

Organic Foods and Its Standard

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SUMMARY

Organic foods are products of holistic agricultural practices focusing on bio-diversity, soil health, chemical free inputs etc. with an environmentally and socially responsible approach that have been produced in accordance with organic production standards. People are wary to purchase organic food due to lack of confidence about its genuineness. The problem of fraud and mis-labelling occurs when a Food Business Operator (FBO) marks a product as organic while it contains non-organic ingredients or where the organic production standards are not adhered to in the production process. Therefore, it becomes important to check if the food labelled as "organic" is genuinely organic. The Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 are based on the standards of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India). The customer will be assured of the genuineness after the Regulations are notified.

INTRODUCTION

Organic foods are products of holistic agricultural practices focusing on biodiversity, soil health, chemical free inputs etc., and produced in accordance with Organic Production Standards. The Jaivik Bharat logo for Organic Food is an identity mark to distinguish organic products from non-organic ones. The logo is supported with the tagline "Jaivik Bharat", at the bottom, which signifies Organic Food from India. Employing a simple approach to communicate an effective message, the green color of the logo symbolizes nature along with articulating that these foods are produced in environment-friendly manner without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It highlights the letter "O" used in the word "Organic" as well as represents the facet of holistic health at a global platform. To show a sturdy relationship with the same, leaves have also been used in the logo in the form of a tick mark incorporated inside the circle represented by the letter "O". The logo showcases that the product bearing it has been authenticated as organic for the choice for consumption. Effectively intertwining all the elements of environment, the logo communicates adherence to the National Organic Standards. Every certified organic food container shall have 'Jaivik Bharat' Logo



जैविक भारत

Jaivik Bharat

Standards for Organic Production – NPOP

The Standards for Organic Production are notified in National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) by the Director General of Foreign Trade under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. The NPOP has a system where in Certification Bodies are accredited with National Accreditation Body (NAB) which is chaired by the Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce. The Secretariat of the NAB is with APEDA. NPOP covers standards for crops and their products, live stocks and poultry products, aquaculture, apiculture etc. The exports from the country are as per the provisions in NPOP.

National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP): Salient features:

- NPOP launched during 2001 laid the foundation for systematic development of organic agriculture sector in the country.
- NPOP is being managed by APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- NPOP is the main stay for quality assurance for organic agriculture products in India operated through 28 accredited certification bodies.
- NPOP has grown almost 35 fold starting from 42,000 ha in 2003-04 TO to 1.45 million ha during 2016-2017.
- All types of agriculture, horticulture and non-food crops are grown under organic certification process.
- Livestock, aquaculture, animal feed processing and handling, mushroom production, sea weeds, aquatic plants and green house crop production have also come under the ambit of organic certification.
- More than 4.45 million ha area is under organic certification, comprising 1.44 million ha under cultivation and 3.0 million ha under wild harvest collection.
- India is producing wide range of crops under organic management with total production of 1180105 MTs which majorly covers Oilseeds, Sugarcane, Cereal & Millets etc.
- Indian export kitty for organic food products is about US\$ 369.8 million and domestic market accounts for approximately US\$ 225 million.
- The major export destinations are EU, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia.
- The quantity exported to EU, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia during 2016-2017 were 124398 MTs, 116595 MTs, 42739 MTs, 9427 MTs, 7116 MTs, 1783 MTs and 1732 MTs respectively.
- NPOP has equivalence with organic food regulations of European Union and Switzerland and a recognition agreement on conformity assessment with USDA.
- TRACENET is an on-line application tool managed by APEDA under NPOP for management of entire organic certification system in the country.

Standards for Organic Production - PGS Page

INM Division of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare (DAC & FW) through National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) is implementing Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). It is a quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant, emphasizes the participation of stakeholders, including producers and consumers and operates outside the frame of third party certification. The term PGS embodies the active participation of producers and other stakeholders in their organic guarantee process. PGS-India covers standards for crop production, animal production, food processing, handling and storage etc.

**Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India): Salient Features**

- GS-India programme was launched in 2011 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with National Centre of Organic Farming as its secretariat.

- PGS-India is a decentralised certification system.
 - PGS-India is a locally applicable quality assurance system for grower group certification, implemented together by locally known small group of farmers, traders and consumers under the supervision of Regional Councils.
 - The programme with the nationwide network operates through 563 Regional Councils located across the country.
 - PGS-India programme is based on the standards of NPOP but is distinct in its certification procedures.
 - In 2015, financial assistance started through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme, since then number of farmer groups/clusters have raised to 4178 and number of farmer increased to 173887 by March 2017.
 - Area under PGS-India certification has raised from 6064 ha in 2012-13 to 143817 ha land in March 2017.
 - The PKVY scheme is aiming to cover 5 lakh ha over a period of next three years forming 10000 clusters.
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare provides a single PGS-India web portal and enhanced networking of farmers, RCs and marketers.
 - UID generated from the PGS-India web portal works as consumer verification code and helps in maintaining transparency.
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- The NCOF, RCOFs and RCs working under PGS-India system are supporting farmers to get at least 10-25% premium price for organic produce in the market.
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare has launched the 'Organic Outlet, Organic Restaurant/canteen and Organic Cafeteria to create awareness among consumers.

REFERENCES

http://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/organic/Organic_Products.html

<http://pgsindia-ncof.gov.in/>