

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**First CC Meeting of IndGAP Scheme | PADD, QCI**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021 | 14:00 HRS to 15:00 HRS**

<b>Purpose</b>	Convened to table Certification Criteria and updates for approval
<b>Date</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021
<b>Time</b>	14:00 HRS to 15:00 HRS
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams VC
<b>Chairperson</b>	Mr. Srihari Kotela, Promoter, eFresh Agribusiness Solutions Pvt. Ltd
<b>Participants</b>	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 CC 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, CC.
- 1.4. He also informed about the Benchmarking initiative and that the CC meeting has also been scheduled for information, guidance and records.

**2. Opening remarks – Mr. Srihari Kotela, Chair, CC**

- 2.1. The Chair, Mr. Srihari Kotela, invited and welcomed all the participants to the CC 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. He highlighted that the focus of the Certification Committee is on formulating the certification process, certification requirements, Certification body (CB) requirements and rules for use of certification mark and these have already been prepared for the IndGAP scheme.
- 2.3. He mentioned that the factors for success of any scheme/standard are:
  - 2.3.1. Ease of understanding
  - 2.3.2. Ease of implementation
  - 2.3.3. Ease of certification for CBs
- 2.4. He highlighted the point that IndGAP is to be benchmarked to the GLOBALG.A.P. which would gradually give GFSI recognition to the scheme.
- 2.5. Thereafter, he invited Ms. Aayushi Dhawan, QCI to go ahead as per the agenda of the CC 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, CC approved the same.

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

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

**5. Update to the CC members**

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

**6. Comments from stakeholders**

Mr. Srihari Kotela, Chair, CC invited comments and suggestions from the CC 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.). She mentioned that the revision of name to IndG.A.P. has been approved by the TC too.
- 6.1.2. 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.
- 6.1.3. Chair, CC approved the change of name of IndGAP to IndG.A.P.

**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.	Compliance requirement is as follows: Critical – 100% Compliance of all applicable Critical control points is compulsory Major – 95% Compliance of all of applicable Major control points is compulsory Minor - 70% Compliance of all applicable Minor control points is compulsory	Compliance requirement was as follows: Critical – 100% Compliance of all applicable Critical control points is compulsory Major – 90% Compliance of all of applicable Major control points is compulsory Minor - 75% Compliance of all applicable Minor control points is compulsory

- 6.2.2. 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 is in line with GLOBALG.A.P. which would help in improving competency. He further mentioned that there is no specific compliance requirement for recommendation (minor) in GLOBALG.A.P.
- 6.2.3. Chair, CC approved the same citing the importance of alignment with GLOBALG.A.P..

**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	Basic GAP was present.



	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.	
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 considering the demand for benchmarking for the fruits and vegetables module. He also clarified that processing is not a part of GAP certification and only washing of fresh products is allowed but dehydration and other processes are excluded. He submitted that henceforth, updated summary page would be given at the end of the IndGAP document to mention the changes in the version, if any.

6.3.3. It was suggested during the CC meeting that BasicGAP document may be maintained for records. Mr. Srihari Kotela suggested that the focus would be on version 4 of IndGAP now as it can also be used by marginal farmers, hence it is easily implementable.

6.3.4. Mr. Srihari Kotela suggested that a sub-module may be developed for dry spices in the IndGAP document, in case it is not covered in IndGAP.

6.3.5. Mr. Abhilash Gorhe clarified that in the TC meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, it was discussed to consider IndG.A.P. scheme upto harvest of fresh produce and module for dry spices would be worked on. During the TC meeting, it was also decided to form a small working group in this case so that the sub-module may be designed accordingly.

#### 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.

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.

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

6.6.1. Mr. CS Sharma discussed about the fees linked to the scheme – commercial and financial aspects. He expressed concern with respect to less uptake of the scheme.

6.6.2. He further sought the views of the CC members on how to increase awareness and uptake of IndGAP scheme and to formulate effective strategies to promote the IndGAP scheme. CC members suggested the following:

- Mr. Srihari Kotela expressed hope that considering the increased usage of GAP and post the benchmarking of IndGAP to GLOBALG.A.P., uptake won't be a concern in near future.
- Sh. Pitam Chandra suggested that exports from India may have IndGAP certified logo.
- Mr. Jitendra Mandrah, GLOBALG.A.P. mentioned that a new website specific to IndGAP may be made for awareness. Visibility in the domestic market may be increased. He further enquired whether the logo is on product/label or IndG.A.P. logo is being discussed. Dr. Manish Pande clarified that logo is IndGAP logo for usage on product with the rationale that logo is used for differentiating from normal agriculture practices. QCI wants to put the IndGAP logo on product.
- Mr. Jitendra Mandrah suggested that two logos may be used for differentiation as follows:
  - IndGAP logo – For B2B communication, for display on website etc.
  - Logo on product – Logo would imply that IndGAP certification requirements are being followed, audit requirements are met etc. hence it is crucial to have two logos.
- Mr. Dinesh Menon, Weltweit Certifications Private Limited suggested that IndGAP may be promoted in exhibitions and in neighbouring nations.

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

No issue was raised by any member.

**8. Closing Remarks – Mr. Pitam Chandra (Chaired in absence of Mr. Srihari Kotela, Chair, CC due to connectivity issues)**


- 8.1. Mr. Pitam Chandra expressed satisfaction on the valuable suggestions from the CC and thanked them for their contribution to the novel initiative taken by QCI. He added that QCI is getting close to GLOBALG.A.P. in terms of alignment.
- 8.2. He expressed hope that QCI would take further steps expeditiously to put the scheme into implementation and there would be better acceptability of the IndGAP standard. Ease of implementation and ease of understanding has been appropriately covered by the version 4 of IndGAP scheme document.
- 8.3. He mentioned that focus should be on export-oriented business because farmers get better returns through them and therefore, they are apt to be considered. He mentioned that companies like Amazon may insist farmers to adopt IndGAP and there is a need to allocate money for promotion of the scheme.
- 8.4. Dr. Manish Pande concluded by requesting members to promote the IndGAP scheme.

**9. Date of the next CC Meeting**

- 9.1. Last week of October 2021 was suggested as the tentative time for the next CC 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, CC  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**List of participants in CC meeting**

**Chair, CC**

1. Mr. Srihari Kotela, Promoter, eFresh Agribusiness Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

**CC Members - Name of attendees**

1. Dr. K.L. Gurjar, DD (PP), CIB
2. Dr. R Jagan Mohan, Professor and Head, Food Science & Nutrition, Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology
3. Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
4. Mr. Jitendra Mandrah, Key Account Manager, GLOBALG.A.P.
5. Dr. PS Sreekantan Thampi, Advisor, NSSP and WSO
6. Dr. Subodh Jindal, President, All India Food Processors' Association
7. Mr. Anand Deep Gupta, Deputy Director, NABCB
8. Mr. PS Naidu, Head - Food Division, TQCert Services Pvt. Limited
9. Mr. Pitam Chandra, Professor (SET), Sharda University; Ex-Professor (Food Engineering), NIFTEM & Former Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal

**Leave of absence**

1. Mr. Sudhir Giri, Chief Executive, Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA)

**Expert through invitation**

1. Mr. Dinesh Menon
2. Mr. Abhilash Gorhe

**QCI Secretariat**

1. **Secretary, CC** - 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