

A.About PGS Standard

1. What is PGS-India

PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System of India) is a quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant, emphasize the participation of stakeholders, including producers and consumers and operate outside the frame of third party certification. National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) is a continuing central sector scheme since 10th Five Year Plan.

Launched by National Centre for Organic Farming is a nodal organization for promotion of organic farming under INM Division, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India under Soil Health Management component of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). NCOF came into force in 2004, for implementing National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) along with its Regional Centers.

Participation

Participation is an essential and dynamic part of PGS. Participation embodies the principle of collective responsibility for ensuring the organic integrity of the PGS. This collective responsibility is reflected through:

- Shared ownership of the PGS
- Stakeholder engagement in the development and operation process
- Understanding of how the system works and
- Direct communication between producers and consumers and other stakeholders

2. What Benefits will the standard bring to business.

- Medicinal plants are not only a major resource base for the traditional medicine and herbal industry but also provide livelihood and health security to a large segment of Indian population
- Reduced risk of recall/rejection. Increase buyer confidence in Indian herbs. Assured legal compliance. Assured sustainable collection.
- Gain access to new local and global customers, markets, suppliers, and retailers
- Better price realization of the produce and provide a competitive edge in domestic and overseas operation.
- Improve the efficiency of your farm processes and management

- The scheme will benefit the medicinal plants producers/collectors/group of producers/collectors, societies, traders, manufacturers of herbal medicines, Ayush industry and Ayush consumers due to the assured quality of the medicinal plants/herbs

3. Standard Applicable to

- Applicable to all types of Farmers and Farmers Groups in agricultural production system

4. Where can I download the standard copy

The scheme documents are available on the websites of National Centre for Organic Farming www.pgsindia-ncof.gov.in

(B) Steps Involved in Obtaining the Certificate

Following modules are available for certification under PGS INDIA.

1. Crop Production Module (Individual, Group and large)
2. Processor and Handler
3. Animal Husbandry & Others : Livestock, beekeeping, Poultry etc

Step 1: Awareness- about organic farming and PGS Standards/guidelines

Step 2: Formation of LGs and Selection of Group leader /Lead Resource person-

- Minimum 5 members belonging to same village or close by villages with continuous territory.
- No area restriction
- Size of holding of any individual farmer should not exceed one third of the total land under the group.
- Parallel production and part conversion is not allowed, their entire farm with livestock under organic management as per the PGS standards.
- At least few members of the group shall be well versed with the PGS organic guarantee systems or certification system and National Standards of Organic Production (NPOP)
- Elect Lead resource person / Leader of group
- Documentation and registration

Step 3 : Registration under PGS-INDIA Certification system

Registration document to be submitted by LG (either online or offline to the approved RC):

- Application Form to RC
- Agreement copy
- Terms of Reference for Operation
- Endorsement

Step 4 : Training

- PGS-INDIA Standards
- Labeling and Marketing
- PGS certification and marketing
- Online uploading data
- Maintenance of Registers:-
 - a. Meeting Register
 - b. Training Register
 - c. Peer inspection of fields
- 50% of its members attend training/ demonstrations must be attended.
- At Least 02 such programs are attended by each and every group member in a year .
- Other LG members, practicing organic farmers, RC members or experts of other State Govt and Non-Govt agencies in such training programs

Step 5 : Meeting

- Organize time to time meetings and maintain attendance register.
- Participation of members in these meetings is a mandatory activity and is an indication of dedication of the member to the cause of group's guarantee scheme.
- compulsory meeting at least 2-4 times a year : 2 for perennial crop group: 4 times a year for annual crop
- One/two for peer appraisal planning and one/two for decision making.
- Every member needs to attend at least 50% of the meetings in a year and sign in attendance register.
- Advise each other and share information to improve the capacity of the group as a whole

Step 6: Adoption of organic farming practices and documentation

1. Registration documents

- Application form of each member with last one year's farm history
- Copy of PGS-India organic pledge of each member
- Copy of agreement with RC

2. Meeting Register

3. Training Register

4. Peer inspection & Summary decision : Copy of individual peer appraisal sheets for last four seasons (24 months) till the physical inspection by RC
 - Copy of peer appraisal summary sheet (season-wise as submitted to RC)
5. Organic farming system plans : POPs adopted

Step 7: Peer Inspection

- Once in every crop season in LGS/Individual farmer case
- In LAAC : once in a year

Step 8: Award of Certificate

Step 9: Actual yield update, Approval and Transactions /marketing

Certification details/status on Labelling of PGS- India Certified products

- PGS-India Organic Logo: The PGS-India Organic Logo is a green and white logo that is used to indicate that the product is certified organic under the PGS-India certification scheme. This logo can only be used by farmer groups that have been certified by a PGS-India accredited certification body.
- Participatory Guarantee System-India (PGS-India) Logo: The PGS-India logo is a blue and white logo that is used to indicate that the product is being sold through the PGS-India system, but has not been certified as organic. This logo can be used by farmer groups that are in the process of certification or have not yet achieved certification, but are following the PGS-India internal quality management system.

Note-

- PGS-India does not confer any right for use of Jaivik Bharat logo , it has to be permitted by FSSAI registration only
- RCs shall approve the labels for use of PGS-India Logo