



**Section 3**

**QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**India Good Agricultural Practices (IndG.A.P.) Certification**  
**Scheme**

**Certification Criteria**

## **Section 3**

### **Certification Criteria**

#### **1. Objective:**

- 1.1. The fundamental objective of laying down this criteria is to strengthen Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in the country. The challenges currently being faced by India include the absence of domestic standards for good practices in the farming sector that address the small and marginal farmers and also the larger farms. Most of the food safety standards are focused towards end products, be it the mandatory technical standards or voluntary standards whereas there is a no standard that addresses GAP in farms. It has also been recognized that while the manufacturing sector in the food supply chain is most advanced, they too find themselves handicapped if the raw material being supplied is sub-standard.
- 1.2. The IndG.A.P. provides a mechanism which gives direction to farms irrespective of size and resources to introduce quality in their production system to ensure food safety and hygiene thereby increasing acceptability of their produce by consumers and food processing industry.

#### **2. Purpose:**

- 2.1. This document describes the requirements of good agricultural practices against which certification can be obtained by the farmers or group of farmers.
- 2.2. It provides for an option to the farmers depending upon their current practices and resources, to adopt IndG.A.P.

The document can be used for benchmarking to cater to domestic requirements or harmonized with similar international standards for meeting export commitments.

- 2.3. **Limitations** – This criteria is exclusively intended to address concerns about the GAP, and give market recognition to farm produce that meet the requirements as prescribed in the Criteria. The produce coming out of such farms shall enable to achieve a minimum level of safe and hygienic for the human health and the practices adopted shall minimize negative impact on the environment.

#### **3. Scope:**

- 3.1. This document is applicable to all farm produce, which meet the criteria as prescribed in this document. This document covers control points and compliance criteria for the farm produce that is cultivated and harvested for direct human consumption or for further processing for human consumption by food industry.
- 3.2. The scope covers the production, harvesting and postharvest handling of farm produce on farm and post-harvest handling in locations on farm, where produce is packed for sale.

#### 4. Criteria:

The Certification Criteria indicates requirements with respect to good agricultural practices in farms that details requirement clause and section wise for the producers intending to go in for IndG.A.P. The detailed checklist is provided at annex 3A.

##### 4.1. Certification System

This document provides a framework for independent verification of the agricultural practices for IndG.A.P.. In case a group of farmers wish to join as a group to seek certification, they shall need to comply to the requirements stipulated in Section 4A. This framework contains Control Points and Compliance Criteria required to be followed by the individual producer or a producer group as well as by the certification bodies for verification purposes. For IndG.A.P., the requirements and evaluation criteria are mentioned in Annex A of this Section. These criteria are divided into main sections and are marked as Critical indicating these have a definite effect on the quality of the produce and should, therefore, be complied with, or should give adequate assurance about the safety of the produce. Similarly, major and minor requirements are indicated in the mentioned sections.

##### 4.2. Control Points and Compliance Criteria

This section describes control points and compliance criteria for different modules. These control points and compliance criteria are based on Indian Farming Practices and regulatory requirements.

**5. Compliance to control points:** To achieve certification the producer must demonstrate compliance level of the Control Points and Compliance Criteria to the levels as indicated below. The Certification Process is aimed at covering Individual farms or Group certification. For group certification the requirements and quality management system shall be addressed separately.

**5.1. Compliance Requirements:** The level of compliance shall be established based on the following:

IndG.A.P.:

- 5.1.1 Major – 100% Compliance of all applicable Major control points is compulsory
- 5.1.2 Minor– 95% Compliance of all of applicable Minor control points is compulsory
- 5.1.3 Recommended- No minimum percentage of compliance required

This needs to be read along with 5.1 Compliance levels for certification and specifically 4.3.2 of the Certification Process for IndG.A.P.

**6. Labelling requirements** – One of the objectives of this Scheme is to provide information to the stakeholders - secondary processors, aggregators, buyers and retailers about the status of the produce being adhering to IndG.A.P. This shall help them to maintain the integrity of the produce while the produce is being handled in the supply chain.

6.1. Besides all essential information like the details of farm and or marketing organisation, batch number or lot number being mentioned in transaction documents such as invoices, bill of



- loading etc. they shall also bear the Certification Mark (IndG.A.P.) against which the produce is certified.
- 6.2. The off product material such as invoices, letter head, promotional material shall be labelled with the Certification Mark as 'IndG.A.P.'. Any additional information that adds value and appries customer will be encouraged, provided it is not inaccurate or misleading.
  - 6.3. Labelling requirements as per the relevant regulations of the country where it is produced and will be sold shall also be ensured.

## Appendix A

### IndG.A.P.

#### A.1 Scope

This standard cover control points and compliance criteria for any farms wanting to be assessed for IndG.A.P. for the farm produce in fresh unprocessed form for direct human consumption or for further processing for human consumption by food industry. The main components of this standard are base modules and crops base modules:

##### General Modules

- a) All farm base module
- b) Crops base Module
- c) Agro-Biodiversity Module
- d) Produce Specific Modules
  - i. Fresh fruits and vegetable
  - ii. Combinable crops
  - iii. Tea
  - iv. Green Coffee
  - v. Spices

#### A.2 Definitions

For the purpose of this document, the definitions given in Annex B of the Section 3 – IndG.A.P. Glossary (PADD: IndG.A.P.: Section III: GL: 01: Annexure 3B – Glossary) shall apply.