



National Medicinal Plants Board



Quality Council of India



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VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS

Introduction



India has 15 Agroclimatic zones and 17000-18000 species of flowering plants of which 6000-7000 are estimated to have medicinal usage in folk and documented systems of medicine, like Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy. About 960 species of medicinal plants are estimated to be in trade of which 178 species have annual consumption levels in excess of 100 metric tones.

Medicinal plants are not only a major resource base for the traditional medicine and herbal industry but also provide livelihood and health security to a large segment of Indian population. The domestic trade of the AYUSH industry is of the order of Rs. 80 to 90 billion (1US\$ = Rs.50) annually. The Indian medicinal plants and their products also account for exports in the range of Rs. 10 billion per annum.

There is global resurgence in traditional and alternative health care systems resulting in increased world herbal trade which stands at US\$ 120 billion and is expected to reach US\$ 7 trillion by 2050. Indian share in the world trade, at present, however, is quite low.

Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plants

INTRODUCTION

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI), India's apex quality facilitation body, has developed a voluntary certification scheme for medicinal plants based on good agricultural and collection practices to enhance confidence in the quality of India's medicinal plant produce and make available good quality raw material to the AYUSH industry.

GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF SCHEME

The scheme will be overseen by a Steering Committee (SC) under the chairmanship of Secretary (AYUSH), which would guide the development and operation of the Scheme.

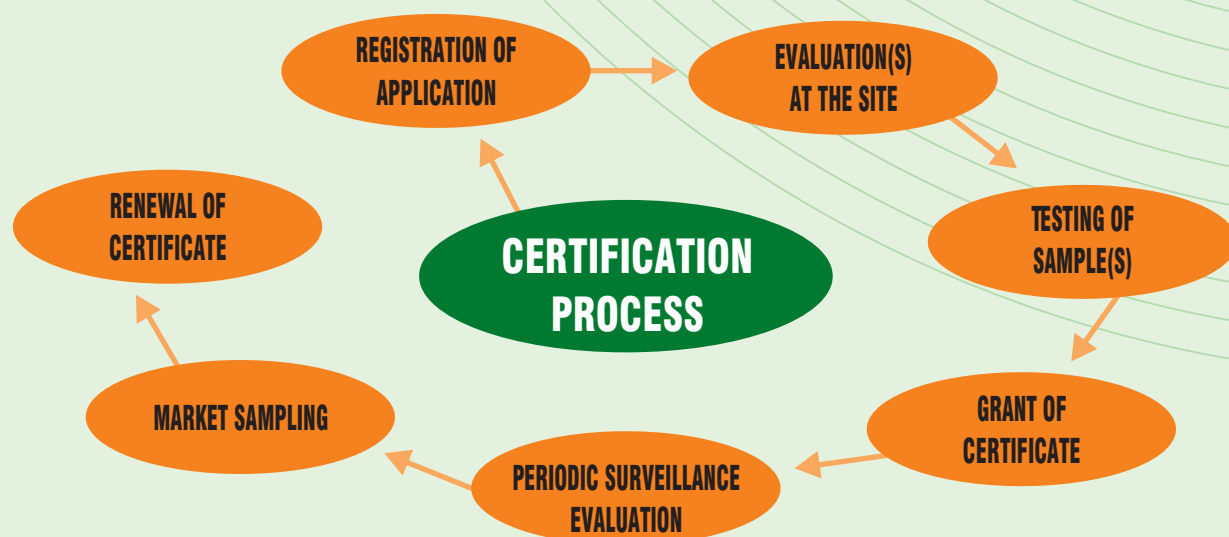
The standards for certification are the responsibility of the Technical committee (TC), while a Certification Committee (CC) looks after the certification related issues. The standards for good agricultural practices and good collection practices were approved in Jan, 2010. The certification related documents were approved in Oct, 2010 and the Scheme is now in operation.

The scheme documents are available on the websites of NMPB (www.nmpb.nic.in) as well as QCI (www.qcin.org)

OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

Under the Scheme, any producer/collector/group of producers/collectors can obtain a certification from an approved certification body (CB) and will be under regular surveillance of the certification body. An option of getting a lot inspected and certified has also been made in the Scheme. It also allows certification of intermediaries like traders who may source certified medicinal plant material and supply further.

QCI will initially provisionally approve some CBs for the Scheme but ultimately the technical competence of such CBs would be established through the internationally recognized concept of accreditation. The **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)** under QCI, as the national accreditation body, is already operating a scheme for accreditation of Product Certification Bodies as per applicable international standard, ISO Guide 65, and will provide certification bodies accredited as per the applicable international standard and competent to operate the medicinal plant certification scheme. Similarly, NABL accredited labs will be used under the Scheme. These measures are designed to facilitate acceptance of the Scheme in international market in the future.



Beneficiary

The scheme will benefit the medicinal plants producers/collectors/group of producers/collectors, societies, traders, manufacturers of herbal medicines, Ayush industry and Ayush consumers due to the assured quality of the medicinal plants/ herbs.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Reduced risk of recall/rejection.
- Increase buyer confidence in Indian herbs.
- Assured legal compliance.
- Assured sustainable collection.



About NMPB

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) set-up in November 2000 by the Government of India has the primary mandate of coordinating all matters relating to medicinal plants and support policies and programmes for growth of trade, export, conservation and cultivation. The Board is located in the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH) of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The objectives of establishing a Board is to establish an agency which would be responsible for co-ordination of all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing, marketing of raw material in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector. The work would continue to be carried out by the respective Departments, Organisations but the Board would provide a focus and a direction to the activities. The Board is functioning with administrative/technical support of the following committees which have been carved out of the key Departments and have the administrative/technical capability for each area defined below. These committees are:

1. Standing Finance Committee, 2. Committee on Demand and Supply, 3. Committee on Cultivation of Medicinal Plants including Conservation of rare and endangered species. 4. Committee on Export/Import, 5. Committee on Research, 6. Committee on Patents/IPR.

About QCI

Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.

Accreditation facilitates international trade by way of establishing equivalence and global acceptance of certification, inspection and testing being undertaken by various conformity assessment bodies, in areas of quality, environment, food safety etc.

National Quality Campaign aims at promoting quality by enabling manufacturers and suppliers of goods/services to apply quality standards and tools and simultaneously empowering consumers to demand quality goods/services. The promotion of quality encompasses all segments including manufacturing, health, education and public services.



For further details kindly contact :



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