

**Organic Farming for Sustainable Agricultural Production**  
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**Lecture - 38**  
**Organic Certification Process**

So, welcome to the lecture 38 the Organic Certification Process. So, last class we have discussed about those standards for organic farming, so, based on the standards some of the rules and regulations. So, we can go for the organic certification process and you know this is essentials for building or the minimizing the gap between the producers and the consumers to have a better quality assurance must go for the producer or the go for the organic certification process. So, after this we will discuss about the some of the operational structures for the organic certifications and finally, we will conclude this course with the marketing of the organic force.

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**What is Organic Certification?**

Organic certification system is a quality assurance initiative, intended to assure quality, prevent fraud and promote commerce, based on set of standards and ethics. It is a process certification for producers of organic food and other organic plant products

**Why Certification?**

- Third party assurance from producer to the consumer separated by distance
- Assurance to the consumers that their concern for healthy food has been addressed
- Effective marketing tool for image, credibility, visibility/transparency

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So, let us start with this organic certification process. So, you know what is organic certification? Organic certification system is a quality assurance initiative intended to assure quality prevent fraud and promote commerce based on standards and ethics. So, as we discussed earlier the standards we have discussed based on the standards. So, going for the certifications this will facilitate for this will make a trust building among the consumers for the getting the assurance of the quality of the organic products. And also

that can prevent any of the frauds and also that can enhance or encourage marketing of the organic products.

So, why certifications you see; so, certifications by a third party assurance from producers to consumers, they are separated by distance. So, that so, by third party certification is made. So, that the consumer have the quality assurance on the organic products then assurance to the consumers that, they are concerns for the healthy food has been addressed. So, the other one is the effective marketing tools; so, by doing organic certifications and it can have a trust building among the consumers that helps in the marketing of this organic products by the image, good image, credibility, visibility and transparency.

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**Aim and Scope for Organic Certification**

**Aim**

The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) provides an institutional mechanism for implementation of National Standards for Organic Production through National Accreditation Policy and Programme. The aims of NPOP are

- To provide the means of evaluation of certification programmes for organic agriculture and products as per the approved criteria.
- To accredit certification programmes
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity to the National Standards for Organic Products.
- To encourage the development of organic farming and organic food processing

**Scope**

- Policies for development and certification of organic products under National Standards for Organic Products and Processes
- Accreditation of programmes to be operated by Inspection and Certification Agencies
- Certification of organic products

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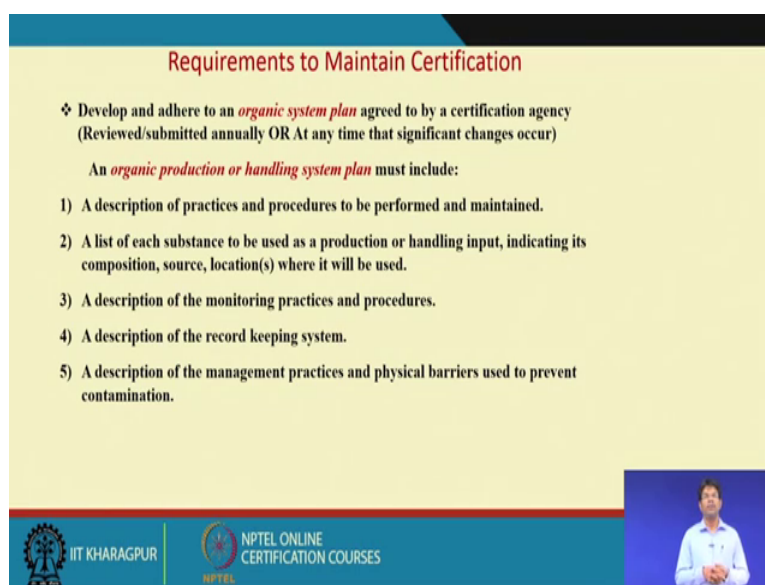
So, if you see the aims and the scope of organic certifications the aim is the National Programme for Organic Production; NPOP. So, that provides an institutional mechanism for implementation of national standards of organic production through National Accreditation Policy and Programme. So, the aims are to provide the means of evaluations of certification programmes for organic agricultures and products as per the approved criteria, once we have the standards of organic productions. So, that facilitate the evaluations of the certification programmes based on the existing standards.

Then to accredit the certification programmes, because some of the institutions the certifying institutions, they are also accredited through this certification programme. To

facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the national standard of organic products, then to encourage the development of organic farming and organic food processing. So, as you discussed by having certification by this the NPOP, national programme for organic production, so, that can evaluate the certification programmes through the national accreditation policy and programmes and facilitated certifications of organic products and also that helps in so, more and more conversions of these organic farming more and more area can be converted to organic farming.

The scope is that the policies for development and certification of organic products under national standards for organic products and processes, then accreditation programmes to be operated by inspection and certification agencies then finally, certification of organic products.

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**Requirements to Maintain Certification**

- ❖ Develop and adhere to an *organic system plan* agreed to by a certification agency (Reviewed/submitted annually OR At any time that significant changes occur)

An *organic production or handling system plan* must include:

- 1) A description of practices and procedures to be performed and maintained.
- 2) A list of each substance to be used as a production or handling input, indicating its composition, source, location(s) where it will be used.
- 3) A description of the monitoring practices and procedures.
- 4) A description of the record keeping system.
- 5) A description of the management practices and physical barriers used to prevent contamination.

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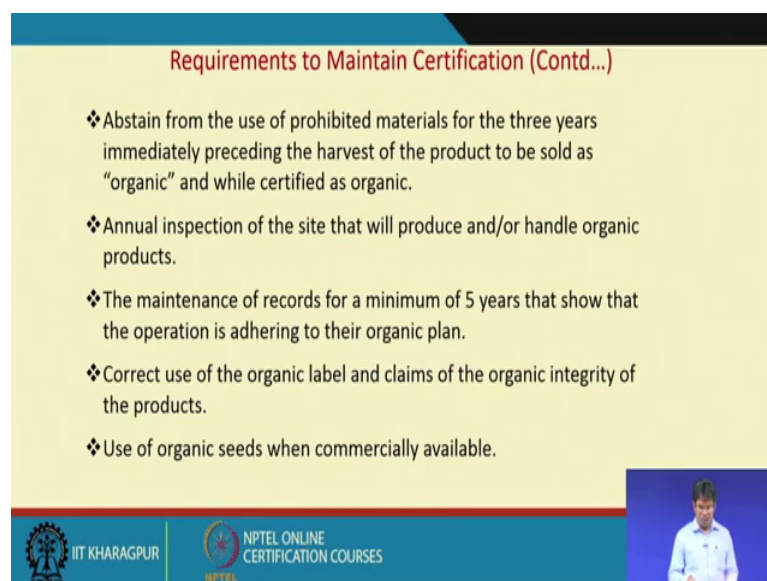
And what are the requirements to maintain certification? So, this we have discussed in detail in the during the lectures for the management of the organic products, the nutrient management, input managements, insect pest management and the planting methods and the crop rotations in the organic farming. Also you have discussed in briefly in the last class organic standards for organic certifications. So, in a brief as we discussed previous classes the requirement to certification of the organic certifications, develop and other to an organic system plan a grid by yes certification agency or at any time that the significant make changes occurs.

So, whatever the organic standards as per the standards, so, the requirements can meet the standards of the organic farming, all organic productions or the handling system plan that must includes, in brief a description of practices and procedures to be performed or maintained the that means, what are the practices and the procedures that has been undertaken through this production practices, that should be properly record keeping the record has to be maintained.

A list of each substances to be used in productions are handling inputs indicating its compositions source locations, where it will be used specially for the food processing industry the ingredients, they are used and those has to be very specified and there should be record keeping a descriptions of the monitoring practices and procedures.

So, that is the method as we discussed the description of the to be record keeping they should be maintained, then description of the record keeping system that is very essential in the organic farming. We have discussed earlier also. A description of management practices and physical barriers used to prevent the contamination physical barriers in the production sides. If there parallel productions of organic foods and conventional foods, there should be a physical barriers buffer zone has to be maintained and that has to be record recorded. And also if for transportation processing transportation organic foods and the conventional foods should not be transported in together they should be separately transferred.


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**Requirements to Maintain Certification (Contd...)**

- ❖ Abstain from the use of prohibited materials for the three years immediately preceding the harvest of the product to be sold as "organic" and while certified as organic.
- ❖ Annual inspection of the site that will produce and/or handle organic products.
- ❖ The maintenance of records for a minimum of 5 years that show that the operation is adhering to their organic plan.
- ❖ Correct use of the organic label and claims of the organic integrity of the products.
- ❖ Use of organic seeds when commercially available.

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So, this things has to be maintained, then the requirement to maintain certification as a abstain from use of prohibited materials or substances, for the three years immediately preceding the harvest of the product to be sold as a organic. So, as we discussed for the proper organic produce to have a branded as a organic. So, this should be should be maintained organically for last 36 months, annual inspection of the sites that will produce and handle organic products, then the maintenance of record for a minimum 5 years required. So, that shows that the operation is adhering to that organic plan.

The record keeping should be there for last 5 years, as we are going for the organic production. The correct use of organic labels and claims of the organic integrity of the product; so, labeling should be very proper whether the product is organic or the conventional or certified organic. So, labeling should be very proper. So, use of organic seeds, when commercials commercially available those seeds can be used.

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**Organic Certification (Labeling of products)**

**Labeling Requirements:**

- Labeling shall convey clear and accurate information on the organic status of the product.
- When the full standards requirements are fulfilled, products shall be sold as "produce of organic agriculture" or a similar description.
- The label for conversion products shall be clearly distinguishable from the label for organic products by mentioning the year of conversion.

Single ingredient products may be labeled as "Organic" when all standard requirements have been met.  
Multi ingredient products where not all ingredients, including additives, are of organic origin may be labeled in the following way (raw material weight):

- Where a minimum of 95% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, products may be labeled "Certified Organic" or similar and should carry the logo of the certification programme.
- Where less than 95% but more than 70% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, products may be labeled as "Made with organic ingredients".
- Where less than 70% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin, such product may not be labeled "Organic".

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So, regarding this organic certification as we discussed labeling, labeling of the products is very important to be because that helps in marketing of the organic foods. So, what the labeling requirement how can label the products labeling shall convey clear and accurate information on the organic status of the products, when the full standards requirements are fulfilled the products shall be sold as produce of organic agriculture or as organic, when the all the necessary standards are fulfilled the produce can be branded or can be labeled as the produce of organic agriculture. The label for conversion product can be

clearly distinguished from the label of the or the from the organic products; that means, the organic products and the conventional products should be labeling should be clearly be a distinguished; that means, the there some intermingling.

So, sinks the how can we label the organic products, if single ingredient products may be labeled as organic, when all standards or requirements have been met; that means, single ingredient means, suppose you have the cereal grains I can say the rice, wheat, or the pulse pulses or you can see all seeds. So, those are only the like on rice so, after the harvesting go for the processing, then after the processing means milling operations it can be it can be sent to the market.

So, if the rice is you know produced organically and processing ID 1 as a separately from the conventional products, then that products can be brand can be labeled as fully organic because, here we are not using any additional ingredient for the rice. So, though there is single these are the single ingredient commodity that is either the rice or the wheat flours or they can say pulses to so, if there is no additions of any ingredients after the harvesting of the produce, but for the products where the multi ingredient products where not all ingredients are the organic in origin.

Specially for the processed products like, we have the food processing industry as a processed (Refer Time: 10:35) like jam, jelly or any other the processing the ready to eat food what you say, if the if the ingredients are not all organic, then they should be labeled as follows. If where a minimum of 95 percent of the ingredients are of the certified organic origin correct may be labeled as certified organic or similar should carry the logo of the certification programme.

So, please keep it mind that if where the processing or the marketing of a single ingredient products like your cereals, or the pulses after harvesting and the milling. So, if there the produced fully organically, they can be labeled as organic, but for the processed products where the ingredients are adhered after the harvesting during the storage or the processing operations.

There if the ingredients are the organic that is more than 95 percent of the additives are organic origin, then they can be labeled as certified organic, or second case if less than 95 percent of the ingredients and the and more than 75 percent of the ingredients are the

organic origins, then the products may be labeled as made with organic ingredients not exactly certified organic. So, this should be labeled as made with organic ingredient.

So, please keep in mind if you are the ingredients are around more than 95 percent of the ingredients are of organic origins. So, they can be labeled as certified organic if less than 95 percent, but more than 75 percent of the ingredients are of organic origins that can be labeled as made with organic ingredients, if less than 75 percent or the where the less than 75 percent of the ingredients are of the organic origin such products may not be labeled as organic.

So, these are the labeling process so, that attract because that way builds the confidence of the consumers on the organic products that should be properly labeled based on the productions and the processing.

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**NPOP is Internationally Recognized**

- NPOP has equivalence agreement with European Union
- NPOP has equivalence agreement with Switzerland
- USDA has accepted NPOP conformity assessment system

Means product certified by any Indian certification body can be exported without the need for recertification in above countries. For USA, Indian certification bodies issue certificate based on NOP standards

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So, NPOP; national programme for organic production is a internationally recognized. So, this has equivalence agreement with the European union. So, this has also equivalent agreement with Switzerland's as a I international federation of for organic agriculture moment, then USDA has accepted NPOP conformity assessment system. So, means the product certified by the any Indian certification body can be exported without the need for rectifications in above countries like know, for USA Indian certification bodies issue certificate based on the national organic programmes standards as per the USA standards.

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**The organic quality control**

**Balance of interests**

- Consumer requests healthy and environmentally sound products
- Willing to pay premium price
- Trust building
- Farmer/processors producing according to certain standards (may be putting higher labour etc)
- Getting access to premium price markets

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So, the organic control system so, that is the balance of interest this consumer request a healthy, when you go for the organic the quality control systems; that means, balance of interest in the consumer and the producers consumer request healthy and environmentally sound product. So, which the based on that the quality assurance there willing to pay premium price. So, that ultimately helps in trust building between the producers and the consumers or the then farmers and processors are of that producing according to certain standards. So, they may because there may be the cost may be involved. So, they have the access to have the premium price market.

So, this is a mutual benefit the balance of interest between the producers and the consumers the producer gets the price the premium price for the production of organic foods. So, as the cost is involved in the input managements and input application.

And if there is any loss incurred due to the loss of yield as compared t conventional product. So, this loss can be compensated with the premium price so, that the producer the producer can get the price at the same time the consumer or the populations. So, they get the quality of the foods. So, there also interest is also satisfied is a mutual benefits of the organic quality systems.



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In the organic quality control that is a standard accreditations inspections and certifications. So, if you see this one so, this when you go for the quality control systems organic quality controls. So, the standards are specified from the different organic standard as have discussed so, for the productions processing and this agency this certification agency, there accredited by the national body national accreditation body. And the agency they go for the inspections and finally, the certification is issued to the producers of the operate of the farmers.

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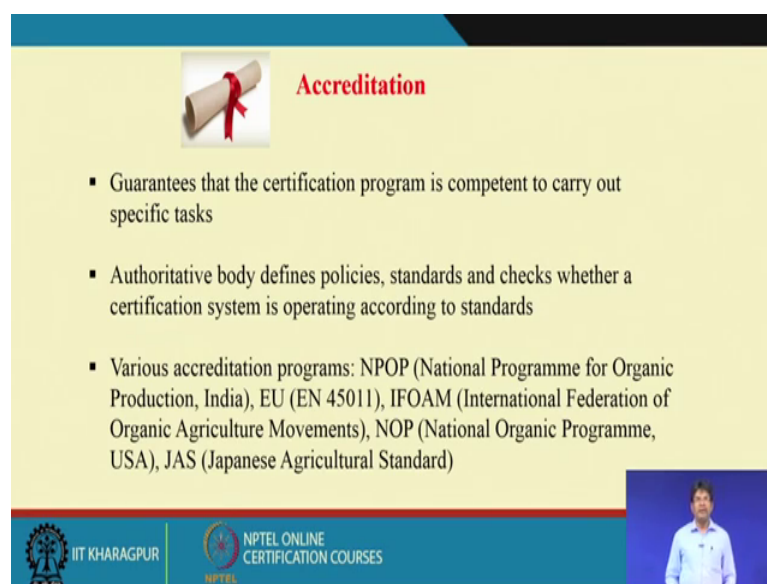


So, if you see the standards the standards defining the production methods not the product qualities. So, as we discussed the organic standards usually as you maintain this the production methods, as per the organic norms or the organic standards starting from your lands selections up to harvesting the crop in field and postharvest processing also, we maintain the organic processing methods, then these are the standards are specified that has to be followed for the organic food productions or marketing as a organic foods.

So, minimum requirement not the because the that should be followed as per the minimum standards for the organic production that should be followed, continuous developed and dynamic standards usually is a reviewed by the review committee and any modification changes may takes place in between and according the standards may be national and the organic standard production methods, that is refine regularly and that can as a dynamic one it is not a as a as a static.

So, can be international and national standards using NPOP the national programme of organic production, it has a standards organic standards. So, we have delivered the lectures as for as for that standards starting from your the production practices input management the pest managements and planting methods. So, these are the based on the standard describes, national for the organic productions.

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**Accreditation**

- Guarantees that the certification program is competent to carry out specific tasks
- Authoritative body defines policies, standards and checks whether a certification system is operating according to standards
- Various accreditation programs: NPOP (National Programme for Organic Production, India), EU (EN 45011), IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements), NOP (National Organic Programme, USA), JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard)

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And the accreditations this program, this guarantee that the certification program is competent to carry out the specific task, because there are some agency that accredited

through a national accreditation body that will be discussing, in the next class the operational structure of the certification process. So, because this authoritative body that defines policies standards and check, whether the certification systems is operating according to standard. So, these are body the national accreditation body. So, they do refine the policy timely and also they standards also may be revised on regular basis and they check whether the certification system is operating as per the standard.

So, various accreditation problems are there that is a national programme for organic production in India. So, we have the European Union also, then IFOAM international federation of organic agriculture movements national organic programme that is for the USA and Japanese agricultural standards for the Japan. So, there are different the body there the accreditation programmes different national accreditations bodes are (Refer Time: 18:57) internationally; so, different countries. So, they have the certification policy and the programmes as per that this organic cortication is processed.

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**Inspection**

- On-site visit to verify that the performance of an operation is in accordance with specific standards
- Evaluation and verification of agricultural production, processing and trading
- Inspection requires complete documentation by producers, processors and handlers
- Findings are presented in a report to the certifiers

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So, that once you have this standards then go for the inspections and the as the inspections by the certifying agency, what they do inspection unsaid visit to verify that the performance of an operation is in accordance with the specific standards, then we have the evaluations and verification of agricultural productions processing and trading.

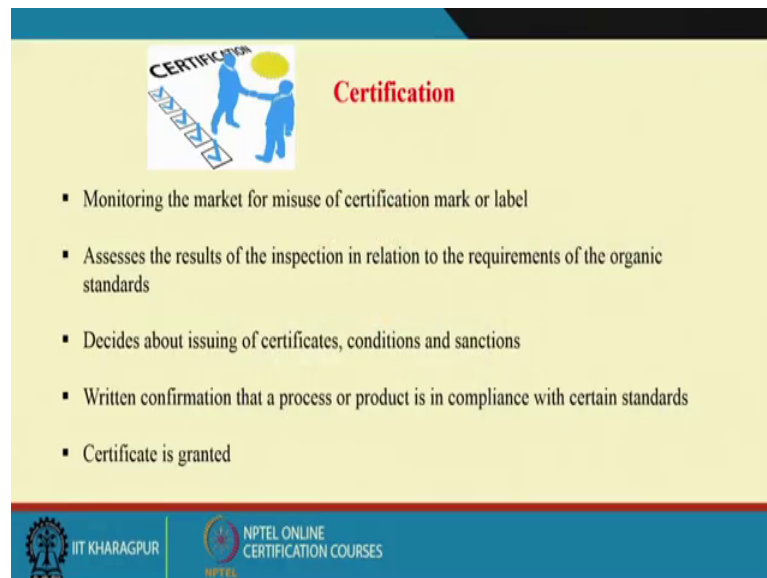
So, if you are going for the postharvest processing the processing and the trading business also as a marketing or the transportations. So, those things are the evaluation

verification process goes on, then inspection requires completely documentation by the producers processors and the handlers means no.

So, starting from the land, land if you are going for the as discussed the single ingredient products. So, after harvest you go for milling. So, evaluations comes to the field level managements, or what management practices has been followed in the fields for the last 3 years and record keeping should be made for the last 5 years and after harvest the processing have the process and the handling is done for this produce.

So, those inspection requires for the certifications, then findings are presented in a report to the certifiers accordingly.

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**CERTIFICATION**

**Certification**

- Monitoring the market for misuse of certification mark or label
- Assesses the results of the inspection in relation to the requirements of the organic standards
- Decides about issuing of certificates, conditions and sanctions
- Written confirmation that a process or product is in compliance with certain standards
- Certificate is granted

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Then the certifications then monitoring, the market for misuse of certification mark or label so, certification agency. So, they do keep a track and the markets for misuse of the certification mark or labels assess the results of the inspections in relation to the requirement of the organic standards. So, they do review the results. So, the requirement of the organic standards are the producers are the farmers or any group of organization, they have made these standards of the organic production methods.

Then decide about issuing of certificate conditions and the sanctions, then written confirmation that a process or product is in compliance with certain standards. So, then finally, certificate is granted. So, these are the you know the agencies certification

agency. So, they are in direct contact with the producers or in the farmers or the operators who are applying for this certifications. So, they have a regular visit to the field visits, they do monitor the market field visit and they assess the results of the inspections. So, the inspector they do inspection inspections in relation to the requirement of the organic standards, then decides about the issuing certificate finally, the certificate is granted.

So, what is discussed here process of the organic certification. So, this is a best the by having the certification that helps in proper marketing or the or the business the encourage the business of the organic market and have a benefit to the producers to have raise income of the organic producers organic growers or the organic operators so, so, by doing a proper marketing; that means, the marketing the certification process.

So, the producers or the farmers can get the premium price I discussed and it can bring the once the price the premium price, because as we discussed organic farming some cases there may be loss in yield, because maintaining the crop yield in case of organic farming is challenge specially for the field crops like a rice, wheat or the those are the nutrient requirement heavy nutrient demanding crops.

And if there is any loss in yield it can be compensated by the premium price of the organic produce. So, that the farmers will get benefit farmers must get the good market benefit for this organic foods, then the there will be more and more conversions of the lands to organic farms.

So, this is how certification is very important and the process that helps in providing a quality assurance to the consumers that builds the trust building among the consumers for the quality of this product of the products and that helps in marketing of this organic products. So, in the next class we will be discussing about the proper operational structure of this the organic certification process with this I conclude this lecture.

Thank you very much.