

## A. ABOUT NPOP THE STANDARD

### 1. National Program on Organic Production (NPOP)

- The NPOP certification full form stands for '**the accreditation or certification of organic food products.**' It is a system of process certification where an independent body reviews the production, processing, handling, storage and transport of organic food items
- The NPOP Certification is the program developed & implemented by the ministries of industries and commerce, Government of India to provide a well-focused & well-directed standard to produce organic food products.
- The NPOP organic certification ensures that the organic products are produced under the system of agriculture where there is no use of chemical fertilizers & pesticides to demonstrate an environmental & socially responsible approach.
- By implementing the NPOP/NOP certification the farming technique used does not hamper the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, and facilitates good plant nutrition, along with sound soil management which helps to produce nutritious food which has resistant to diseases.

### 2. What is the difference between NOP and NPOP

- Organic products must be certified by a USDA-accredited certification agency, such as Escort, before they can be sold, labeled, or represented in the United States. USDA NOP applies to food, feed, and personal care products labeled "100% Organic," "Organic," or "Made with Organic." Whereas NPOP is a program launched by the Indian government which provides standards for organic production, systems, criteria, and procedures for licensing Certification Bodies, the National (India Organic) Logo, and the regulations governing its use.

### 3. What Benefits will the standard bring to business.

- Meet precise standards for organic agriculture, including aquaculture, livestock and live produce, wild harvest, etc., and the resulting products
- Promote the growth and development of organic farming and processing
- Promotes safe, sustainable and profitable farming

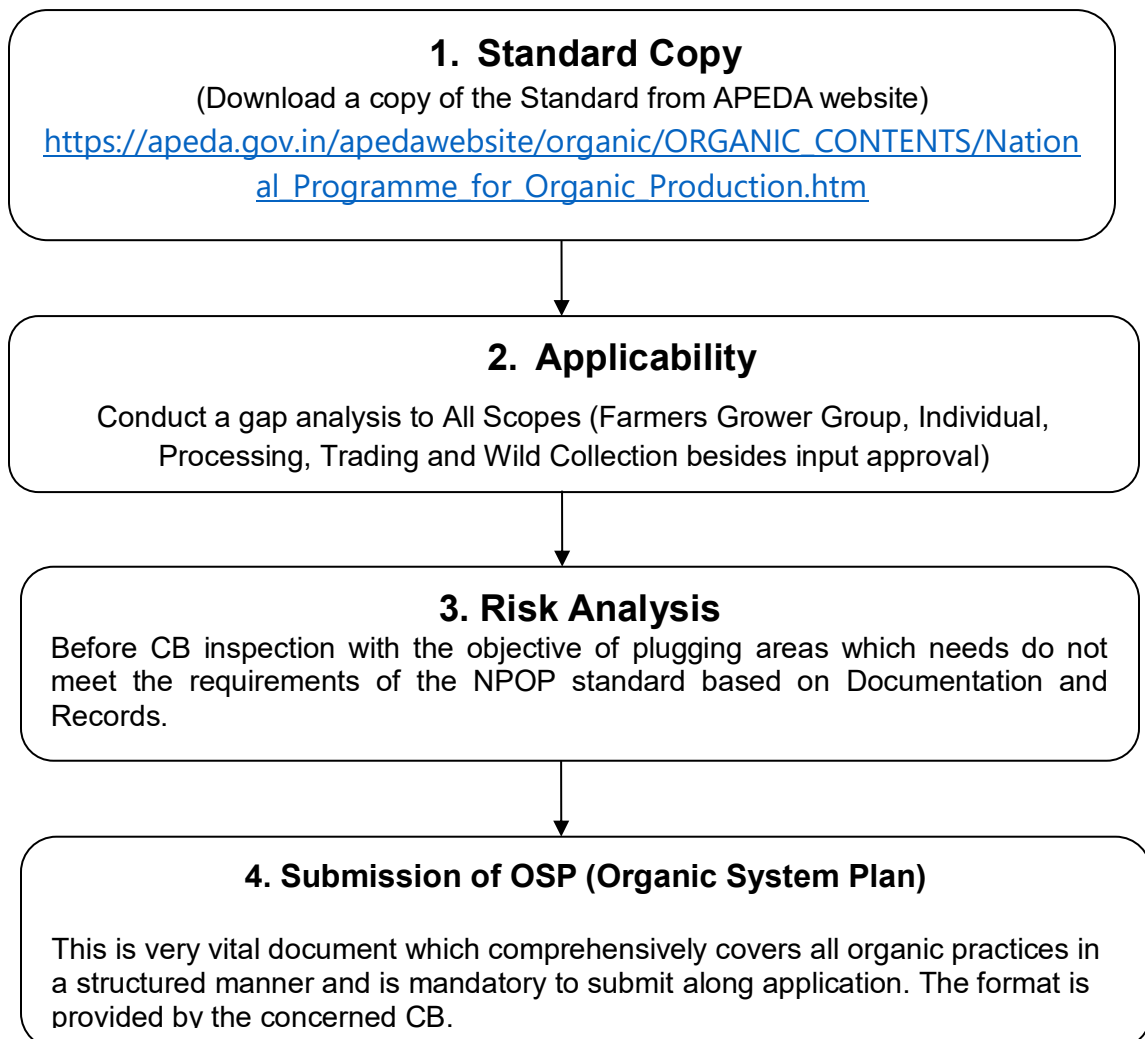
#### 4. Standard Applicable to

- The NPOP/NOP are applicable to the farmer groups, processors of crops, Traders/exporters of foods, apiculture, livestock & poultry units.

#### 5. Where can I download the standard copy

- NPOP standard 7<sup>th</sup> edition 2014 .You can visit [www.apeda.gov.in](http://www.apeda.gov.in) and download the copy free of cost

### B. Steps involved in NPOP Certification:



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graph TD; A[ ] --> B[5. Training]; B --> C[6. Organic Quality Documentation]; C --> D[7. Internal Inspections]; D --> E[8. Internal Audit]; E --> F[9. Recording of Non-Conformances/ Corrective Actions]; F --> G[10. Select a certification body]; G --> H[11. Certification Process];
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### **5. Training**

To familiarize with the standard and train farmers and employees of farmers group, operators seeking various scope on the requirements of the standard and ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining organic integrity across the chain of custody.

### **6. Organic Quality Documentation**

Developing internal organic standard in vernacular language in tune with the NPOP standard requirements. Documentation like a Quality Manual, Procedures, and Work Instructions, Record templates, Farm diaries, legal statutory non-compliance with NPOP standards and ensuring its application uniformly across the group members and other scope operators.

### **7. Internal Inspections**

Minimum 02 internal inspections of all the members of the farmers group by qualified internal inspectors and make available during external audits by CB.

### **8. Internal Audit**

Conduct an internal audit of the operator's units based on the instructions by qualified internal auditors and record the observations.

### **9. Recording of Non-Conformances/ Corrective Actions**

To record non-conformances raised during the internal audit and take corrective actions before external audit is scheduled.

### **10. Select a certification body**

Submit the application form to a certification body that is accredited to NPOP standards by checking on the website of APEDA.

### **11. Certification Process**

The certification body will conduct an external audit to assess your organization's compliance with NPOP standard after accepting the Quotation and payment of fees as per terms of contract



### **12. Certificate**

Upon satisfactory closure of all non-conformities, if any raised during the audit, a certificate will be issued valid for one year



### **13. Maintain certification**

To maintain your NPOP certification, one needs to renew the certificate on yearly basis and the process should commence at least 03 months before the expiry of the certificate validity.

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