

CROP PRODUCTION:

Choice of Crops and Varieties

Standard

- 1. When organic seed and plant materials are available, they shall be used. The certification programme shall set time limits for the requirement of certified organic seed and other plant material.*
- 2. When certified organic seed and plant materials are not available, chemically untreated conventional materials shall be used.*
- 3. The use of genetically engineered seeds, pollen, transgenic plants or plant material is not allowed.*

Pest, Disease and Weed Management under organic mode of production:

- 1. Products used for pest, disease and weed management, prepared at the farm from local plants, animals and micro-organisms, are allowed.*
- 2. Thermic weed control and physical methods for pest, disease and weed management are permitted.*
- 3. Thermic sterilization of soils to combat pests and diseases is restricted to circumstances where a proper rotation or renewal of soil cannot take place.*
- 4. All equipments from conventional farming systems shall be properly cleaned and free from residues before being used on organically managed areas.*
- 5. The use of synthetic herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other pesticides is prohibited.*
- 6. The use of synthetic growth regulators and synthetic dyes are prohibited.*
- 7. The use of genetically engineered organisms or products are prohibited.*
- 8. Accredited certification programmes shall ensure that measures are in place to prevent transmission of pests, parasites and infectious agents.*

Duration of Conversion Period:

- 1. Plant products produced can be certified organic when the national standards requirements have been met during a conversion period of at least two years before sowing or in the case of perennial crops other than grassland, at least three years (thirty-six months) before the first harvest of products. The accredited inspection and certification agency may decide in certain cases (such as idle use for two years or more) to extend or reduce the conversion period in the light of previous status of the land but the period must equal or exceed twelve months.*
- 2. The conversion period can be extended by the certification programme depending on, e.g., past use of the land and environmental conditions.*

3. The certification programme may allow plant products to be sold as "produce of organic agriculture in process of conversion" or a similar description during the conversion period of the farm.

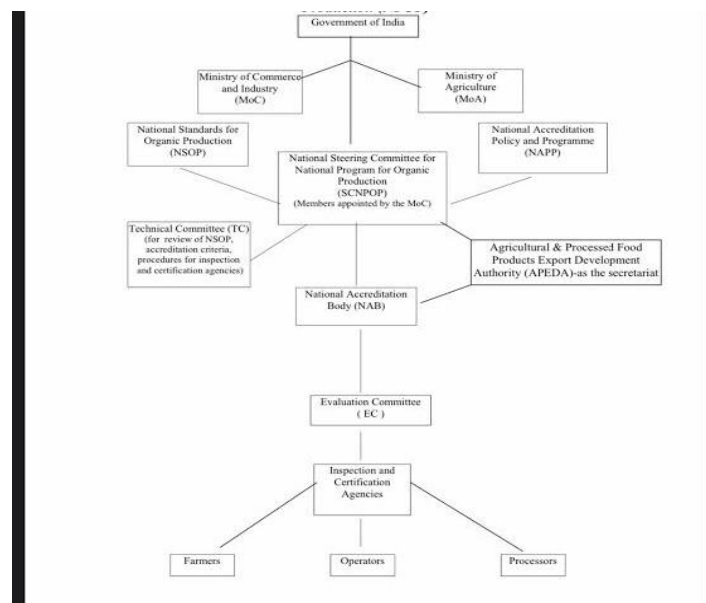
4. For the calculation of inputs for feeding, the feed produced on the farm unit during the first year of organic management, may be classified as organic. This refers only to feed for animals which are themselves being reared within the farm unit and such feed may not be sold or otherwise marketed as organic.

NPOP(NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION):

The National Programme for Organic Production proposes to provide an institutional mechanism for the implementation of National Standards for Organic Production, through a National Accreditation Policy and Programme. NPOP aims at:

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

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NPOP:



The operational structure of the National Programme for Organic Production is given in Figure. The programme will be developed and implemented by the Government of India

through its Ministry of Commerce and Industry as the apex body. The Ministry will constitute a National Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Production, whose members will be drawn from Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and private organizations associated with the organic movement. To advise the National Steering Committee on relevant issues pertaining to National Standards and Accreditation, sub-committees will be appointed. The National Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Production will formulate a National Accreditation Policy and Programme and draw up National Standards for Organic Products, which will include standards for organic production and processes as well as the regulations for use of the National Organic Certification Mark.

National Accreditation Policy and Programme will be administered by the National Accreditation Body, which will define the overall policy objectives for the Accreditation programmes and operations. The National Steering Committee may amend the Accreditation procedures whenever it deems fit. The National Accreditation Policy and Programme is 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. Eligible Inspection and Certification Agencies implementing certification programmes will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee.