

Minutes of Meeting
First TC Meeting of IndGAP Scheme | PADD, QCI
23rd September, 2021 | 11:00 HRS to 12:30 HRS

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Purpose | Convened to table Certification Criteria and updates for approval |
| Date | 23 rd September 2021 |
| Time | 11:00 HRS to 12:30 HRS |
| Venue | Microsoft Teams VC |
| Chairperson | Mr. S Dave, Former Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission; Former Advisor, FSSAI |
| Participants | Please refer Annex 1 |

Minutes of Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions - Dr. Manish Pande, Head and Director, PADD

- 1.1. Dr. Pande, QCI welcomed all the participants to the meeting and extended his gratitude to the Chair for taking out time for the meeting.
- 1.2. He mentioned that the TC Meeting is to deliberate upon the IndGAP scheme, seek approval on the updates and discuss the progress so far.
- 1.3. He then invited the participants for a round of discussion and gave a brief introduction of the Chair, TC.
- 1.4. He also informed about the Benchmarking initiative and that the TC meeting has also been scheduled for information, guidance and records.

2. Opening remarks – Mr. Sanjay Dave, Chair, TC

- 2.1. The Chair, Mr. Sanjay Dave, invited and welcomed all the participants to the TC meeting of the IndGAP scheme. He complimented the PAD Division of Quality Council of India for its quality initiatives and for the progress on IndGAP.
- 2.2. Thereafter, he invited Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, QCI to go ahead as per the agenda of the TC Meeting.

3. Tabling of the Agenda –Ms. Aayushi Dhawan

Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, QCI explained the agenda and briefed the participants about QCI and its role as the institution that provides the quality infrastructure and its various initiatives for the Intra-governmental agencies, Government and the industry bodies. She further talked about the compliance ecosystem in India, the Governing Structure of the scheme and the components of IndGAP. Chair, TC approved the same.

4. Composition and ToR of TC – Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, QCI


Ms. Dhawan, QCI shared the composition of the TC of IndGAP and explained the Terms of Reference for the TC. She also discussed the process of design and implementation of voluntary schemes. Chair, TC approved the same.

5. Update to the TC members

Ms. Aayushi Dhawan briefed about the updates to be given to the TC members on which comments were sought as mentioned in point no. 6.

6. Comments from stakeholders

Mr. Dave, Chair, TC invited comments and suggestions from the TC members after each update was proposed by QCI. The updates and the comments were as follows:



6.1. Revision of scheme name from IndGAP to IndG.A.P. – Ms. Aayushi Dhawan

- 6.1.1. Ms. Aayushi put forth the update of change of name of IndGAP to IndG.A.P. She gave details about position in other nations (like AMAG.A.P. for Austria, ChileG.A.P. for Chile, ChinaGAP for China ASEAN GAP for ASEAN region etc.).
- 6.1.2. Dr. Manish Pande asked Mr. Dinesh Menon, Weltweit to explain the case. Mr. Menon explained that there was a suit filed by garment manufacturer in USA against GLOBALG.A.P. and thereafter the format was changed by GLOBALG.A.P. That is why introduction of dot in IndGAP has been proposed.
- 6.1.3. Dr. Manish Pande explained that the reason of inserting dots in GAP is to safeguard against any litigation for use of the trademark on brand GAP and for brand value realignment so therefore, it is worthwhile to change the name to IndG.A.P. Mr. Sanjay Dave informed that views of all TC members would be taken into consideration.
- 6.1.4. Mr. Arvind Pratap Singh, SGS, clarified that New Zealand GAP mentions NZG.A.P. on their certificate.
- 6.1.5. Basis the views of the TC members and the consensus received on change of name to IndG.A.P., Chair, TC approved the change of name of IndGAP to IndG.A.P.
- 6.1.6. He stated that all the forms and certificates should reflect the updated name.

6.2. Updates in the Certification Criteria document of the scheme – Mr. Dinesh Menon

- 6.2.1. Mr. Dinesh Menon explained the updates in the Certification Criteria document of IndGAP as follows:

| S. No. | Certification Criteria (version 4 of IndGAP) | Certification Criteria (version 3 of IndGAP) |
|--------|---|--|
| 1. | <p>Compliance requirement is as follows:</p> <p>Critical – 100% Compliance of all applicable Critical control points is compulsory</p> <p>Major – 95% Compliance of all of applicable Major control points is compulsory</p> <p>Minor - 70% Compliance of all applicable Minor control points is compulsory</p> | <p>Compliance requirement was as follows:</p> <p>Critical – 100% Compliance of all applicable Critical control points is compulsory</p> <p>Major – 90% Compliance of all of applicable Major control points is compulsory</p> <p>Minor - 75% Compliance of all applicable Minor control points is compulsory</p> |

- 6.2.2. Mr. Aswathaman, ITC mentioned that with respect to the parameters, we should follow GLOBALG.A.P. or increase our stringency over GLOBALG.A.P. to ensure that our farm certification is stringent and customers across the world should appreciate it.
- 6.2.3. Mr. Dinesh Menon clarified that in the case of IndGAP, minor is equivalent to recommendation, major is equivalent to minor and critical is equivalent to major. IndGAP has more stringent criteria than GLOBALG.A.P. and is in line with GLOBALG.A.P. which would help in improving competency.
- 6.2.4. Mr. Sanjay Dave stated that we would now consider the updated version 4 of IndGAP. It would be observed how the implementation goes and, in the

meantime, data of certification would be created to understand the overall situation of certification.

6.3. Release of version 4 of the IndGAP scheme – Mr. Abhilash Gorhe

6.3.1. Mr. Abhilash Gorhe detailed the release of version 4 of IndGAP scheme and the changes in the module as follows:

| S. No. | Version 4 of IndGAP | Version 3 of IndGAP |
|--------|---|---|
| 1. | Basic GAP has been removed. It was not demanded by the industry, created a lot of confusion in fields and documents and was very basic module. Hence, it has been removed for simplicity. | Basic GAP was present. |
| 2. | QMS has been introduced. Producer group certification criteria has been revised. | QMS was not present. |
| 3. | Aligned with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements and benchmarking application is being filled basis version 4. | Not aligned with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements. |
| 4. | Name used is IndG.A.P. | IndGAP name was used. |
| 5. | Logo is updated with change in name to IndG.A.P. | Logo was specific to IndGAP. |

6.3.2. Mr. Abhilash Gorhe mentioned that QCI is going for the fruits and vegetables module first for benchmarking. Dr. Manish Pande explained that considering the demand for benchmarking for the fruits and vegetables module, it has been considered for now. He specified that benchmarking is module based.

6.3.3. Upon the question from Dr. Jha on turmeric and chillies, Mr. Sanjay Dave clarified that turmeric and chillies in dry form are termed as spices, otherwise they are vegetables. Dr. Manish Pande mentioned that this classification is as per GLOBALG.A.P. hence terminology has been aligned accordingly.

6.3.4. Mr. Sanjay Dave suggested that a sub-module may be developed for dry spices in the IndGAP document, in case it is not covered in IndGAP. Small working group may be created in this case and the sub-module may be designed accordingly. If in case it is covered in IndGAP, IndGAP document may remain as it is.

6.3.5. The Chair also advised QCI that spices should be included in the benchmarking process and should not be left out.

6.4. Benchmarking initiative (Benchmarking IndGAP to GLOBALG.A.P.) – Ms. Aayushi Dhawan

6.4.1. Ms. Aayushi Dhawan gave an update on the project '*Benchmarking IndGAP to GLOBALG.A.P.*' and explained the progress so far. She mentioned that APEDA had granted QCI (PADD) a project for benchmarking of IndGAP for carrying out promotion and marketing of the IndGAP Scheme.

6.4.2. The 10 agri commodities for the projects were identified based on the Agriculture Export Policy (AEP) which was approved by APEDA.



- 6.4.3. Projects that have been approved are grounded now and implementation is ongoing. The experts and projects have been formally introduced and they are working to internalize the IndGAP requirements.

6.5. Spices Board initiative – Ms. Aayushi Dhawan

Ms. Aayushi Dhawan gave an update on the Spices Board project as follows:

- 6.5.1. **Pilot Project for IndGAP Certification of Spices:** Spices Board has granted QCI (PADD) a project for implementation of IndGAP for carrying out promotion and marketing of the IndGAP Scheme. The 5 spices projects for the initiative were identified based on the Agriculture Export Policy (AEP) which was approved by Spices Board.

Implementation of the projects that have been approved is ongoing. The experts and projects have been formally introduced and they are working to internalize the IndGAP requirements.

- 6.5.2. **IndGAP certification for spices under STDF and turmeric in Telangana under AEP:** Proposal has been submitted to the Spices Board to certify projects in IndGAP for the sub scope – Spices, in order to enhance competitiveness of Indian spices in the international market and to support implementation of the STDF Project for development of spices clusters with some pilot projects identified as per the STDF project.

Spices Board, in collaboration with Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) under WTO and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), India, is implementing the project entitled “Strengthening spice value chain in India and improving market access through capacity building and innovative interventions”.

6.6. National Bee Board Initiative on design, development and pilot of ‘Voluntary Certification Scheme on Good Beekeeping Practices (VCS GBP)’ –Ms. Aayushi Dhawan

- 6.6.1. Ms. Dhawan gave an update on the proposal submitted to the National Bee Board on design, development and pilot of ‘Voluntary Certification Scheme on Good Beekeeping Practices (VCS GBP)’. Further, she mentioned about the detailed research on beekeeping practices in different nations that was submitted in this regard.

- 6.6.2. Mr. Abhilash Gorhe suggested that GBP may later on be considered a part of IndGAP.

- 6.6.3. Ms. Varsha Misra mentioned that she has attended a workshop on GBP and would share reading material which might be useful and may be considered by QCI. Mr. Vijayan too mentioned that he would share a document on ‘International Demeter Standards for certification of Demeter beekeeping’.

- 6.6.4. Mr. Sanjay Dave suggested that the issues of approval for the project be followed up with Ministry of Agriculture, and a working group may be created for the project.

6.7. Consideration of TC also being the NTWG –Ms. Aayushi Dhawan

- 6.7.1. Ms. Aayushi Dhawan mentioned that QCI wanted to consider the TC also being the GLOBALG.A.P. NTWG.

- 6.7.2. She explained that GLOBALG.A.P. members have set up National Technical Working Groups (NTWGs) in several countries to help adopt GLOBALG.A.P.’s universal standard on a local scale. NTWGs identify

specific local adaptation and implementation challenges and develop guidelines, known as National Interpretation Guidelines (NIG). These guidelines provide guidance to certification bodies and producers on how best to implement GLOBALG.A.P. Control Points and Compliance Criteria at a national level.

- 6.7.3. Mr. Sanjay Dave informed that he would discuss the point with Dr. Manish Pande and then give his suggestion.

6.8. Activities with SAC –Ms. Aayushi Dhawan

- 6.8.1. Ms. Aayushi Dhawan informed the TC members about the activities carried out with the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC).
- 6.8.2. The SAC approached QCI with a request to conduct SAARC Good Agricultural Practices training for all the SAARC member countries.
- 6.8.3. She mentioned that recently a training was conducted in May 2021 to develop capacity on understanding the process of GAP certification and to identify constraints, gaps and opportunities on field implementation of GAP.
- 6.8.4. She further explained that such trainings lead to increased awareness about IndGAP too.

6.9. Discussion on Financials related to the scheme – Mr. CS Sharma

- 6.9.1. Mr. CS Sharma discussed about the fees linked to the scheme.
- 6.9.2. He further sought the views of the TC members on how to increase awareness and uptake of IndGAP scheme and to formulate effective strategies to promote the IndGAP scheme. TC members suggested the following:
- Mr. S. Dave mentioned that QCI needs to promote the scheme by seeking support of corporates like Nestle, ITC etc. and increase the number of CBs accredited under the IndGAP scheme. He suggested that short videos may be taken from the projects involved in the IndGAP Benchmarking project and pilot project for certification of spices.
 - Ms. Varsha Misra suggested that promotional video on IndGAP may be created to increase the engagement. Additionally, trainings may be conducted for farmers/FPOs.
 - Mr. Abhilash Gorhe mentioned that letter to Head of the states/stakeholders may be sent to consider adoption of IndGAP.
 - Mr. Anil Rajput suggested that ASSOCHAM has a committee on CSR. An attempt should be made to approach ASSOCHAM (Ms. Nirupama Sharma) and have an MoU with them to create a model to increase awareness through webinars.
 - Dr. Patil suggested that QCI may talk to educational institutions and conduct lectures/trainings in such institutes.
 - Ms. Aneesha Bali, NAFPO highlighted that NAFPO has a major database of FPOs and a plan may be made to organise webinars on IndGAP. QCI may come out with a section on their scheme in the newsletter of NAFPO. The Chair mentioned that NAFPO has an important role in promoting IndGAP in the country.
 - Dr. Jha mentioned that most important stakeholder is farmer and therefore, QCI may circulate the information on IndGAP scheme to farmers through awareness programmes at Block/Panchayat level. Post-harvest practices should be reflected in the GAP.

7. Any other pertinent point, with the permission of the Chair

No issue was raised by any member.

8. Approval of updates by the TC

- 8.1. The Chair expressed satisfaction at the great suggestions from the TC and thanked them for their contribution to the novel initiative taken by QCI.
- 8.2. Change of name to IndG.A.P. was approved.
- 8.3. Release of version 4 was agreed upon and further update to be discussed in the next TC.
- 8.4. He expressed the hope that QCI would take further steps expeditiously to put the scheme into implementation.

9. Date of the next TC Meeting

- 9.1. Chair, TC invited views of the TC members to fix the date of the next TC meeting.
- 9.2. Chair, TC suggested that the next TC meeting may be scheduled towards the end of October once the technical documents are finalized.
- 9.3. Last week of October 2021 was suggested as the tentative time for the next TC meeting.

10. Vote of thanks – Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, QCI

Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, QCI proposed the vote of thanks to the Chair, members, experts and the special invitees who attended the meeting.



Issued by:

Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, Secretary, TC
1st October 2021

List of participants in TC meeting

Chair, TC

1. Mr. Sanjay Dave, Former Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission; Former Advisor, FSSAI

TC Members - Name of attendees

1. Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha, ADG (Process Engineering), ICAR
2. Mr. Anil Rajput, Sr. Vice President-Corporate Affairs, ITC Limited
3. Mr. Aswathaman Vijayan, Manager Sustainability - Value Chain Development, Operations, ESG, Climate, CSR & Human Rights, ITC Limited
4. Ms. Aneesha Bali, Lead – Institutions & Partnerships, NAFPO
5. Ms. Varsha Misra, Deputy Director, NABCB
6. Mr. Arvind Pratap Singh, Lead Auditor, SGS India
7. Mr. Dinesh Menon, Managing Director, Weltweit Certifications Private Limited
8. Mr. Narayan Upadhyaya, Managing Director, Aditi Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd.
9. Dr. Parashram Patil, Individual expert

Leave of absence

1. Ms. Nirupama Sharma, Joint Director & Head – Agriculture, Food Processing & FMCG, ASSOCHAM
2. Ms. Neelkamal Darbari, IAS, Managing Director, Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium
3. Mr. Sumeet Gupta, Asst. SG, FICCI
4. Mr. K. Srinivas, Head Quality Assurance, Metro Cash & Carry India Pvt. Ltd.

Expert through invitation

1. Mr. Abhilash Gorhe

QCI Secretariat

1. **Secretary, TC** - Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, Junior Associate, PADD, QCI
2. Dr. Manish Pande, Director and Head, PADD, QCI
3. Mr. C.S. Sharma, Joint Director, PADD, QCI
4. Ms. Ajita Srivastava, Administrative Officer, PADD, QCI