

**Organic Crop Production: Chapter 3, Appendix 1, Para 8  
provides requirements on Pest, Disease and Weed Management  
(NPOP -Nov 2014)**

- i. Organic farming systems shall be carried out in a way which ensures that losses from pests, diseases and weeds are minimized. Emphasis is placed on the use of a balanced fertilizing program, use of crops and varieties well-adapted to the environment, fertile soils of high biological activity, adapted rotations, intercropping, green manures, etc. Growth and development shall take place in a natural manner.
- ii. Weeds, pests and diseases shall be controlled through a number of preventive cultural techniques which limit their development in a balanced nutrient management programme, e.g. suitable rotations, green manures, early and pre drilling seedbed preparations, mulching, mechanical control and the disturbance of pest development cycles. Accredited certification programmes shall ensure that measures are in place to prevent transmission of pests, parasites and infectious agents.
- iii. Pest management shall be regulated by understanding and disrupting the ecological needs of the pests. The natural enemies of pests and diseases shall be protected and encouraged through proper habitat management of hedges, nesting sites etc. An ecological equilibrium shall be created to bring about a balance in the pest predator cycle.
- iv. Products used for pest, disease and weed management, prepared at the farm from local plants, animals and microorganisms, shall be allowed. If the ecosystem or the quality of organic products might be jeopardized, the certification programme shall judge if the product is acceptable as per the procedure given to evaluate additional inputs to organic agriculture.
- v. Thermic weed control and physical methods for pest, disease and weed management shall be permitted.

- vi. Thermic sterilization of soils to combat pests and diseases shall be restricted to circumstances where a proper rotation or renewal of soil cannot take place. The certification programme on a case-by-case basis may only give permission.
- vii. All equipment from conventional farming systems shall be properly cleaned and free from residues before being used on organically managed areas.
- viii. The use of synthetic herbicides, fungicides, growth regulators, synthetic dyes insecticides and other pesticides are prohibited. Permitted products for plant pest and disease control are listed in **Annex 2**. The producer shall keep documentary evidences of the need to use the product.
- ix. Commercial products used as inputs shall always be evaluated as per the criteria given in **Annex 3** before approval is given for use.
- x. The use of genetically engineered organisms or products is prohibited.

## 4 CHAPTER 5

### GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION OF GROWER GROUPS

#### 5.4.2 Internal inspectors

The ICS shall nominate adequate number of internal inspectors from their group and there shall be at least one internal inspector per 50-60 farmers for ensuring 100% inspection of all farmers in the group is carried out twice a year.

The inspectors shall be well versed with the standards to perform internal inspections. The format of the internal inspection is at **Annex 5**.

#### 5.11 INTERNAL INSPECTIONS

- At least two inspections of the group (one in growing season of each crop) shall be carried out by the internal inspector and will be documented.
- The inspection will be carried out in presence of the member or his representative and must include a visit of the whole farm, storage of inputs, harvested products, post harvest handling and animal husbandry.

- The internal inspector will also verify if the internal standards have been followed and whether the conditions of the previous internal inspection have been fulfilled.
- The visit of the internal inspector will be documented in the farm inspection checklist duly signed by the inspector and counter-signed by the member or his representative.
- In case of severe non-compliance, the results will be reported immediately to the ICS manager and all measures will be taken according to the internal sanction procedures.