

FORMAT FOR DEVELOPING ICS INTERNAL STANDARDS

This needs to be drafted in local language besides English. If the farmers are illiterate, the internal standards shall contain illustrations in the text for better understanding.

This Internal organic standard is based on the **National Standard for Organic Production**

Condition for admissions

- The farmer should be practicing organic farming
- The whole farm has to be converted to organic
- The farmer shall not be a member of any other farmer group certification

Conditions on seeds and planting material

- All seeds/seedlings/planting stock used must be source from organic farms. If no organic seeds and planting material are available, conventional but untreated seeds may be used only for the first year after getting permission from the Internal Control System Manager.
- The farmer shall keep all the empty packets of seeds for inspections.
- No seed treatment with un-allowed inputs shall be done.

Conditions for plant nutrition/fertilization

- Only use of farmyard manure and compost from own farm is permitted for plant fertilization. Other organic inputs can be used only after obtaining permission of the Internal Control System Manager.
- The farmer should undertake crop rotation, green manuring, composting etc. as per the commendations of the field officer (extension worker) to improve soil fertility and soil biota.

Conditions for plant protection measures

- The farmers shall undertake necessary preventative methods as per the directions of the field officer for prevention of pests and diseases, which will include choice of crop, varieties & cultural practices etc.
- For plant protection only inputs listed in the approved input list shall be used. In case of necessity, the product will be distributed by the internal control system. The farmer is not allowed to use any off-farm inputs without getting the prior permission of the Internal Control System.
- Only hand and mechanical weeding is allowed for weed control.

Other conditions

- The borders and buffer zones shall be maintained as per the commendation of the field officer for prevention of drift of un allowed inputs from neighbouring farms
- Measures for prevention of erosion shall be undertaken by the farmers as per the commendation of the Internal Control System. Such practices shall include measures like cultivation according to the slopes, planting green barriers, building terraces and earth bundles, etc.
- The crop residues and weeds should not be burned and should be composted or used as mulch
- The farmer shall not store any un allowed inputs on the farm.
- The farmers shall maintain the farm records in the farmer diary supplied by the Internal Control System
- The farmers shall feed only on farm products to the animals maintained in the farm. The use of off farm products and medication shall be done only after informing the Internal Control System.
- The farm implements should be thoroughly cleaned before use if the implement is borrowed from a conventional farm. It is preferred that the implements be borrowed from an organic farmer only.
- The farmer should attend all the trainings organized for them by the Internal Control System

The farmer shall store the harvested produce hygienically and shall use the bags given to them by the ICS for the purpose.