

PGS-INDIA

Natural Farming Certification (NFC)

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS



NATURAL

Government of India

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare

Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare

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**PGS-INDIA
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Operational Guidelines and Standards

PGS-INDIA - Natural Farming Certification System (NFCS)

Chapter 1: Introduction

Certification:

Certification is a system to assure quality of products produced by the farmers/stakeholders. It validates that they have followed prescribed standards, is documented and demonstrated in the form of a logo or a statement. Certification is required to build trust of consumers through the unique identity of natural products. It assures quality so as to guarantee chemical free natural products, to provide opportunity of branding and ownership to NF producers, and to create consumer demand for such certified products.

Natural Farming Certification:

Natural Farming (NF) is a chemical free farming, involving livestock (preferably local breeds) integrated natural farming methods and diversified crop systems rooted in the Indian traditional knowledge. It aims to improve soil health, restore ecosystems and reduce input cost to the farmer to achieve greater climate resilience. NF recognizes the interdependence of the natural ecosystem amongst soil, water, microbiomes, plants, animals, climate and human requirements. Certified Evaluation Tool for Agro-ecological Resources Analysis – Natural Farming (CETARA-NF) being implemented by Himachal Pradesh is the existing Natural Farming Certification.

Applicability of NFCS:

The scope of Natural Farming Certification System shall be limited to crop production, and primary processing by individual farmers/ group of farmers/ on-farm and/or off-farm processing by the individual and group of producers. Multi-ingredient processing involving ingredients from different certification systems are not covered under NFCS.

Scope of NFCS:

Scope of NFCS will be limited to crop production, wild/ tribal harvest and processing by individual farmers / group of farmers/ large contiguous area / on-farm and / or off-farm processing by the individual and group of producers

Voluntary and Non-Binding:

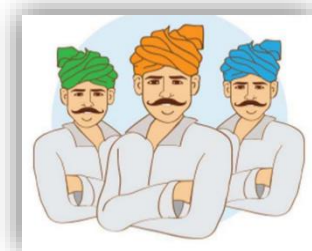
NFCS shall be voluntary and non-binding and is based on stakeholder's cooperative participation and trust using social and local institutional verification while eliminating the need for third party or any other external verification agency.

Chapter 2: Basic Principle of PGS-India Natural Farming Certification system

Natural Farming Certification embraces same principles of PGS India Certification like Participatory approach, Shared vision, Transparency, Trust and National networking.

Participation

Collective responsibility of farmer members under leadership of group/cluster for ensuring the Natural Farming integrity. The group collectively take responsibility for shared ownership, adopting development process, maintaining continuity in system operation and direct communication between producers and consumers and other stakeholders.



Shared vision

A shared approach from farmers, scientific communities, various implementing agencies and other stake holders' making decision driven by common shared vision. Farmers and field verifiers undertake commitment in writing through signing an application/document that includes the vision.



Transparency

Transparency is created in production, processing marketing to till the end consumer with clearly defined and documented systems and how decisions are made. Public access will be ensured with all information through Natural Farming vertical of PGS-India web portal.



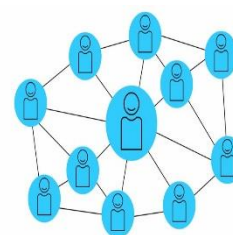
Trust

The trust will be built by keeping information at all levels transparently and assures adopting Natural Farming practices and generating products keeping in mind protecting nature and consumers' health and well-being through Natural production systems defined under "Natural Farming PGS-India standards"

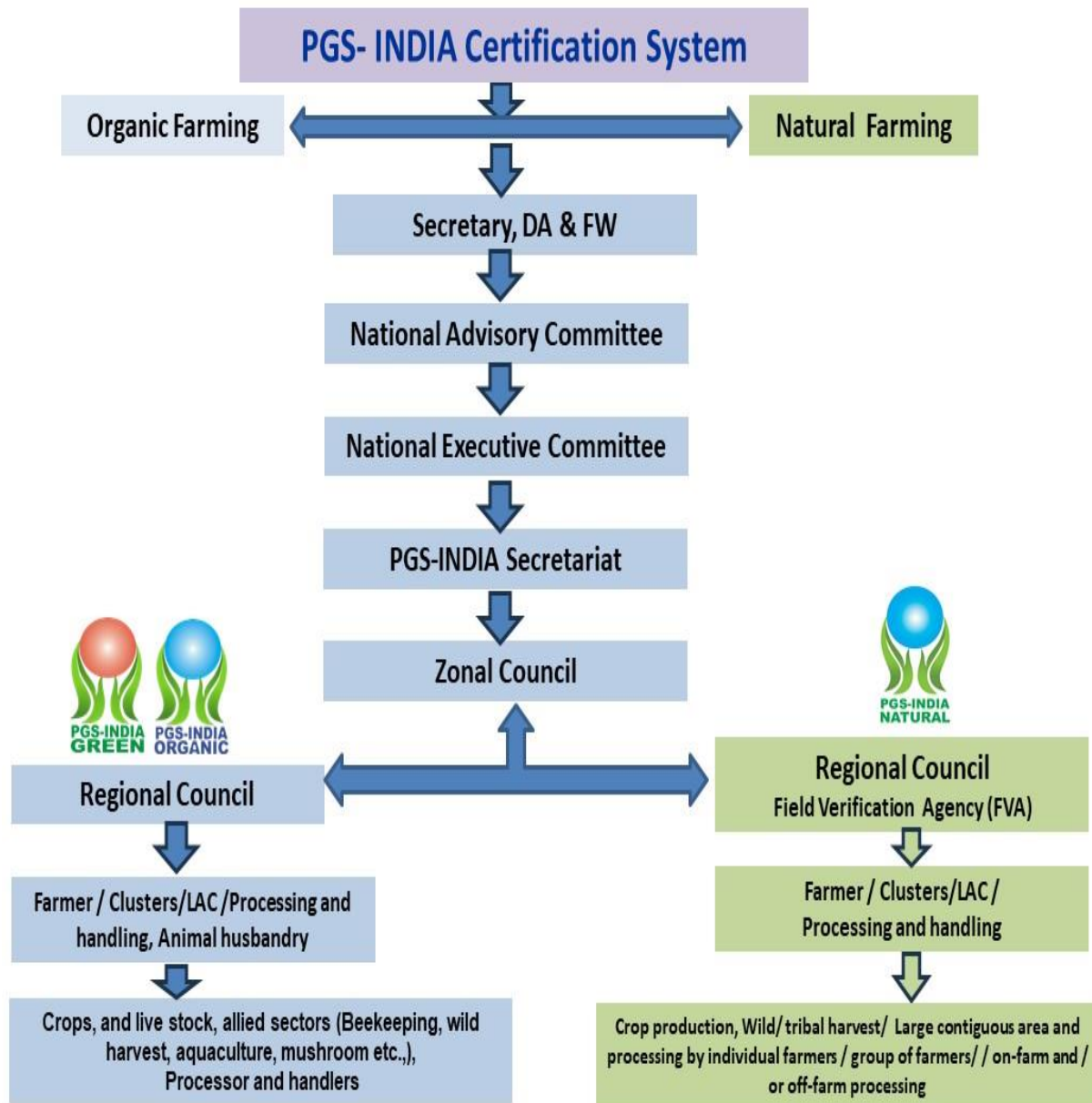


National Networking

A nationwide common Natural Farming Standards are adopted and recognised through Natural Farming PGS-India certification system which will unite consumers and farming community under trust based system, which in turn helps in building Nationwide networking of all Natural Farming stake holders, paves way for promotion of Natural Farming.



Operational Structure



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Chapter 3: NFCS Operation Structure, Role and Responsibility

NFCS will be implemented under the existing structures of PGS-India which will play the same role for the NFCS certification process. The programme shall be operated under the overall control and guidance of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW).

National Advisory Committee (NAC)

The NAC shall be headed by the Additional Secretary (as Chairperson), DA&FW and Joint Secretary, INM Division, DA&FW as executive member and members shall be drawn from Department of Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, DARE & DG, ICAR, , FSSAI,, APEDA, NITI Aayog, NCONF, MANAGE, Representative from NF Farmers (2numbers), Representative from marketing agencies / Cooperatives like NOCL/ FPOs/FPCs/PACS (2numbers). NAC shall meet at least once a year or as and when required.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Defining operational and policy guidelines and Standards.
2. Make changes, improvements and amendments to the programme and national coordination structure as a whole.
3. Steering and supervision of implementation of programme at national level.
5. Delegation of authority and responsibilities to NEC and Secretariat
6. Policy coordination, convergence and coherence with other certification systems and regulatory bodies

National Executive Committee (NEC):

The NEC shall be headed by the Joint Secretary (as Chairperson), DA&FW and Director , NCONF , Ghaziabad (as executive member) and members shall be drawn from Department of Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, DARE & DG, ICAR, , FSSAI,, APEDA, NITI Ayog, NCONF, MANAGE, Representative from NF Farmers (2numbers), Representative from marketing agencies / Cooperatives like NOCL/ FPOs/FPCs/PACS (2numbers). NEC shall meet at least Quarterly basis or as and when required.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- A. Overall monitoring and supervision of programme implementation
- B. Drafting policies, suggest modifications and amendments to operational structure, standards for approval of NAC.
- C. Coordinate and monitor national level capacity building, education, outreach and supervision activities.
- D. Delegation of authority and duties to PGS-India Secretariat

- E. Selection and Authorization of Zonal and Regional Councils
- F. Sanction/ withdrawal of authorization to Zonal/ Regional councils on being found not functioning or not functioning according to the guidelines.
- G. Constitute technical and evaluation/ surveillance committees and assign responsibilities

NFCS Secretariat: NCONF will be the Secretariat with Zonal Councils as Regional Secretariats (RCONFs). Institutional structure and compliance verification system shall be the same as of PGS-India. But for independent identity, the NFCS shall be later on operated through a separate NFCS certification-cum-traceability portal. NCONF shall be the custodian and administrator of NFCS portal.

Role and Responsibility:

1. Overall Promotion, monitoring and supervision of programme implementation
2. Drafting policies, suggest modifications, amendments in operation structure, standards and submission to NEC and NAC
3. Liaise, Coordinate and monitor different stakeholders Including State Governments, education, outreach and supervision activities, capacity building at National level, promotion and popularization of Natural Farming Certification.
4. Supervision, monitoring and delegation of authority and duties to Zonal Council
5. Constitute technical and evaluation/ surveillance committees as and when required
6. Undertake remedial / immediate actions to address urgent issues, but all such actions shall be required for endorsement/ vetting by the DA&FW.
7. Recommendations of sanctions and penalties in cases where severe breach of programme implementation if noticed
8. Mobile App, web portal development and Custodian of entire NFC System database,
9. Processing of applications and appointment of Regional Councils through NEC
10. Supervision of NF products through residue testing including collection of Natural Farming product samples, getting those samples tested for residue analysis.
11. Appellate authority for local groups/farmers against the actions and decisions of RC and Zonal Council
12. Literature development, publicity, technology dissemination and awareness creation through print and electronic media.

Zonal Council: The RCONFs working under NCONF shall be responsible for overall monitoring of NFCS programmes through RCs and act as coordination agencies with State agencies

Role and Responsibility:

- A. Physical Inspection and Monitoring on the functioning of Regional Councils.
- B. Preparing annual/quarterly monitoring reports on all the RCs under their jurisdiction and submission of report to PGS Secretariat
- C. Provide up-dated documents, policies, literature and other technical input to RCs for further information of local groups.
- D. Capacity building, training and outreach activities for Regional Councils/LGs
- E. Coordinate zonal level education and outreach activities in collaboration with PGS Secretariat.

- F. Complaint redressal of farmers and local groups against the functioning and actions of Regional councils
- G. Appellate authority on complaints of certificate denial by RC or sanctions imposed by RC on local groups/farmers
- H. Appellate authority on complaints of traders/ retailers/ consumers on the quality/ organic integrity of NF products of particular to Group and action taken by RC or inaction of RC
- I. Monitoring of NF products through residue testing.
- J. Any other activity assigned by NEC and PGS-India Secretariat.

Regional Councils (RCs):

Regional Councils authorized under PGS India Certification shall be the primary facilitation and Verification agency responsible for online verification of documents and activation (mobile app and portal) followed by mobile app led physical verification by Local Group at Local Level. KVKs/ State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/ Local Natural Farming Institutions (LNFIs) recognized under NMNF can also be considered for authorization as RCs on recommendations of State Govt. and Zonal Councils. Many States have their own State Organic Certification Agencies, which also play the role of RCs for PGS certification. States may include Natural Farming in such Organic Certification Agencies so that they can also anchor certification under NFCS.

Role and Responsibility:

1. Identification of area, farmers and facilitation of interested farmers for formation of Group/Cluster through mobilization of interested farmer's groups.
2. Capacity building of Farmers/Local Groups on NF Certification, conducting Trainings, meetings and exposure Visit, prepare literatures and publicity materials make available in local language to farmers.
3. Handhold farmers in online registration, data Upload, and Facilitation in formation of FPO/FPC, marketing linkage, Branding of Natural products.
4. Grant of registration to local groups /farmers / processors in web portal and on-line and offline verification of field on every season, approval of certification and maintain continuity in certification process.
5. Ensure access of portal data to public to build trust and credibility in the system.
6. Undertaking sample collection and testing for soil nutrient and pesticide residues parameters
7. To address complaints, comments or feedback it receives from the public about functioning of the LGs and also respond to communication from statutory bodies such as FSSAI regarding any consumer complaints.
8. Assisting in establishment of farmers Food processing and handling units, Transportation arrangements for Marketing of Natural farming produce Building traceability supply chain and Natural farming activities of field.

9. Organizing workshop/seminars etc., if requires in association with National / Regional Secretariat / State Government.
10. Perform any other roles that may be advised by time to time by National / Regional Secretariat of NF.

Dos and Don'ts for Regional Council

Dos
I. Ensuring Field Activities of farmers
1. To provide training to farmers and empower them to use mobile app, use internet and maintain records of farmers self-declaration form, pledge, meeting, training, peer inspection at their level.
2. To ensure each farmer of LG maintain above mentioned documents indicating activities under taken for crop production viz., sowing, harvesting, livestock management, field management , crop management , practices adopted like mulching, buffer zone, multiple cropping, etc., and inputs used like seeds, NF formulations prepared on-farm or sourced from BRC etc.,
II. List of Online or offline activities to be maintained by RC
1. Farmers Registration record : Basic farmer data, Organic Pledge, rating score details etc.,
2. Data of Farmers, Crops, Certificates issued, Status, suspended farmers list etc.,
3. To conduct meeting once in two months with all registered farmers & to maintain meeting record
4. To conduct at least one training a year with all registered farmers & to maintain training record
5. To facilitate Farmers for marketing and proper labelling on Packet & to maintain record
6. Maintain Field Inspection record : Name of Field Staff, Designation, Date of Inspection, Compliance, Noncompliance records, date of submission to RC
7. Testing of soil for its health & residue presence and maintenance of test reports
8. Maintenance of annual report and other records as above
9. Maintenance of correspondence file made to all stake holders.
10. Maintenance of Noncompliance reports of farmers, action taken and its status.
11. Maintenance of Staff Records -Contractual / Permanent , Training of staff
12. Maintenance of certificate issued with proper seal and sign of concerned person
13. Maintenance of records of legal Status of organization, changes and amendments (if any) in RC organization , Appointment / resignation/termination letters etc., for hired staffs.
14. Within 15 days approve or take necessary action on online data (Application, Actual Yields) submission by farmers/Groups/ Processor Annual Action plan.
15. Completion of Annual Surveillance for Processors within the timeframe.
16. To take up Compulsory 1 % Sample collection and for residue analysis - as per directions of National Secretariat and NF-NEC.
17. Disposal of appeal of LGs against certification denial by RC - within 30 days of appeal submission.
18. Investigation on complaints and submission of reports to NF PGS-India Secretariat -within 30 days of receipt of complaint.

Don'ts
1. Issuance of certificate without field inspection in GPS location of the farmer should be avoided.
2. Non indication of noncompliance of every farmer during inspection.
3. Continue actions and certification process for farmers shall be maintained
4. Inform the branch office and All staff working in Particular State
5. Certification is independent of schemes and if any Govt. scheme is implemented, its sole responsibility of RC to maintain continuity in certification even after scheme is over
6. RC shall not charge high fees and disclose components of fees charged in Annual Report and also display in its website.
7. Strongly adhere to NF standards and if farmers fail to comply even in case of Govt. scheme indicate non-compliance freely and need not be biased to issue certificates

Local Designated Authority / Field verifier:

The local staffs / local designated authorities LDAs are the designated staffs of Gram Panchayat, CRP/ MTs under NMNF, block level agriculture Department official, ATMA official, authorized civil society organization of local SHG leader authorised / hired by state / RCs

- A. The LDA shall work in close co-ordination with Regional Councils and act as eyes and ears of RC at local level.
- B. The LDA shall visit field in every season and cross verify the Self Declaration Form for weightage / rating and Natural farming standards adopted by farmers and endorse it by uploading GPS based field visit in real time and communicate to RC for approval through web or mobile App.
- C. The LDA shall maintain some record/dairy of each field visit and report to RC on time.
- D. Should operate and use the IP address approved mobile or computer within the designated / allotted village, taluk, district.
- E. If LDA fails to take up on time field inspection a default alarming action shall be raised against such LDA through concerned Regional Council

State Government and Its role and responsibility:

- A. All State Officer implementing NMNF should undergo training on NFCS
- B. Farmers / Farmers group shall be registered in the scheme within 7 days of registration.
- C. State should suggest name of LDA timely and monitor their work.
- D. The number of inspections conducted by RC will be the parameter for their performance not for the number of farmers listed on certificate, Noncompliance action by RC will also be considered as certification activity
- E. State shall not allow RCs to issue certificate if the farmers are not adopting standards during conversion period
- F. State shall develop own strategy to maintain continuity of certification even after scheme is completed.
- G. State shall make effort to promote its own brand under Natural Farming Certification programme and link the certified farmers for marketing.
- H. State shall conduct quarterly meeting on NFCS and involve N/RCONF staff as its committee members for supervising proper implementation of NFCS at field level.

Chapter 4: Natural Farming Individual Farmer / Group Certification process

Natural Farming Individual Farmer (NF-IF)

Any Individual farmer practicing Natural Farming is eligible for registering and availing certification. The individual farmer practicing Natural farming and standards will be directly verified by RC

Natural Farming Local Groups (NF-LGs):

It is a group of farmers that live in the same village or nearby villages and interact regularly with each other. Farmers undergo trainings, exposure visits, learn and adopt Natural farming practices and standards in field, follow proper transportation, storage, packing, labelling and brand building activity with support of RC as per approved standards.

Requirement and eligibility criteria for Local Groups/Clusters

A minimum of 5 farmers and more than 50 farmers belonging to the same village who are practicing Natural Farming or willing to practice natural Farming can form a Local Farmer Groups/Clusters. LG/Cluster shall take training on NF practices and standards and exposure visit to a practicing registered NF farmer (KVK and LNFI in case of NMNF) and learn about documentation of NFCS through any Govt. / Non Govt. Organizations (ZCs, RCs and PGS Sectt).

Rating of Farmers:

Based on the Natural Farming parameters and self-declaration during registration, the portal/mobile app will show the level of farmers practicing Natural Farming. This grading will also help in deciding on conversion period and also rating farmers as One, Two or Three Stars.

The following steps and documentation should be adopted by farmer / groups to get certification

- 1. Registration documentation:** A copy of Annexure-I (Filled in Self declaration cum registration), NF Pledge prescribed in operational guidelines of NFCS shall be maintained offline and later on uploaded in web portal and mobile app by LG/Cluster after entering its user ID and password.
- 2. Training documentation:** LG shall undergo compulsory annual training on NF standards and practices from RCs or any other experienced local agencies and the details of training undergone should be recorded in the farmer diary and uploaded in proper format as per operational guidelines.
- 3. Meeting documentation:** Minimum of six meetings a year is compulsory for each group to understand operational guidelines of certification and the outcome of the same shall be recorded in farmer diary and uploaded in portal/app.
- 4. NF field Practices documentation:** Though the entire data shall be uploaded by farmers group through app or in portal however, LG is advised to maintain individual diary and

record all activities including seed, crop management, soil health management, pest-disease management, weed management, water management, animal husbandry, waste management, on-farm input production management.

5. **Field Inspection /Peer Inspection documentation:** Peer Inspection Committee (LRP, Farmer members and consumer/buyer rep) constituted by LG shall upload field inspection and selected activity report of NF through mobile App/portal in every season and maintain record. Field inspection shall be completed 15 days after sowing & 15 days prior to harvesting.
6. **Decision documentation and Submission:** Committee constituted by LG take collective decision on certification every season and record it in diary and upload timely in mobile App or webportal.
7. **Certificate generation:** The certificate shall be generated by portal after endorsement by RC and duly signed by leader(LRP) of LG and maintain a record.
8. **Actual yield update documentation:** Any difference in yield shall be updated within 30 days from the generation of certificate in website and recorded in dairy.
9. **Product Sale documentation:** The Invoice bills generated online / offline, Proper labeling and Branding details shall be recorded. Delete the stock in auto mode after 3 months from the date of issue of certificate.

Note: More than two-year record may be discarded if not required.

Dos : Farmer / groups
I. Ensuring NF Guideline by farmers / groups
1. Maintain all records of activities from preparation of land to sowing to harvest and marketing in the form of farmer dairy
2. Action taken on noncompliance raised by RC / State /ZC/ recommendation, Complete the activities indicated through mobile App
3. Encourage LDA/ RC /State/ZC/Consumer any other agencies to participate in peer inspection
4. Conduct regular meeting, trainings, peer inspections, decision submission and its continuity
5. Submit real data verified by LDA as per available records for getting score card
II Ensuring NF Standards by farmers / groups
1. Use Own Seed, Certified farmer Organic / Natural seeds, Certified natural Seeds, certified organic Seeds, Conventionally grown seeds (without any chemical treatment)
2. Follow Multiple Crop system, Rotation cropping crop rotation system, Agri./Horti./Agroforestry integrated cropping system, Plantation crop with intercrops / Mixed crops / Border crops / Multilayer cropping, etc.,
3. Undertake cultivation of Green Manure crops
4. Mulching followed in the field
5. Prepare own compost / manure , or source materials from local farmers in the village / local Gaushalas/Local BRC units
6. Practice physical interventions for removal of infested parts, Use own plant extracts/ oils or concoctions alone or in combination with cattle dung-urine made from on-farm
7. Use separate materials and space for natural / Organic inputs production at its On-farm / Off-farm , or use after washing and cleaning materials
8. Use separate materials and space for storage of Natural farming products

9. Proper Buffer zones maintained, Use plantation/, Green barrier between non Natural farming fields, proper bunds , fencing ,adopt suitable measures to avoid contaminations from other fields
10. Adopt all suitable traditional practices which can be executed in field which solely rely on natural inputs , which not use any hazardous chemicals or pesticides or any synthetic materials
11. Maintain Animal Husbandry in Natural way
12. register will be maintained for on farm/ off farm inputs produced and processing activities if any
Don'ts : Farmer/ Groups
1. No use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, hormones , Genetically modified seeds/planting material or their derivatives, Human sewage sludge, Minerals, vitamins and similar other ingredients of chemical origin
2. Do not use Source Seeds (Chemically treated, From Local market away from village, From distance Traders, From Departments and other Source outside local area)
3. Avoid single crop in every season , one type of Plantation crop only and no any other crops
4. No burning of any crop residue
5. Not use compost / manure from the Source outside village / Traders/ Conventional farmers / Distance village
6. Don't use material used in chemical preparation without proper wash and clean
7. Don't let other animals, water, chemical / pesticide sprays from neighbor farmers entry from other field
8. Don't use any inputs away from field / villages
9. Child labor strictly prohibited
10. Don't burn any materials / agro waste / crop residue / weeds in the field
11. Don't follow parallel production , in same piece of land some portion Natural Farming and some portion other type of Farming not allowed
12. Ensure that the members do not appraise their own field and no appraisal is done on reciprocal basis.

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Chapter 5: Natural Farming Large Area Certification process

Large contiguous traditional / default virgin land areas are such areas where no use of chemical / fertilizers/ GMOs or non-environment friendly for past 5 years and above are considered for Natural farming certification and unique feature is waiving off of conversion period in this case. This type of area collectively identified by State government, RC, ZC and NCONF and Ministry shall be submitted for consideration by DA & FW, MoA. It consists of few numbers of entire villages; it may include entire Taluk/District which is covered under PGS-India Natural certification system. It does not include forest areas; however, if a village is a small part of forest area, the same can be covered under LAC.

Major Steps to be followed by State/UTs to bring large contiguous traditional/ default organic area under Natural Farming PGS-India certification

1. Formation / Constitution of State Level Executive committee (SLEC)
2. Constitution of District Level Committee (DLEC)
3. Engagement of Regional Council and farmers hand holding / Service providers for implementation of LAC
4. Initial identification and mapping of traditional / default organic area on basic information at SLEC and preparation of district / Village wise maps
5. Forwarding identified village details to District Level Executive Committee (DLEC) for conducting, meeting with Gram Panchayat and farmer members and getting approval in the form of organic pledge signed by all farmers, verification of fields for standards by District and RC and other stake holders and collection of village crop production data.
6. Finalization of villages including geo-tagged maps with defined boundaries with villages and landmarks for large area certification
7. Submission of reports to SLEC for onward action to approval of area
8. Imposing administrative ban on use, sale and supply of GMO seeds, synthetic agro-inputs like chemical fertilizer and pesticides, hormones etc., in the defined large area
9. The default area is declared under gazette notification by State
10. Submission of all details to INM Division, MoA&FW to take up field visit and final approval of area
11. As per approved area upload data and generate certificate
12. Every year concerned RC and Village as a unit to perform field inspections and upload data and send details for renewal to INM Division
13. Concerned ZC / NCONF/ PGS-India secretariat review and submit report to INM Division every year for approval of renewal area and certification and maintain continuity in the certification.

Dos and Don'ts to be followed as explained in case Local Group Natural Farming system in the earlier chapters. State should preferably engage Govt. RC run by State to implement LAC work. In case Govt. RC is not available State may follow its own procedure for RC selection OR the engagement of RCs of adjoining States. State shall take necessary steps to upload proper data and take up inspection with RC staff and make sure all standards met by certified area. The involvement of different department for verification like Horticulture, Forestry, Ministry of fertilizer and ICAR and ZC staff need to be involved.

Chapter 6: Natural Farming Primary Processor Certification process

Any farmer / Farmer Groups, processor, traders who engages in activities such as aggregating, processing, handling and trading of Natural products in accordance with Natural Farming standards are covered under Natural Farming certification and certified by RCs. Processing and packaging of the Natural produce shall be carried out in the Natural certified processing units. The certified units shall be able to use Natural Farming logo and market their products.

Major Steps to be followed processors sunder PGS-India certification

1. **Registration documentation:** Application form. Annual Production plan, legal Status of processing unit, infra structure availability, Natural Products Processing Pledge,
2. **Training documentation:** Once in year training compulsory and maintain record of it
3. **Meeting documentation:** Season wise meeting with RC and upload in PGS portal/app
4. **Submission of Natural Products Annual Production Plan to RC:** Plan for production of processed products and their source submitted to RC. Annual inspection and approval is continuous process by RC. RC approval recorded properly
5. **Documentation of each Processing activity:** Annual sale, Annual purchase, Invoice bills of natural farming procured products and farmers details, Sale invoice bills, stock entry, cleaning and storage, labeling, License from FSSAI, Annual reports, Staff engaged details, etc. may be kept and information provided to RC and keep approval of RC properly.
6. **Submission:** Online submission of processing units and processing products with GPS location.
7. **Peer Inspection Documentation:** The details submitted to RC, Compliance and noncompliance sheet issued by RC properly recorded and compiled as per RC / ZC/ State recommendation as per standards
8. **Certificate documentation:** The certificate generated through portal after endorsement by RC shall be properly recorded.

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Chapter 7: Logo and Labelling

- 1) Once the certificate is generated the farmers/ operators can use the NF PGSI Logo along with the UID code or QR code as printed on their certificate. The logo and UID/QR code will act as a guarantee for unique branding at local and domestic level
- 2) During conversion period farmer's products certified under NFCS will use PGS-India Green logo. Conversion period will be six months from the date approval by RC.
- 3) After conversion period farmer's products certified under NFCS will use PGS-India Natural logo. Farmers met compliance to Natural Farming Standards
- 4) Based on score the conversion period is reduced and farmers rated for single star, Two Star and Three Star with PGS-INDIA Logo Natural.
- 5) All the products sourced from Natural Farming, Other certified products not used for making any natural Farming products.



Conditions for use of logo:

NF certified products can be labelled with PGS-India Natural along with unique ID code provided on the scope certificate, only when they are packed under the supervision of registered operator (Farmer group, certified farmers and off-farm processor).

Logo is to be used only on quantity certified as per the details provided in the scope certificate and yield/ production duly approved by RC. Use of logo without unique ID code is not allowed. Separate logos need to be used for natural and in-conversion products

Chapter 8: Marketing and Branding

On getting approved from RC, Local Group can use scope certificate for publicity, trade enquiry or for putting in to trade literature and also can use the granted PGS logo. Scope certificate will have a unique number, identifying the RC and Local Group along with the farmers. Each certificate will also list out the area, crops and products certified during the year as Annexure. The packets or containers of PGS certified products along can be printed with PGS logo with UID code.

Logo on the product is required to be printed with the unique ID code. Consumers can access the authenticity of the certificate and name and address of the last end handler by entering the UID code in consumer verification window on NF PGS-India website. For traceability of the entire value chain consumers need to contact Regional Council along with UID code.

The right of use of Logo rests with the registered group, farmer, processing and handling operator. This right is not transferable unless the last point of value chain before the consumer is covered as part of the process of traceability and approved by the PGS-NEC along the structure of PGS-India.

Traceability

All processor and Aggregators are supposed to maintain TC for their marketing produce online and Offline under NFCS

Chapter 9: Timeliness, Complaints and Appeals

Complaints by public

1. In case of any complaint by any person/ agency of public, consumers, trade body, retailer or trader etc., against the actions of LG or RC on issues related to certification under NF PGS-India programme they can lodge their complaint as follows:
2. To concerned RC against the functioning of Local Group, individual producer or processor/handler
3. To concerned Zonal Council against the functioning of RC
4. To ZC /NCONF in cases of misuse of PGS-India logo
5. To ZC /NCONF in cases of adverse residue testing report

Complaints and Appeal by Local groups

1. To full group body by the individual farmer member in cases of certification denial by certification committee or against adverse peer appraisers report
2. To concerned ZC against arbitrary decisions of LG members or against functioning of LG against NF PGS-India norms
3. To ZC against certification denial by RC, impartiality and independence
4. To PGS Secretariat if appeals are not addressed by ZC in time

Disposal of appeals

All appeals to be disposed-off within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt. In cases if any complaint or appeal necessitates investigation, then appeals to be disposed-off within 90days of receipt of such complaint.

Certification Fee: Certification fee will be decided by the NEC in consultation with PGS Secretariat.

PGS-INDIA
NATURAL

Individual farmer's details for Registration under NFCS

S.No.	Farmer's Detail	Detail
1.	Name of the Farmer	
2.	Gender (Male/Female)	
3.	Father's name	
4.	Age	
5.	Mobile Number	
6.	ID Details (Aadhaar/ Voter ID / Ration Card /Driving License etc.,)	
7.	Category (SC, ST, OBC, GEN)	
8.	Village	
9.	Block	
10.	Sub Block	
11.	District	
12.	State	
13.	Total Cultivated Area under Natural Farming	
14.	Number of Cultivated Plots	
15.	GPS Location / Details of Cultivated Field / Plots	
16.	Selected Regional Council Name	
17.	Status of Scheme / Non Scheme	
18.	Alternative Mobile No. If any	
19.	E-mail id (if any)	
		Signature of Farmer

Farmer's Pledge

I Son / Daughter of
 resident of VillageBlock
 District.....State / UTand hereby
 declares that:

- i. I will follow the Natural Farming Principles, Practices and Standards in crop production/processing and livestock rearing and ensure a chemical-free production system.
- ii. I have received a copy of Natural Farming Standards and understood its provisions.
- iii. I shall not use any synthetic inputs (such as chemical pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, chemical fertilizers, growth regulators etc) in any form directly or indirectly in my farming operations covered under the NFCS programme.
- iv. I will work with my fellow farmers in the Group/ Cluster or as Individual and will attend meetings and trainings on Natural Farming Standards.
- v. I will adopt ecologically sustainable farming practices such as mulching, on-farm cattle (preferably cow) dung and urine based concoctions, crop rotations, composting, cover crops and green manures.
- vi. I will take care of my livestock in ways that ensure their well-being in full compliance of Natural Farming Standards.
- vii. I will prevent any contamination during harvest, transport, process and sell of natural farming produce.
- viii. I will conserve biodiversity through my farming system.
- ix. I will sell products as Natural only when they are grown on certified land, and have been grown in accordance with Natural Farming Standards.
- x. I agree to accept the decision of the RC/Local Executive Committee in regards to my certification status.
- xi. I will participate in peer appraisals on other farms as per norms.
- xii. I will report even minor or unintentional non-compliances to the Natural Farming Standards on my farm to my peers/ Farmer Group/ Cluster/ LEC/ RC.
- xiii. I hereby declare that the information I have provided in the application is true to the best of my knowledge. I also hereby declare that during peer appraisal I will fully cooperate with the peer appraisers and provide correct information.

Date:

Place:

Signature of Farmer

Farmers weightage/ Rating Format(Tentative)

(Indicative Standards / Principles of Natural Farming for self-declaration by farmers in mobile app submitted at the time of Registration for rating Farmers, Farmers rated as One Star, Two Star or Three Star)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Data	Maximum Score Number Allotted
1.	Gender (M/F)	Male / Female	2
2.	Chemical free areas from last three years	Yes/No	4
3.	Farmer belong to Tribal Areas	Yes/No	4
4.	Experience in N Fin years	Yes/No	3
5.	Cultivated land of farmer is > 1 ha.	Yes/No	2
6.	Training attended on NF	Yes/No	3
7.	Meeting attended on NF	Yes/No	3
8.	Own Seed or Purchased Seeds	Yes/No	6
9.	Multiple Cropping grown field	Yes/No	4
10.	Inter Cropping with leguminous grown	Yes/No	2
11.	Inter Cropping with leguminous Crop	Yes/No	2
12.	Local / Desi Cattle or jersey or hybrid Cattle	Yes/No	6
13.	Number of Desi cattle or other	Desi / Hybrid / Both : Specify the No	6
14.	Any Other Animal Husbandry integrated with farming ; Horse,Yak,Poultry, Goatry, piggery or any other and number	Yes/No	5
15.	Number of Other Animal Husbandry integrated with farming Horse, Yak, Poultry, Goatry, piggery or any other	Specify the No.	5
16.	Use of own Beejamrit to treat seeds	Yes/No	3
17.	Use of own prepared Jeevamrit / Ghanjeevamrit	Yes/No	3
18.	Waphsa method adopted in farming field	Yes/No	3
19.	Mulching done in field	Yes/No	3
20.	Use of own NF inputs /Concoctions viz., Khatti Lassi / AmrithPani, Matkha Khad, Gokripamruham etc.,	Own / Locally Out Sourced/ BRC	4
21.	Use of own Agniastra/ Brahmastra/ DashparniArk/ Neemastra etc.,	Own / Locally Out Sourced/ BRC	4
22.	Use of own Microbial based input application	Own / Locally Out Sourced/ BRC	2
23.	Use of own Compost / manures	Own / Locally Out Sourced/ BRC	4
24.	Agroforestry / Tree plantation in Border of field	Yes/No	1

Application by LG to Regional Council to Join NFCS
(To be recorded all time under NFSC by Local Group / Farmer /LAC/RC)

To
Head _____
Name of Regional Council
Address _____

Sub:- Request for registration of Local Group under PGS-India programme.

Sir,

We the members of the Local Group namely are willing to join the PGS-India Natural Farming Certification Programme. Our group havenumber of farmers.....covers total area of.....ha in the villageBlock.....District State.....

We have read and understand the PGS-India Certification Standards and guideline thoroughly and declare that the group is in a position to carry out all the activities of Local Group, as specified under PGS-India natural Farming operational manual. All the member of group hereby signs the PGS pledge and obeys all the instructions as given by RC/ZC/State/NCONF. We undertake to abide by the decision of the Regional Council and will take timely action on compliance of standards and we shall work unitedly towards promotion of the PGS India NF programme.

We hereby requested to kindly accept our group as authorized local group and grant us with necessary registration, User ID and Pass word etc.

Yours faithfully

(Signature of Group Leader)

Name of group Leader

Mobile No.

Date:

Place:

Meeting of Local Group

(To be recorded all time under NFSC by Local Group / RC)

1. Name of Local group
2. Total number of LG members.....
3. Number of members attended meeting.....
3. Date and time meeting.....
4. Any Other members from outside local group attended meeting

Sl No	Name	Address /organization	Contact Number

5. Important issues discussed and planning done (if any)

.....

.....

.....

Any input (on / off farm) Approved to use in Natural Farming

Sl. No.	Name of input	Manufactures details	Organic /Natural	Approved under NF Standards / State / NCONF

Attendance Sheet

Sl.no.	Name of Farmer	(M/F)	Mobile number	Signature

Training of Local Group

(To be maintained all time under NFSC by Local Group / RC)

1. Name of Local group
2. Total number of LG members.....
3. Number of members attended training.....
4. Location of training:
5. Date and time meeting.....
6. Subject and theme of training
7. Expert persons invited details

SI No	Expert Name	Address /organization	Contact Number

Training Organizer Details

SI No	Organizer Name	Address /organization	Contact Number

Attendance Sheet

Sl.no.	Name of Farmer / Participant	(M/F)	Mobile number	Signature

Peer Inspection / Field Inspection Appraisal Worksheet

(To be maintained all time under NFSC by Individual farmer/LG/RC
each farmer self-evaluate and document and submit data through Mobile APP)

1. Local Group Name
2. Total cultivated Area (Ha)
3. Peer Appraisal for the Season
4. Year
5. Sowing date and Harvesting date **Estimated Crop Production Details before harvesting**

Sl. No.	Standard Clause	Does all members comply to the requirement.	Non-compliance	
1.	Committing to Natural Farming -General Requirement	Yes/No	<p>1. Individual farmer or group of farmers not committed to natural farming in the presence of designated local certification authority / RC - recommended to take commit to natural farming in the presence of designated local certification authority / RC</p> <p>2. Individual farmer or cluster members not signed the pledge- recommended to signed the Natural Farming Pledge pledge and submit to RC</p> <p>3. Individual farmer or cluster/Local Group members not submitted application through mobile app or on the certification portal - recommended to submit the application through mobile app or on the certification portal</p> <p>4. Other Reason</p>	Minor Noncompliance - <u>certificate generate</u>

2.	Conversion period Status (six months or one cropping season after the registration with NFCS) - General Requirement	Yes / No	<p>1. Farmer not completed conversion period of six months or one cropping season (crop sown after the registration with NFCS and all standard requirements are met)- Recommended to follow the guideline and claim certification only after six month</p> <p>2. Not Submitted Farmers weightage scoring details - recommended to submit true information of weightage score information of farmers and their available practices and resources to RC / LG member for considering relaxation for conversion and give weightage to farmer</p> <p>3. Other Reason</p>	Minor Noncompliance - <u>certificate generate</u>
3.	Pre monsoon dry sowing - Standard requirement		<p>1. Not practicing Pre monsoon dry sowing of crops - recommend to practise pre monsoon taking crops before the monsoon, during summer, after Kharif, or before the beginning of the Rabi season</p>	Minor Noncompliance - <u>certificate generate</u>
4.	Multi cropping - Standard requirement		<p>1. Not practicing Multi-cropping, intercropping, crop rotations - recommended to take up Multi-cropping, intercropping, crop rotations</p> <p>Not practicing Green Manuring / Mulching - recommended to take up Green manuring, mulching the soil with live or organic biomass</p> <p>2.</p>	Minor Noncompliance - <u>certificate generate</u>
5.	Seeds and Planting material - Standard requirement	Yes / No	<p>1. Not used Own Seed /Certified farmer Organic / Natural seeds / - Recommended to use Own Seed /Certified farmer Organic / Natural seeds</p>	Major Noncompliance - No certificate generate

			<p>2. used Conventionally grown seeds with chemical treatment - Recommended to use Conventionally grown seeds without any chemical treatment</p> <p>3. Used Seeds - GMO seed / From market /Traders / Chemically treated seeds from Departments and other Source - Recommended to use Own Seed /Certified farmer Organic / Natural seeds / Conventionally grown seeds (without any chemical treatment)</p> <p>4. Other Reason</p>	
6.	Soil Health Management - Standard requirement	Yes / No	<p>1. Not practicing recycling of the on-farm biomass (plant, animal or microbial) either as mulching or as composts- recommended to take up recycling of the on-farm biomass (plant, animal or microbial) either as mulching or as composts</p> <p>2. Not using on-farm made cattle / livestock dung-urine formulations - recommended farmers do not own livestock then such cattle dung and urine can be sourced locally from fellow farmers or from Gaushalas or procure natural farming inputs such as Jivamrit, Bijamrit, Ghanjivamrit and/ or botanical extracts from local BRCs.</p> <p>3. Sourcing compost from outside village/ Traders/ Distance village /Conventional farmers - recommend to use Own Source / local NF farmers / Gaushalas/ Local BRC</p> <p>4. Other Reason</p>	Major Noncompliance - No certificate generate

7.	Plant protection - Standard requirement	Yes / No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not proper Management of diversity, integration of trap crops, cover crops, border crops, adequate soil health management- recommended to practice Management of diversity, integration of trap crops, cover crops, border crops, adequate soil health management 2. Not using of location specific varieties resistant to pests and diseases shall be the preferred approach- recommended to use location specific varieties resistant to pests and diseases 3. Farmers not practicing physical interventions for removal of infested parts- advised to take up physical interventions to remove disease or insect infested plant parts where ever its feasible 4. Not using of traps (such as pheromone traps, yellow and blue sticky plates etc)- recommended to use traps (such as pheromone traps, yellow and blue sticky plates etc., to protect plants from insect pests 5. Not Applied plant extracts/ oils or concoctions alone or in combination with cattle dung-urine made from on-farm resources or sourced locally - advised to take up preparation of plant extracts/ oils or concoctions in every season 6. Not Applied any other age old practice or technique of preparing Bio-formulations - advised to take up age old practice or technique of preparing Bioformulations 7. Other Reason 	Major Noncompliance - No certificate generate
8.	Contamination control - Standard requirement	Yes / No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farmer not kept Separate storage in time and space both for inputs and farm produce - Advised to take up aadequate measures to be taken to prevent contamination through water, air drift or mixing through and keep separate materials and 	Major Noncompliance - No certificate generate

			<p>space for inputs and farm produce</p> <p>2. Buffer zones not maintained between natural and conventional farms. - Advised to take up adequate measures to be taken to prevent contamination through water, air drift or mixing through and recommended to construct proper bunds across field , fencing, Border crops, Hedge planting</p> <p>3. Cleaning of tools before using in natural farm- Advised to take up adequate measures to be taken to prevent contamination through water, air drift or mixing through and properly wash all utensils , machineries, materials used in crop production under natural farming</p> <p>4. Other Season</p>	
9.	Committing to Chemical Free Farming - General Requirement	Yes / No	<p>1. Used of synthetic/ chemical inputs (chemical fertilizers, pesticides, hormones or synthetic growth hormones/ growth stimulants) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), GMO seeds/planting material or their derivatives or their products directly or indirectly - advised to not use such materials else it may lead to suspension of farmer/LG in natural Farming</p> <p>2. Other Reason</p>	Major Noncompliance - No certificate generate
10	Committing to Inputs usage- General Requirement	Yes / No	<p>1. Inputs Not prepared on-farm or not sourced locally on exchange basis or purchased from local Bio-input Resource Centers (BRCs)- Recommended to prepared on-farm or source from locally on exchange basis or purchased from local Bio-input Resource Centers (BRCs)</p> <p>2. feed and fodder for livestock not grown on the natural farm or sourced locally - Recommended to</p>	Major Noncompliance - No certificate generate

			<p>feed and fodder for livestock shall also be grown on the natural farm or sourced locally</p> <p>3. Inputs Not from organic (plant, animal, microorganisms) source and not generated/ produced on the same farm using the raw material from the same farm or sourced locally - recommended to use all inputs from organic (plant, animal, microorganisms) source and generated/ produced on the same farm using the raw material from the same farm or sourced locally</p> <p>4. Inputs used from Industry/ company and not used from local BRCs - Recommended to not use Industry/ company material as they are prohibited instead use the inputs available from local BRCs</p> <p>5. Other Reason</p>	
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Sl.No.	Crop name	Variety	Area Sown (Ha)	Expected Yield (Qt)	Utilized for Self consumption (Qt)	Total quantity Left for marketing (Qt)

Per appraisers / Decision making committee members details:

8.

Sl. No.	Name of Farmer	Mobile Number	Member from (RC/State/Govt./Consumer/Trader/LDA/ZC / other)	Address
1				
2				
3				
Sl No.	Name of External appraisers	Mobile Number	Member from (RC/State/Govt./Consumer/Trader/LDA/ZC / other)	Address

Sl. No.	Farmer Member name	Compliance / Noncompliance	Remarks
			Non Compliance Sanctions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down Grade to Conversion • Suspend Farmer from Group after getting consent from farmer /Proof recorded properly

Decision of Local Group Committee members

Accept / Return / **Non Compliance sanctions**

Declaration

We the member's / decision committee members of the local group,hereby declare that we have evaluated all the peer appraisal sheets for each and every member and presented the observations after thorough valuation. We the member's / decision committee members of the local group..... hereby declare that the entire PGS-INDIA Natural Farming procedures have been applied in true spirit without any bias and partiality in an independent and transparent manner. We the member's / Decision committee members of the local group understand that if any information is found not to be true then the certification status of the entire group will be liable to be cancelled.

Signature of group Leader

Name of group Leader Date



PGS-India Natural

A Participatory Guarantee Programme for
Natural Farming
Department of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare
Govt. of India

Certificate No. XXXXXX
Date of Issue (DD/MM/YYYY) -
XXXXXX

Scope Certificate

This is to certify that the product(s) and areas(s) belonging to PGS-India Natural
Farming Farmer / Group
XXXXXXXXXX

Registered with Regional Council Name

are in accordance with requirements of

**PGS-India National Standards
For Natural Farming Crop Production**

For the process of:

"Crop Production"

This Scope Certificate

**Valid from (DD/MM/YYYY) xxxxxxxx until xxxxxxxx
for those farmer / Farmers product(s) and area(s) specified in the
Annexure NoXXX**

The validity of this certificate solely depends on the continued
compliance with the required standards of PGS-India
Natural Farming



(Signature)

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx Name of Incharge /Head

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx Name of RC

Authorization ID xxxxxxxxxxxx

Date of issue Certificate: xxxxxxx

Annexure No.
Scope Certificate No.:
Issued date:



Local Group Name:
Local Group Code :
VillageBlock.....DistrictState

Year					Season			
Sr. No.	Farmer Name	Farmer Code	Farmer Rating	Status of Logo and	Total cultivated Area(Ha)	Name of Crop	Crop variety name	Quantity of Production / (Quintal)

(Signature)
Name of Group Leader:
Contact No.
Date

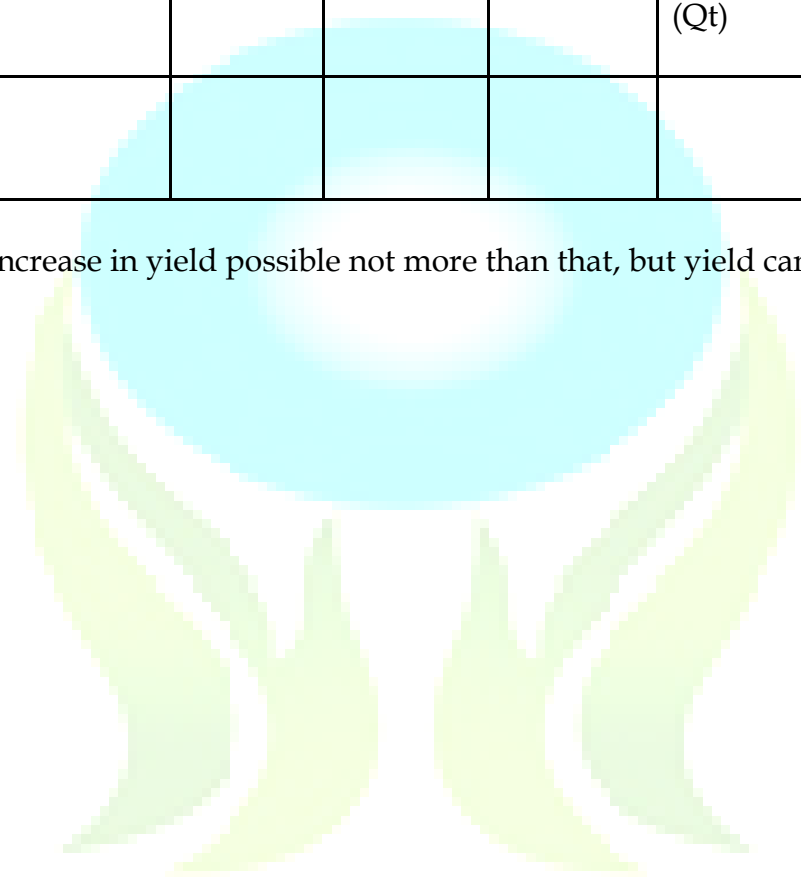
(Signature)
.....In charge / Head Name
.....Name of RC
Contact No.
Date:



Actual Yield Update

Sl.No.	Farmer Name	Crop name	Variety	Area Sown (Ha)	Actual Yield (Qt)	Utilized for Self consumption (Qt)	Total quantity for Sale / marketing (Qt)

Note: 5 % increase in yield possible not more than that, but yield can be reduced to zero.



PGS-INDIA
NATURAL

TRANSACTION CERTIFICATE

(Issued for Natural Products Under PGS-INDIA Natural Farming Certification)

Transaction Certificate No.: Transaction Date:	 
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1.) Seller (Farmer/ Group/Processor) Seller Name & Address & Contact Details :	4.) Buyer Details Buyer Name & Address & Contact Details
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5.) Sales Details:

Products Name	Natural Farming Certification Status	No. of Packets / Bags	Weight per Packet / in Kg	Rate per Kg in Rs.	Quantity Sold in Kg	Total Amount in Rs.

Above Seller certified by Regional Council: Name & Address & Contact Details
--

Declaration: The seller / Farmer / Group member hereby certify that the product is being sold in compliance to NFCS. This is an on-line generated certificate and its authenticity can be verified from PGS-India Natural website at https://pgsindia-ncof.gov.in/consumer_ver.aspx by entering the Transaction Certificate Number.

(Signature)

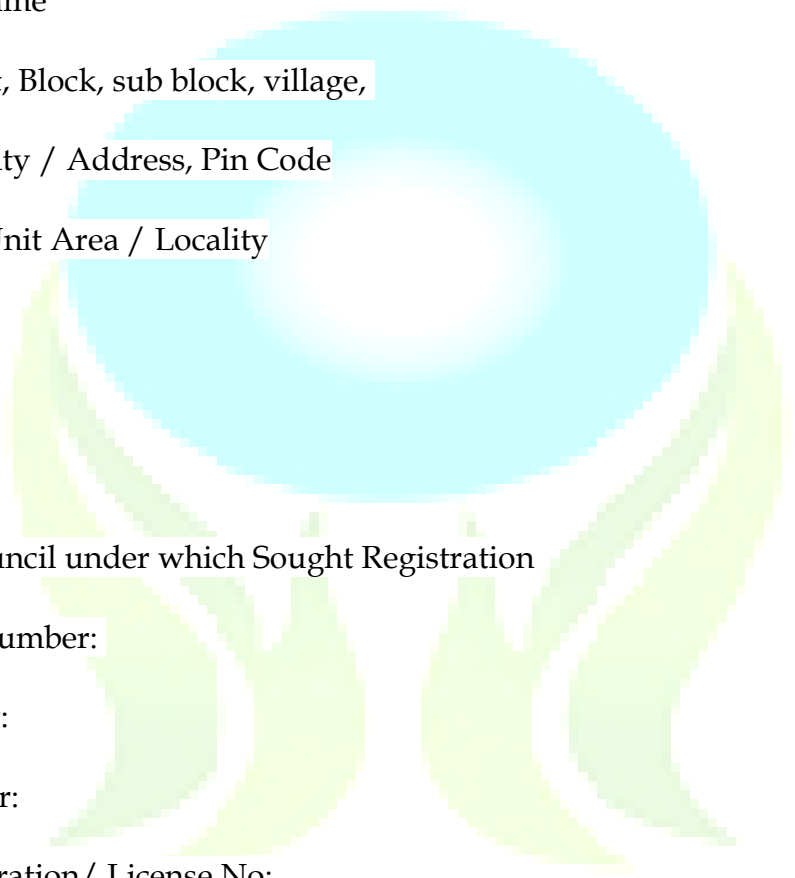
Name of Seller (Farmer / Group / Processor)

Date

PGS INDIA
NATURAL

Processor Registration

1. Name of Person: * Individual / Farmer / Local Group /LAC/ Other Processor
(FPO/FPC/Cooperative/PACS/NGO/Trust/Society / Company/ etc.)
2. Govt. / Pvt.
3. Company Name*
4. State, District, Block, sub block, village,
5. Area / Locality / Address, Pin Code
6. Production Unit Area / Locality
7. Plot Number
8. Mobile
9. Email
10. Regional Council under which Sought Registration
11. PAN Card Number:
12. GST Number:
13. TAN Number:
14. FSSAI Registration/ License No:



PGS-INDIA
NATURAL

PGS-India Natural

A Participatory Guarantee Programme for
Natural Farming
Department of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare
Govt. of India



Certificate No.

Date of Issue (DD/MM/YYYY) -

Scope Certificate

This is to certify that Processor Namely
UID
belonging to PGS-India Natural Farming Processor Certification
Registered with Regional Council Name
.....

are in accordance with requirements of
PGS-India National Standards
For Natural Farming Processor
For the process of

"Natural Farming Product Processing"

This Scope Certificate

Valid from (DD/MM/YYYY) until

The validity of this certificate solely depends on the continued compliance with
the required standards of PGS-India
Natural Farming Certification

(Signature)

..... Name of Incharge / Head

.....Name of RC

Authorization ID

Date of issue Certificate :



The requirements for applying online Regional Council Application under PGS-INDIA web portal

- Name of the applicant Organization
- Registered Office address of the organization with Pin code
- Proposed for implementation Natural Farming Certification in the States
- Branch Office address of the organization with Pin Code
- Infrastructure facility and office location with GPS
- Two-year Audit report
- Email ID
- Contact / Phone Number
- Legal status of organization
- Owner Biodata and experience details
- In charge Person Biodata and experience details
- Staffs Biodata and experience details
- Experience details of Organic & Natural Farming promotional activities

Above Documents submitted with Request letter to Director on official letter Head of Organization along with State / Zonal Council Recommendation letter for considering authorization as Regional Council for Natural Farming Certification. The agencies which are interested to take up NF Certification shall be provisionally considered to facilitate work of certification initially for 6 months and based on performance and competence shown in monitoring and facilitation of NF Certification the applicant RC can be authorized for 3 years. Such provisional authorization and full authorization shall be at the discretion of National Executive Committee of PGS India programme.



**National Standards
for
Natural Farming (NSNF)**

**PGS-INDIA
NATURAL**

1. Indicative National Standards for Natural Farming (NSNF)

1.1. National Standards for Natural Farming Certification for crop and on-farm/primary processing; integrated crop-livestock and primary processing

1.1.1. General Requirements:

- i. **Committing to natural farming:** The individual farmer or group of farmers shall commit to natural farming in the presence of designated local certification authority or in front of cluster members and sign the pledge (Annexure II). This pledge will be submitted along with the application through mobile app or on the certification portal.
- ii. **Chemical Free Farming:** Use of synthetic/ chemical inputs (chemical fertilizers, pesticides, hormones or synthetic growth hormones/ growth stimulants) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), GMO seeds/planting material or their derivatives or their products directly or indirectly are prohibited.
- iii. **Inputs:** All inputs shall be prepared on-farm or sourced locally on exchange basis or purchased from local Bio-input Resource Centers (BRCs). All feed and fodder for livestock shall also be grown on the natural farm or sourced locally. All inputs shall be from organic (plant, animal, microorganisms) source and generated/ produced on the same farm using the raw material from the same farm or sourced locally. Industry/ company produced inputs are prohibited (except from local BRCs).
- iv. **Conversion period:** All crop fields shall be subjected to a conversion period of six months or one cropping season (crop sown after the registration with NFCS and all standard requirements are met).

1.1.2. Scope specific standards (Crop Production):

- i. **Seeds and Planting material** - As far as possible all seeds and planting material shall be certified natural or organic. In cases of non-availability, conventionally grown seeds can also be used but without any chemical treatment
- ii. **Soil Health Management** - Following practices shall be used :
 - a. Multi-cropping, intercropping, crop rotations
 - b. Green manuring, mulching the soil with live or organic biomass
 - c. Recycling of the on-farm biomass (plant, animal or microbial) either as mulching or as composts
 - d. Use of on-farm made cattle/ livestock dung-urine formulations. In cases where farmers do not own livestock then such cattle dung and urine can be sourced locally from fellow farmers or from Gaushalas. Farmers can also procure natural farming inputs such as Jivamrit, Bijamrit, Ghanjivamrit and/ or botanical extracts from local BRCs.
 - e. Any other regional-traditional technique / Bio-input which is in practice

- iii. **Pre monsoon dry sowing** : The practice where crops are sown before the monsoon season, even when the soil is dry, should be encouraged to ensure a continuous green cover on the land. Pre monsoon dry sowing may be practiced before the monsoon, during summer, after Kharif, or before the beginning of the Rabi season.
- iv. **Multi cropping** : It involves growing two or more crops on the same piece of land during the same growing season (Kharif and rabi). Multi cropping involves intercropping (growing crops simultaneously in a specific pattern), mixed cropping (growing multiple crops together), and relay cropping (planting a second crop after the first has been harvested) is encouraged.
- v. **Plant protection** - Management of diversity, integration of trap crops, cover crops, border crops, adequate soil health management, use of location specific varieties resistant to pests and diseases shall be the preferred approach. In addition, following practices can also be used:
 - a. Physical approaches such as removal of infested parts
 - b. Use of traps (such as pheromone traps, yellow and blue sticky plates etc)
 - c. Use of plant extracts/ oils or concoctions alone or in combination with cattle/ livestock dung-urine made from on-farm resources or sourced locally
 - d. Any other age old practice or technique of preparing Bio-formulations
- vi. **Contamination control** - Adequate measures to be taken to prevent contamination through water, air drift or mixing through:
 - a. Separate storage in time and space both for inputs and farm produce
 - b. Buffer zones between natural and conventional farms.
 - c. Cleaning of tools before using in natural farm

1.1.3. Processing and Handling:

i. General Requirement

- a. Primary processing and handling of natural farming operations is limited to on-farm processing and handling by individual farmers or by a group of certified natural farmers.
- b. If required many natural farmer groups can make their federation and get their federation registered with natural farming product certification for collective processing, handling and storage.
- c. Processing methods allowed are physical, mechanical or biological

ii. Ingredients

- a. A processed product can be declared natural farm product if minimum of 90% of ingredients are certified natural produce and balance 10% are either from certified organic sources or mineral sources or from sources free of chemical residues (based on test

- reports for pesticide residue)
- b. Water and salt (NaCl and KCL) may be used without any restriction

i. Processing Methods

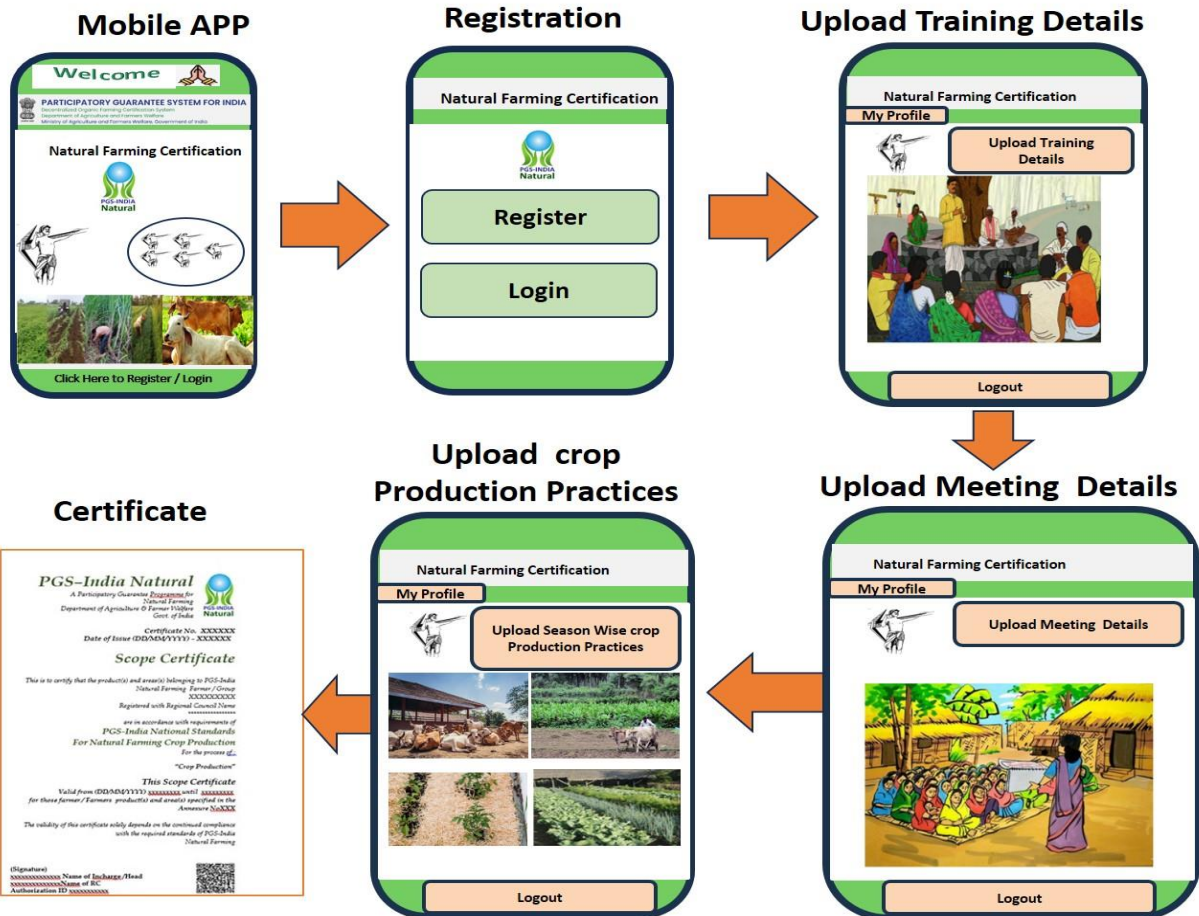
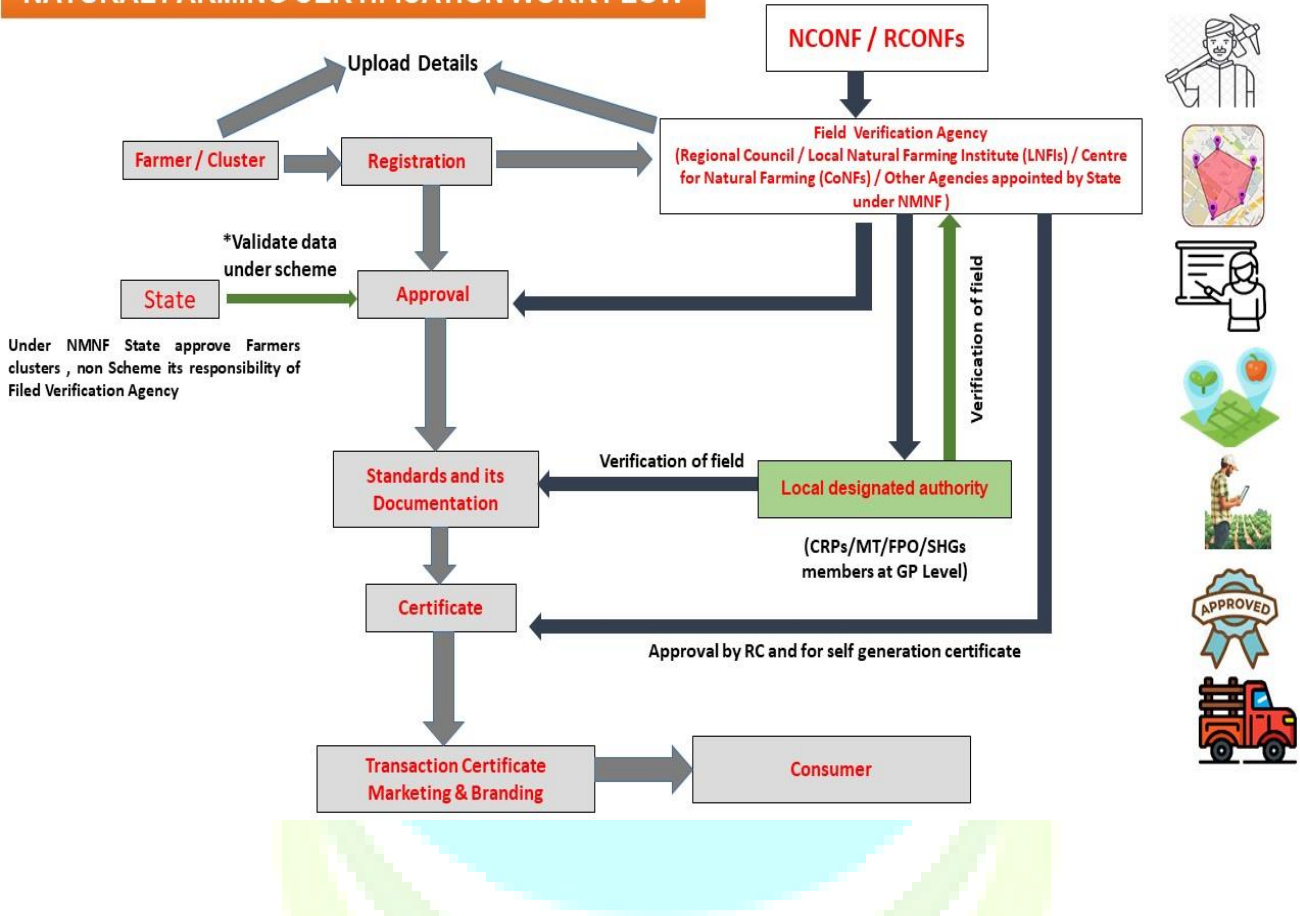
- a. Processing methods allowed under natural farming systems are physical (such as grinding, milling, polishing, dal making, cold press oil extraction, heating, boiling etc), mechanical (use of machines for change of form such as atta making, dal making etc) or biological (such as fermentation)
- b. All processing equipment and machinery should be properly washed and made contamination free.
- c. All processing equipment and filtration aids shall be free from contamination
- d. Use of genetically modified organisms or their products are prohibited
- e. Measures should be in place to prevent possible mixing and contamination of natural farm products with others

ii. Packaging

- a. All certified natural farm products should be traded in packaged form; however, perishable products such as fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy products (fresh milk, curd, buttermilk, Chhach etc.) can be sold in loose but the sellers are required to keep adequate records to prove their certification status
- b. The packages shall be closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damage of the seal.

6.3 Based on above standard parameters of NSNF, grading matrices will be prepared to determine the level of Farmer practicing Natural Farming. This grading format will be used for rating farmers as One star, Two star or Three Star. The matrix will be decided through consultation and field testing taking into account all parameters and sub parameters.

NATURAL FARMING CERTIFICATION WORK FLOW



NF Certification System

Benefits of NFCS

- Affordable and accessible certification for small & marginal farmers.
- Builds consumer confidence in natural farming products.
- Promotes sustainable agriculture and environmental health.
- Enables market linkages and premium pricing.

NFCS Promote

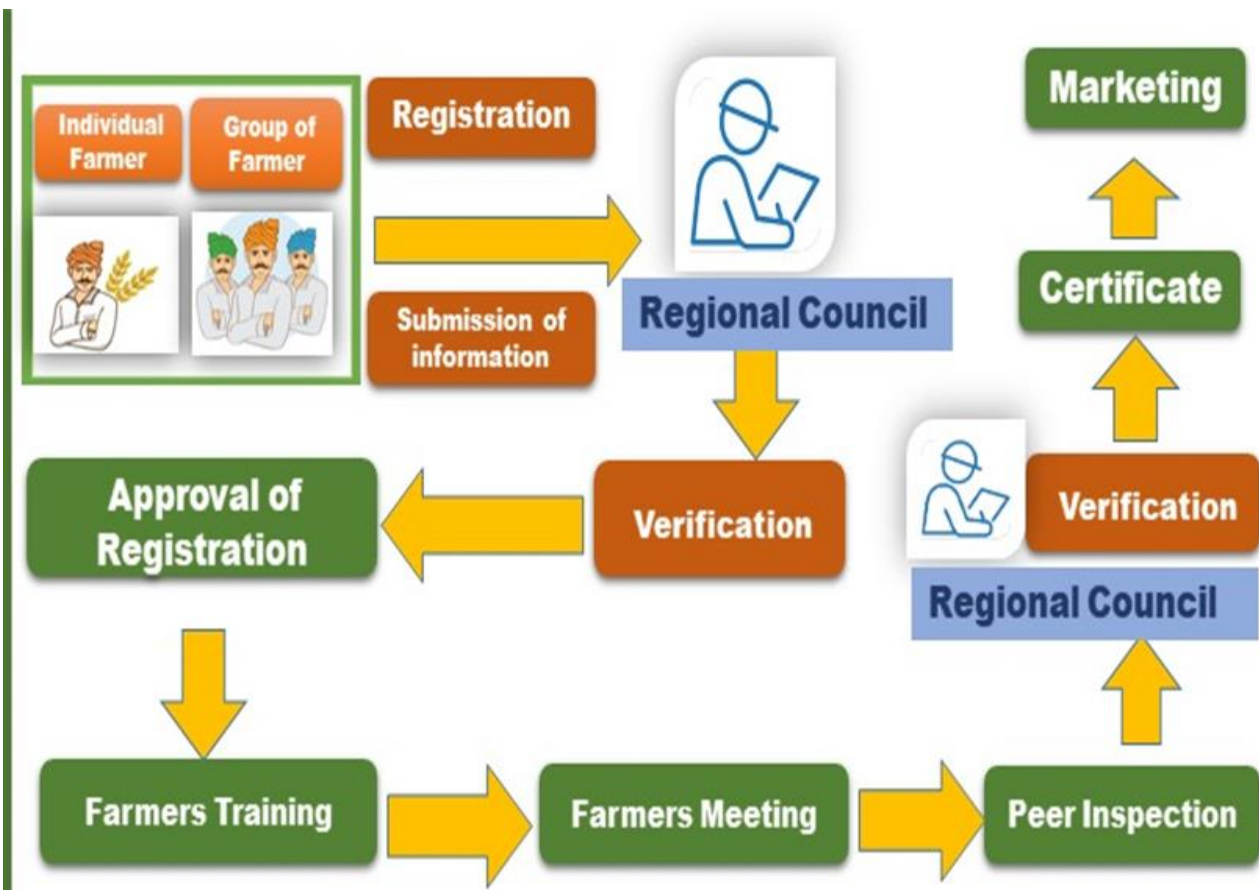
- NFCS is a participatory, transparent, and digital certification system.
- Empowers farmers and promotes chemical-free, sustainable farming.
- Supports national mission goals for natural farming expansion.



Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

PGS-INDIA
Natural Farming Certification





PGS-INDIA
NATURAL

List and Address of National and Regional for Organic & Natural Farming Centres / Zonal Councils with states of their Jurisdiction

Director / PGS-INDIA Executive Secretary
National Centre for Organic & Natural Farming, PGS-Secretariat, Sector 19, Kamla Nehru Nagar, GHAZIABAD - 201 002.
Phone No. 0120-2764906, 2764212; Fax:0120-2764901
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