

## **GAP-Polambadi & Ind.GAP Certification**

The program of GAP-Polambadi and Ind.GAP certification is implemented with an objective of bringing sustainability in agriculture by adopting **Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)** recommended by the State Agricultural University (SAU); and fostering Ind.GAP standards in the products to ensure food safety standards and to provide a convenient platform for obtaining better market price to the cultivators in the open market.

This program offers multiple benefits to the farmers.

1. Fosters sustainability in Agriculture
2. Improves safety and quality of food and other agricultural products at primary level of production.
3. Minimizes the entry of toxic contaminants like pesticide residues and other harmful chemicals into the food chain,
4. Enables farm products to be internationally more competitive on quality front and resulting in better price realization,
5. Increases farm value and improves farmer's skill in farm operations.
6. Focuses on worker's health and safety.
7. It creates a way forward to promote online trade of agricultural products through digital platforms like ONDC.

### **GAP-Polambadi & Ind.GAP certification in 2025-26**

- **GAP-Polambadi** is organized @ one per a Mandal with a projected annual target of 790 and **Ind.GAP Certification** @ one program per each ADA Division with a total target of 250 programs in 2025-26. This program is proposed to be implemented with a financial outlay of Rs.10.61crores in the State.

### **Salient features of GAP-Polambadi and Ind.GAP Certification**

- GAP Polambadi is a field-based training imparted on participatory approach to 30 farmers, for 14 weeks in a crop season @ one session per week.

- Farmers are trained on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) enshrined in the concepts of Integrated Crop Management (ICM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Weed Management (IWM), Water Management, Post harvest technology etc., in the training program.
- The MAO organizing the GAP-Polambadi must conduct method demonstrations like collection of soil samples, seed treatment, preparation of NSKE, preparation of poison bait for rat control, preparation of T.viridi formulation for soil application etc., in the ICM Plot of Polambadi to showcase the technology of GAPs to the farmers.
- The MAO must organize field visits to the farmers to enable them to observe and understand the Good Agronomic Practices like direct seeding in Paddy, formation of alleyways in Paddy, Water management practices, Weed management practices etc., to the farmers.
- Special topics on GAPs would be presented to the farmers in a simple and palatable version to the farmers in every Polambadi session.
- Farmers are constantly monitored to ensure that they adopt the GAPs in their fields.
- The farmers who are trained in GAP-Polambadi and practicing the GAPs would be affiliated to an FPO to implement Ind.GAP certification in group mode.
- The ADA/MAO concerned must identify one suitable FPO in their respective jurisdiction and get the FPO registered with APSOPCA for implementing the program of Ind.GAP Certification
- The FPO representing a group of farmers should register with the **Certifying Body (APSOPCA)** and comply all the requirements defined and narrated by the QCI for Ind.GAP certification program.
- The FPO registered with APSOPCA should comply the requirements stated in Ind.GAP Certification like...

- a. Constituting Quality Management System comprising a QMS Manager, Technical advisor, Internal auditor cum Inspector, Field officer and Purchase Officer to improve the quality of the management system.
  - b. Defining and adopting complaint handling mechanism
  - c. Conducting internal audit of the QMS of FPO
  - d. Conducting internal inspection of the production sites
  - e. Arranging external audit of the QMS system by APSOPCA
  - f. Arranging external inspections of production sites by APSOPCA
  - g. Arranging drawl of product samples by APSOPCA to know the MRLs of pesticide residues and other harmful chemicals in the products etc.
- The farm product samples drawn by the APSOPCA would be analyzed at an NABL accredited laboratory for determining the MRLs of Pesticide residues, Aflatoxins, heavy metals, Melamine, Physical, Chemical and Bio factors; and the quality of the product in terms of food safety standards would be evaluated as per FSSAI standards.
  - The APSOPCA, after evaluating the Laboratory reports of the registered product for food safety standards and observing the degree of compliance of all requirements envisaged in the Ind.GAP protocols would issue **Scope Certificate of Ind.GAP to the FPO concerned.**
  - The FPOs organizing the Ind.GAP certification would be imparted training on Digital Readiness Certification (DRC) Portal by the Quality Council of India to enable them to manifest their readiness to access the online trading platforms like ONDC for e-commerce of agricultural commodities produced on certification standards.