**NOTICE**

**Inspection & Certification under NPOP and USDA NOP**

Certification Bodies, Operator

The certification bodies accredited under NPOP have to follow the certification procedures as per MoU with APEDA. The NOP accreditation is given to the NPOP accredited Certification Bodies under the Recognition Agreement between India and US for Conformity assessment. Therefore, as an accredited Certification Body under NPOP, no CB can by-pass the NPOP certification procedures which clearly states that the organic products for exports has to be certified as per the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

All the Certificates for NPOP and USDA NOP are issued only through Tracenet which have an unique bar code and QR Code. Recently, APEDA has received a copy of a manual USDA-NOP certificate from USDA issued by M/s. IMO Control Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore which is not in accordance with the Recognition Agreement between India and US. The manual certificate issued by any certification body under NPOP & NOP is an invalid document.

All the Certification Bodies accredited under NPOP and NOP are hereby advised not to issue any manual certificates for NPOP & NOP. Further, you are advised to inform all your operators not to accept any manual certificate which is an invalid document from any of their suppliers.

Yours faithfully,

Tarun Bajaj
General Manager