreditation Body shall be the agency set up by the Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Production for accrediting Certification Body.

3. ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODY

An organisation with legal entity complying with NPOP accreditation criteria and recognised by the National Accreditation Body for certifying organic products and for granting the right to use the Certification Trade Mark to the operators on behalf of the Accreditation Body.

4. ACCREDITED PROGRAMME

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

5. ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report means the report on producers, products and processors submitted annually to the Accreditation Body by the accredited Certification Body.

6. APPLICANT BODY

Applicant body shall mean the organization seeking accreditation.

7. BUFFER ZONE

A clear defined and identifiable area boarding an organic production /site from that of conventional production unit.

8. CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The Certificate of Accreditation is a document issued by APEDA, on behalf of the National Accreditation Body (NAB), to the Certification Body certifying that the accredited Certification Body is compliant with the standards as envisaged under the National Programme for Organic Production and is competent to certify producers as per the standards specified in the National Standards for Organic Production.

9. CERTIFICATION

Certification shall refer to the procedure by which the accredited Certification Body by way of a Scope Certificate assures that the production or processing system of the operator has been methodically assessed and conforms to the specified requirements as envisaged in the National Programme for Organic Production.

10. CERTIFICATION BODY

The Certification Body is the body responsible for inspection and certification of the operators as per NPOP standards

11. CERTIFICATION TRADE MARK

Certification Trade Mark shall mean the India Organic Logo, which is owned by the Ministry of Commerce.

12. CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

Shall mean the system operated by a Certification Body in accordance with the criteria for carrying out certification of conformity as laid down herein.

13. COMPLIANCE

Compliance shall mean the adherence to the norms laid down under NPOP

14. CONSULTANCY

Consultancy shall mean the advisory service for organic operations, independent from inspection and certification procedures.

15. CONSIGNMENT

Consignment shall mean a quantity of product(s) under one or more HS codes covered in a single transaction certificate of the Certification Body, conveyed by same means of transport for export and import of organic products.

16. CONFORMITY REPORT

Conformity report shall mean the assessment report of the Evaluation Committee on the accredited Certification Body.

17. CONVENTIONAL FARMING

Conventional farming shall mean the farming systems dependent on input of artificial fertilizers and/or chemicals and pesticides or which are not in conformity with the basic standards of organic production.

18. CONVERSION

Conversion is the process of changing an agricultural farm from conventional to organic farm. This is also called transition.

19. CONVERSION PERIOD

The conversion period is the time between the start of organic management and the certification of crops as organic.

20. ENDEMIC SPECIES

Endemic species shall mean those species which are neither exotic nor locally absent, but are considered for culture purpose.

21. EVALUATION

Evaluation is the process of systematic assessment of the performance of an applicant body seeking accreditation/renewal of accredited Certification Body to the extent it fulfills specific requirements under the National Programme for Organic Production.

22. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

A committee for carrying out audits for assessing and evaluating the applicant bodies and accredited Certification Bodies for compliance to the NPOP requirements / Standards.

23. EQUIVALENT

Equivalent means, in respect of different systems, capable of meeting the same objectives.

24. FARM UNIT

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

25. FOOD ADDITIVE

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

26. GROWER GROUPS

Grower Groups are organized group of producers who intend to produce organic products/engage in organic processes in accordance with the National Standards of Organic Production.

27. GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

These guidelines are the standards for organic production and processing established by the accredited Certification Bodies for specific crops in accordance with the National Standards for Organic Products.

28. HATCHERY (Aquaculture)

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

29. INSPECTION

Inspection shall include the site visit to verify that the performance of an operation is in accordance with the production, processing and chain of custody as per NPOP standards.

30. INSPECTOR

A person assigned by the accredited Certification Body for assessment /evaluation of the operator at the site of activity.

31. INTERNAL REVIEW

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

32. INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM (ICS)

Internal Control System means the control system organised by the member farmers in the grower group to ensure that the NPOP requirements are met.

33. ISO Guide 65 / ISO 17065

Are the general requirements for Certification Bodies operating product certification system.

34. ISO 17011

Are the general requirements for accreditation bodies carrying out accreditation of Certification Bodies.

35. LABELLING

Labeling shall mean any written, printed or graphic representation that is depicted on the label of the certified organic product, for the purpose of promoting its sale.

36. LICENCE

The license is the permission granted to the operator by the accredited Certification Body on behalf of the National Accreditation Body to use the Certification Trade Mark “India Organic Logo” to certify that their products or processes are organic.

37. LIVESTOCK

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

38. MINOR NON-CONFORMITIES

Minor non-conformities shall mean such non-conformities in the organic certification system of an accredited Certification Body that do not affect the integrity of organic certification.

39. MAJOR NON-CONFORMITIES

Major non-conformities are severe violations that affect the integrity of the organic system in the implementation of the standards prescribed in NPOP.

40. 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.

41. NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION

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

42. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION (NSOP)

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

43. NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC)

An approval issued by the accredited Certification Body when its operator wants to shift to another accredited Certification Body.

44. NON-CONFORMITY

Non-conformity is a condition when a product, process, procedure, system, or structure deviates from requirements of the standard.

45. NURSERY

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

46. PRODUCER

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

47. OPERATOR

A farmer, processor, trader, handler or exporter who is under organic certification

48. OPERATING MANUAL

Operating manual is a document describing the standard procedures followed by the accredited Certification Bodies for their operations.

49. ORGANIC

Organic refers to a particular farming system as described in the standards.

50. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Organic agriculture is a system of farm design and management to create an eco system, which can achieve sustainable productivity without the use of artificial external inputs such as chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides.

51. PACKAGE OF PRACTICES

Package of practices is the guidelines for organic production and processing for specific crop and region.

52. PARALLEL PRODUCTION

Parallel production shall mean any production where the same unit is growing, breeding, handling or processing the same products both in a certified organic quality and a non-certified organic quality. Similarly a situation with “organic” and “in conversion” production of the same product is also parallel production.

53. PERIPHYTON

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

54. 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.

55. POLYCULTURE

Polyculture is the rearing of two or more species in the same production system, and are desirable to have them from different trophic levels.

56. PROCESSING AIDS

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.

57. PROCESSED PRODUCTS

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

58. 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.

59. 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.

60. QUALITY MANUAL

Quality manual is 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.

61. REMOTE SETTING

Remote setting in aquaculture is the process of settlement of bivalve spats away from the hatchery.

62. 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.

63. SCOPE CERTIFICATE

A certificate issued by the accredited Certification Body to its operator annually for their specific activity in terms of production, processing and trading

64. SERVICE PROVIDER:

The service provider is an external body (e.g., Self-Help Groups / NGOs / Private Agency / State Govt. Agency) contracted by Grower Groups for maintaining the documentation, training quality control, facilitating certification by an accredited Certification Body and for marketing of the produce of the Grower Groups.

65. STANDARDS

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

66. 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.

67. TRACENET

A web based traceability system for use by the registered operators and accredited Certification Bodies under the NPOP.

68. TRANSACTION CERTIFICATE

A certificate issued by the accredited Certification Body to its operator for every sale of his product to the buyer.

69. 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.
