

Ease of Doing Implementation of Food Safety Standards

1. Preamble

- Food safety is a major determinant of health. It affects the survival, well-being, livelihood and productivity of individuals and eventually societies. Throughout the world, food borne diseases represent a considerable public health burden and challenge
- Food safety and quality management is rapidly gaining importance. There is a need to create enough human resources in important crop production centers, which will create environment towards science based approach to assure safety which is essential for scaling up the implementation of the food safety standards at farm level

2. Need for Capacity Building

- Food borne diseases in India are expected to rise from 100 million in 2011 to 150-170 million in 2030 (WHO)
- Published international standards are in english and the users in India have no access to documents translated into regional languages.
- Crop production centers are located in rural areas. Hardly any trained consultant is available to support farmer's organizations. If the trained person is sourced from cities, then it becomes very expensive including travel costs.
- No awareness in rural areas on food safety standards related to on farm production and the income benefits arises from the implementation and certification.
- Though there are approved certification bodies, they are not allowed to provide specific guidance on the implementation of the standards due to conflict of interest.
- Major confusion arises when the organization implements more than one standard. Most of these standards have common clauses of compliances. Therefore, it is most important to put integrated documentation in place for ease of implementation and certification.

3. eFresh Initiative

- To train food safety trainers with the objective of ensuring at least one trained and certified human resource in every important crop production center in India. To implement and to scale up, the only way is to do virtual enablement platform. The goal is to bring translated versions in local languages for ease of understanding and implementation

- The training will focus on compliances to the following Internationally recognized standards demanded by the retailers, processors and importers
 - IndG.A.P
 - GlobalG.A.P
 - Organic –NPOP
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 - Fair Trade International
 - Rain Forest Alliance.

With the core expertise of the founders of this platform and net working with the domain experts, we are confident that the capacity building programs will become enablement for scaling up of implementation in rural areas.

4. How Virtual Trainings will be conducted

- Most of the standards require only two days training on auditing principles and one day training on food safety, hygiene, workers health & welfare and crop specific training etc
- Transparency and integrity of the training process, trainers, trainees and feedback will be maintained. Training process and its outcome will be digitized
- Successful trainees will be provided certificates.

5. learning outcomes and Impact Creation

- Availability of trained persons in rural areas
- Farmers and farmers' organizations directly benefit from increase in income through implementation of good agricultural practices and better market linkages.
- India will witness increase in farm exports
- Environment friendly and sustainable agriculture
- Availability of safe food to the consumers
- Gradual decrease in food borne diseases.