

A.About VCS MPP Standard

1. What is Medicinal Plants Certification Scheme

- The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI), India's apex quality facilitation body, has developed a voluntary certification scheme for medicinal plants based on good agricultural practices and good field collection practices to enhance confidence in the quality and safety of India's medicinal plant produce and make available good quality raw material to the AYUSH industry.
- QCI will manage the day to day operation of the Scheme
- This scheme is aligned as per ISO/IEC 17065, the international standard. The scheme is developed in consideration to the domestic as well as the international market.
- It addresses not only the quality and quantity of the produce obtained from a unit area but also to focus on various aspects of food safety, pre-and post-harvest practices including workers health and safety, ensure sustained supply of produce of the desirable quality. While the scope covers all medicinal plants farm produce, it is structured in a manner to address the small and marginal farmers
- Standard basically in two parts
 - a. Standard for Good Agricultural Practices.
 - b. Standard for Good Field Collection Practices
 - c. Certification Process
 - d. Certification Criteria

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 medicinal plants produce cultivation and collections.

4. Where can I down load the standard copy

The scheme documents are available on the websites of NMPB (www.nmpb.nic.in) as well as QCI (www.qcin.org)

(B) Steps Involved in Obtaining the Certificate

1. Translation into local language of control and compliance criteria document to be implemented by the individual farmers and its implementation.
2. Maintaining the records for the implementation by the group and the farmers as required by the Standard
3. Conducting one internal inspection of the individual farmers under the Producer Group by qualified inspector meeting the requirements of clause 9 of QMS document and closure of all non-conformances raised by the internal inspectors before conducting internal audit of QMS.
4. Completion of one internal audit of the Group QMS and review of completed internal inspection reports with the status of non-conformances. The Internal auditor to meet competency requirements of clause 9 of QMS and closure of all non-conformances
5. Appointment of QCI approved certification body for conducting final audit before Completing the audit and closure of non-conformances.
6. Granting of certificate valid for one year after closure of all non-conformances.