

Organic Farming for Sustainable Agricultural Production
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Lecture - 39
Operational Structure of Organic Certification

So, welcome to the lecture 39. So, as we discussed earlier lecture 38 was the Organic Certification process. So, in this lecture we will discuss the Operational Structure of this Organic Certification; that means, what are the agencies are there involved in certification of organic products and what are the roles of different agencies those who are involved in this certification process. So, you see if you see this flowchart the Operational Structure of the National Programme for Organic Production.

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So, in India NPOP, the National Programme for Organic Productions, so, they have formulated certain the combinational structures for this certification of the organic products. As you see the government of India, so, in that are the body of the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Agricultures.

So, that take the person's the technical persons from the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture. They to formulate a National Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Production NPOP that is a SCNPOP that is the National Steering

Committee for National Programme for Organic Productions. So, the members appointed for this the so, steering committee are from Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture, so, also APEDA; so, Agricultural and Processed food Export Development Authority.

So, this members they do form a national steering committee for NPOP. So, what is the job of this the steering committee? So, there is part of the governments there is a persons are from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and APEDA, so, Agricultural and Processed food Export Development Authority. So, what they do? They form National Standard for Organic Production. So, this different methods, so, standard criteria they are this formulated by this the steering committee. So, they the steering committee they do formulate the National Standard and also the National Accreditation Policy and Program.

So, NAPP, the National Accreditation Policy and Programme and National Standards for Organic Productions, so, this is formulated by the National Steering Committee and also they do make a Technical Committee; so, this Technical Committee for review of the, National Standards for Organic Productions and National Accreditation Policy and Program. So, this is a regular review process procedure for inspections and the certification agency. So, they do the Technical Committee also appointed by this the steering committee. So, their job is for the review of the NSOP; National Standards for Organic Productions and the review of the National Accreditation Policy Program.

Of course they also define the procedure for inspections and the certification agencies. So, these are the inspections and the certification agency, they also define the procedures and this review process is met the regularly. So, that the update the standards and update the accreditation policy program.

And the APEDA, the apex body you can say the secretariat, that code nets within the steering committee and also steering committee they formulate a National Accreditation Body. So, these are this the members of this National Accreditation Body, they do come from the Minister of Commerce, Minister of Agriculture and from APEDA as well.

So, this the code net the APEDA is a as a secretariat that code net between the Steering Committee and the National Accreditation Body as well as the certification programme is mostly is mainly coordinated by APEDA.

So, what are the National Accreditation Body, that then what they does, it helps in Accreditation of the Inspections and Certification Agency the job of the National Accreditation Body for the Accreditation of the Certifications and Inspection Agency and that is done by forming one Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee also members of this evaluation committee they are decided by the National Accreditation Body and they also come from Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and APEDA.

So, the Evaluation Committee that does evaluate the Inspections and the Certification Agency based on the there the operational procedures. And based on the feedback or the recommendations of this Evaluation Committee then the National Accreditation Body does the Inspections and the Certification Agency are accredited by this National Accreditation Body based on the report of this Evaluation Committee. And this, the Inspections and Certification Agency they do provides certification through APEDA they (Refer Time: 06:10) APEDA does receive the applications from this farmers or the operators or the processors, the organic processors.

So, there you see applications through this certification agency and APEDA does formulate because coordinate between the as the Steering Committee between the National Accreditation Bodies. And National Accreditation Body so that form the Evaluation Committee and based on the feedback from this Evaluation Committee this agency the Inspections and the Certification Agency they are accredited and finally, based on their recommendations the certificate is issued to the farmers, operators and the processors.

Because the farmers record the farmers or the operator of the processor they do apply to the national certification agency and this the sorry Inspections and the Certification Agency they do same the forward the application to the APEDA and APEDA then does coordinate between the NAB, National Accreditation Boards and the Evaluation Committee and finally, these are the certification is issued to the farmers or the operators or the processors.

This is the how the structure that happens structure exist for the certifications of the organic products or the processed or the (Refer Time: 07:36) products or the organic the process products, food processing of the organic origin. So, here the because the agency

are the members from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and the APEDA. They form the National the Steering Committee for the NPOP and Steering Committee formulate a Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee does evaluate regularly this the standards for organic productions or the accreditation policy and the programs such a regular evaluations and there refinement takes place also. And also this APEDA as a secretariat that coordinate with the Steering Committee and also National Accreditation Body. National Accreditation Body that does accredited the Inspections and the Certification Agency based on the recommendation of the independent or the third party the evaluation committee. The members of the Evaluation Committee they also come from the Ministry of Agriculture or Ministry of Commerce and the APEDA.

And after the accreditation of the inspections and the certification agency, so, they are the then certify they have the capable of the providing or granting certificate organic certificate to the farmers or the operators and processors through APEDA, because APEDA receives the application settle the applications and finally, application the certification issued the end users, they may be the farmers, the operators and the processors. So, this is the whole diagram whole structures of the certification process. So, now, we will discuss what we discussed now, we will discuss the detail work plans of different committee or the different sectors organizations in the certification process.

So, coming to the National Steering Committee.

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Operational Structure of National programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

National Steering Committee

- The programme will be developed and implemented by the Government of India through its **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC)** as the apex body.
- The Ministry will constitute a **National Steering Committee** for National Programme for Organic Production (SCNPOP), whose members will be drawn from **MoC, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Coffee Board, Spices Board and Tea Board** and other government and private organisations associated with the organic movement.
- The SCNPOP will formulate a **National Accreditation Policy and Programme (NAPP)** and draw up **National Standards for Organic Products (NSOP)**, which will include standards for organic production and processes as well as the regulations for use of the **National Organic Certification Mark**.

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So, as you see the National Steering Committee let us say operational structure of National Programme for Organic Productions, National steering committee.

So, the programme will be developed and implemented by government of India through it is Ministry of Commerce and Industry as the apex body. And the Ministry will constitute a National Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Productions, whose members will be drawn from Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Coffee Board and the Spices Boards and Tea Board and other government and private organizations associated with the organic movement.

So, this Steering Committee that is for the National Programme of for Organic Productions will formulate the National Accreditation Policy and the Programmes and draw National Standards for Organic Products which will includes the standards for organic productions and process as well as the regulations for use of the National Organic Certification Mark. So, this steering committee so, they do formulate the standards National Standards for the Organic Products or the National Accreditation Policy is formulated by the Steering Committee and also the regulations for use of the national organic certifications.

So, this is the job of the steering committee.

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Operational Structure of National programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

National Accreditation Policy and Programme (NAPP)

- **National Accreditation Policy and Programme (NAPP)** will be administered by the National Accreditation Body, which will define the overall policy objectives for the Accreditation programmes and operations
- The NAPP and NSOP are subject to periodic internal review, which will be conducted by the **Technical Committee**, which will advise the National Steering Committee **about the need and content** of such amendments in the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

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The National Accreditation Policy and Programme; so, this is what the NAPP will be administered by the National Accreditation Body which will define the overall policy objectives for the Accreditation programmes and operations. The NAPP and NSOP are subject to periodic internal review which will be conducted by the technical committee. We will advise the National Steering Committee about the need and contents of such amendments in the National Programme for Organic Productions.

So, I will discuss the Steering Committee the sorry it is Technical Committee that is constituted by this the Steering Committee, the Technical Committee will advise the Steering Committee for any modifications in the national standards or the accreditation policy the NAPP policy programmes. So, because they will convey this advice, the Steering Committee about this need and the contents of such amendments in the National Programme for Organic Productions.

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Operational Structure of National programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

National Accreditation Body (NAB)

- The National Steering Committee would also function as the National Accreditation Body (NAB)
- **The members of the NAB** shall comprise of representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, APEDA, Coffee Board, Spices Board and Tea Board

Work:

- Drawing up procedures for evaluation and accreditation of certification programme
- Formulating procedures for evaluation of the agencies implementing the programmes.
- Accreditation of inspection and certification agencies

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(A small video inset shows a presenter in a white shirt speaking.)

And, the National Accreditation Body; so, the National Steering Committee would also functions as the National Accreditation Body. The members of the NAB or the National Accreditation Bodies shall compromise the representatives from this Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, APEDA, Coffee Board, Spices Board and Tea Board.

So, they are the members of the NAB, then they that the work is drawing up procedures for evaluation and accreditations of certification programs, formulating procedures for evaluation of the agencies implementing the programmes, then, accreditations of inspections and certification agencies.

So, the NAB what they do by formulating the evaluation committee, they make a evaluation committee through this feedback of this evaluation committee. So, they do the accreditations of the inspections and certification agencies they are involved in the organic certification process.


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Operational Structure of National programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

Evaluation Committee (EC)

- Eligible Inspection and Certification Agencies implementing certification programmes will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee.
- The Evaluation Committee will be appointed by the **National Accreditation Body (NAB)**.
- The members of the Evaluation Committee will comprise of members drawn from the APEDA, Coffee Board, Spices Board, Tea Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) / Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs).
- APEDA, on behalf of the NAB, will receive and screen applications from the certification agencies, will coordinate and arrange evaluation visits to ascertain the credentials of certification programmes of the applicants.
- EC will submit its recommendations to the NAB for considering **accreditation**.

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And what does the Evaluation Committee? The Evaluation Committee, the Eligible Inspections and Certification Agencies implementing certification programmes will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee. So, as we discussed this one the structure the flow diagram this inspections and agency are this and this certification agencies. So, they are evaluated by this the Evaluation Committee. So, they are appointed by the National Accreditation Boards.

So, this is Evaluation Committee will be appointed by this the National Accreditation Boards. So, the members of the Evaluation Committee also come from APEDA, from Coffee Board, Spice Board, Tea Board, Ministry of Agriculture and the Extension Inspection Agency, Inspection Ministry of Agriculture and Export Inspection council of India then Export Inspection Agency. So, these are the members of this evaluation committee.

So, APEDA as a Agriculture and Processed food Product Export Development Authority, APEDA on behalf of the NAB will receive and the screen applications from this certification agencies, will coordinate and arrange evaluation visits to ascertain the credential of certification programmes of the applicants.

So; that means, the APEDA is a coordinating as a secretariat. So, that receives the applications from this certification agency; that means, the producers or the processors has to apply for organic certification to a certification agency and the certification agency

will forward the application to APEDA for issue for the certifying the producers for the operators.

Then APEDA does coordinate this programs by through this NAB National Accreditation Board, Evaluation Committee and that will coordinate and arrange of the evaluations visits to ascertain that the credentials of certification programmes programmes of the applicants.

Then Evaluation Committee will submit it is recommendation to NAB for considering accreditation, because the certification agency there also the accreditations done regularly. So, the evaluation committee that submit recommendations to the NAB based on certain regulations and the based on the adjusting operational procedures, for this inspections and the certification agency because they depends upon the following the proper the organic standards and the inspections field, visits, based on this procedures, the Evaluation Committee will submit recommendation to the nab for considering accreditations of this inspection agency.

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Operational Structure of National programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

Accredited Inspection and Certification Agencies


- Based on the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee, eligible Inspection and Certification Agencies will be accredited by the National Accreditation Body.
- These agencies should be well versed with the operating procedures, the NSOP and the international standards.

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So, Accredited Inspection and Certification Agency; so, based on the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee eligible Inspections and Certification Agencies will be accredited by the National Accreditation Body. The agencies should be well versed with the operating procedures, the National Standards for Organic Products and the international standards.

So, those are the Inspections and the Certification Agency they should have the well experience well versed with the operating procedures of the organic certification programmes and the standards and the accreditation policy and the programmes.

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The slide is titled "Operational Structure of National programme for Organic Production (NPOP)". It features a yellow background with a blue header and footer. The header contains the title in bold black text. Below the header, the word "Inspectors" is written in red. There are two bullet points in black text. The footer contains the logos of IIT KHARAGPUR and NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES, along with a small video inset of a person in a white shirt.

Operational Structure of National programme for Organic Production (NPOP)

Inspectors

- **The inspectors**, appointed by the accredited **Inspection and Certification Agencies** will carry out inspection of the operations through records maintained by the operators as per specified formats and also by periodic site inspection.
- Based on compliance with the standards and certification programmes, accredited **Inspection and Certification Agencies** will **certify the organic status of products and operations**, specifying their conditions and recommendations

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The inspectors what does the inspector the appointed by the Accredited Inspections and Certification Agency we will carry out inspections of the operations through the record maintained by the operator as per the specified formats and also by periodic site inspection. So, inspectors they do visit the fields or these sites to also checking the records and the regular visits because one once you apply for this know certification programme. So, these visit to the fields and to check these operations for this the National Standards for the Organic Products.

Based on the complaints with the standards and certification programmes, Accredited Inspections and Certification Agency will certify the organic status of products and operations, specifying their conditions and recommendation.

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Inspection and Certification by Accredited agency

- Receipt of applications
- Providing standards and operational documents
- Agreement
- Demand for Fee
- Document audit
- Physical field inspection
- Risk assessment
- Compliance verification
- Reporting by inspector
- Review by reviewer
- Certification decision

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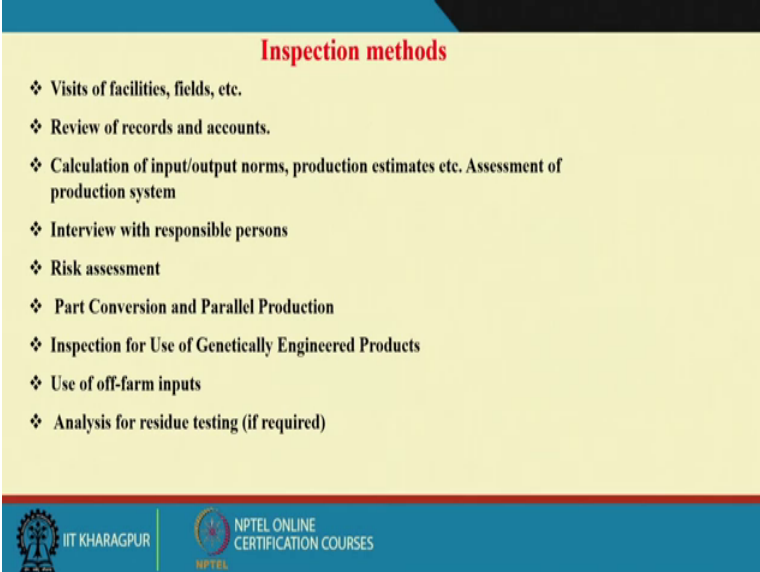
So, this inspections and this you know certifications by the accredited agency they do the receipt of applications, then providing they because the they receive applications from the farmers or the processors those who are applying for this organic certifications they apply to the certification agency. So, they providing the standards and operational documents because once you apply for the certifications then you get the standards of the as you discussed in the earlier classes.

And as you have discussed for the operations or the management, the production practices for the organic food productions at different stages how it can maintain the organic products from the starting from the land preparations up to harvest of the crops. Specially for the single ingredient products if you are go for processing's of the or the processed products, then starting from the production as well as processing methods should be should be as follow the organic standards.

Then the agreements then the demand for these the organic certifications and demand for the fee as applicable, then document audit or the physical field inspections. So, there is a by the inspectors they do visit the fields and those who are applying for the organic certification certifications field sites and risk assessments is done the complaints verifications as per the as per the standards on the record keeping. So, if that they following as per the standards reporting by the inspectors, review and those reports will be reviewed by the reviewers, then certification decision.

So, what is seen here, the usually the Inspections and the Certification Agency they do assigns the inspectors for the field visit, site seeing and site visits, auditing and making the assessment of the record keeping, the procedures followed. Because one somebody if some agency of the framers of the groups they are applying for the organic certifications they should have the record keeping record keepings. So, this is verified based on this the organic standards and the operational documents as per the report of this inspector that is verified with reviewers, then final decision is taken for the certifications by the APEDA.

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Inspection methods

- ❖ Visits of facilities, fields, etc.
- ❖ Review of records and accounts.
- ❖ Calculation of input/output norms, production estimates etc. Assessment of production system
- ❖ Interview with responsible persons
- ❖ Risk assessment
- ❖ Part Conversion and Parallel Production
- ❖ Inspection for Use of Genetically Engineered Products
- ❖ Use of off-farm inputs
- ❖ Analysis for residue testing (if required)

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The inspection methods what they do for the visit of facilities and the fields, that is done review of records and the accounts. Then calculation of input output norms, the production estimates, assessment of the production systems especially from the land preparation up to harvest production systems. And the interview with the responsible persons so, as per the either the producers or the farmers or the any groups so, the inspector as a interview with the persons. So, who is a involving in the production process and the risk assessments in if there is any failure or the loss, risk assessments and the part conversion and the parallel production?

Because sometimes you we do recommend to for the conversion of the field as a step by step basis not the whole field can be converted to organic at a time. So, there may be organic products as well as the conventional products, but there should be a proper buffer zones at least we have mentioned at least 8 meters buffer zone should maintain between

the organic field and the conventional field and also during transfer milling operations because organic products should be milled separately this should be intermingled with the conventional products and even transportation also this should have a separate transportation for the organic and the non organic or the conventional products.

So, this inspection goes on then inspection of for use of genetically engineering products, then use of off-farm inputs. Usually in case of organic farming we do advice to go for the on farm because the in the crop waste or the biological waste of the farms itself. But sometimes the off-farm inputs are used restricted, but it should have the permission from the certification agency priors if you are using any off farm inputs then analysis for residue testing.

So, it requires because know though it is a very difficult and the challenging task whether you can by testing the quality you can say it is organic or the conventional, but thing that the pesticide residue can be detected if there is a beyond the threshold levels then that test would be taken to brand it is organic, usually the most of the organic crops organic products are the free from pesticide residues. So, that testing should be if required that can be taken up from this certification process.

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Grower Group Certification

- Based on Internal Quality System
- Applicable to producer groups, farmer's cooperatives, contract production and small scale processing units
- The producers in the group must apply similar production systems and the farms should be in geographical proximity.

GROWERS' GROUP

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION in INDIA

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Then we have the grower group certification sometimes know this is individual certifications are the grower group based on the group of the people, group of the farmers that involved in a organic farming. So, that can be group certification can be can

be issued so, based on the Internal Quality System. So, this is applicable to producer group, farmers, cooperatives, say contract productions and small scale processing units.

So, this is a grower groups or that the group of the farmers require the cooperatives it can be issued the certifications. The producer in the group must apply must have similar production systems and the farm should be in geographical proximity. That means, in a particular area close proximity in a in a low in a particular area small distance small distance and they follow the same norms and procedures for the organic production process. So, that this groups are the corporative they can apply for this organic certifications.

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What is Internal Quality System (IQS)

- A group of producers create internal team for some tasks
- External certification agency delegates some inspection tasks to this group (known as IQS)
- IQS undertakes inspection on behalf of CB
- Certification agency evaluates the working of IQS and do random field inspection for verification
- Certification is granted to group as a whole as one unit

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So, this Internal Quality Systems as you discussed what do you means a group of producers create the internal team for some tasks. So, say internal teams for this they common tasks they are growing for applying as a group they are applying for the organic production systems. So, the external certification agency delegates some inspection tasks to this group as a named as Internal Quality Systems.

The IQS that undertakes the inspections on behalf on behalf of the certifications both the certification agency evaluates the working of the Internal Quality Systems and do random field inspections for verifications. Certification is granted to group as a whole as a unit. So, if there is a group of farmers or the cooperative they are doing a particular

type specific type of farming. So, in that case the group certifications can be issued to a particular growers.

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Minimum requirements for IQS

- Development of Internal Control System (ICS) Identification of producer groups
- Creation of awareness about group certification among members
- Identification of qualified personnel for maintaining the internal control system
- Necessary training in production and IQS development
- Preparation of IQS manual containing policies and procedure
- Implementation of the policies and procedures
- Review and improvement of the IQS document for maintaining a harmonized IQS

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And this is the minimum requirement for the Internal Quality Systems, the development of internal control systems identifications of producer groups. Creation of awareness about the about group certifications among the members of this know internal control system quality systems.

Identification of qualified personnels for maintaining the internal control systems; so, within that the grower groups or the community or the cooperatives so, we have to assign some of the persons. So, that I can train them, regarding the internal the quality controls systems for these organic certifications. So, necessary training in productions and the Internal Quality System development and preparation of the Internal Quality System manual containing policies and procedures for the organic productions and the processings.

Implementation of the policies and procedures, then review and an improvement of the Internal Quality System documents for maintaining a harmonized Internal Quality System. So, in this process the operational structure as we discussed though, so, a group of the farmers or the individual farmers and the producers, the operators, they can apply for the organic certification process.

They can apply to the certifications the inspections agency or the certification agency and they can forward the applications to the APEDA and the application is scrutinized or the or the verified by the APEDA and APEDA does coordinate with the National Accreditation Boards and also Evaluation Committee and the Inspections and the Certification Agencies and the review the applications and formulate the evaluation comments and based on the feedback of the Evaluation Committees. And the certificate is issued and the as per the norms or the or the policy or the procedures are followed for the organic certification processes and certification is issued to the farmers or the operators or the group of farmers depending upon the that the requirement.

So, this is how the certification process or the structure of certification in India. So, by having the so, as you discussed certifications which is required to have a branded as organic products. So, that we can the producers can get the price where the price the of the organic product and that helps in the converting at the conversion of the more and more the conventional farm to the organic farm. With this I conclude this lecture.

Thank you very much.