Voluntary Certification Scheme for MEDICINAL PLANT PRODUCE (VCSMPP)
Stakeholder Engagement – 350 and growing..

- 22 - AYUSH Mark Organizations
- SFR Institutes
- 05 - RCFCs
- 08 – FSMS
- 43 - JFMCs
- 13 - ICFRE Institutes
- Companies
- Government Organizations
- 59 - NMPB Experts
- 60 - Ayurveda Companies
- 04 - GGAP
- 45 - SMPBs
- 36 - SFD
- 29 – APEDA approved CBs
- 36 - PCCFs
Capacity building of various stakeholders for GAP and GFCP
**Sensitization**

- For awareness of the consumer

**GAP**

- For farmers, AYUSH manufacturers, aggregators and traders

**Technical**

- For auditors of CBs, consultants, master trainers, quality managers of co-operations, business operators (aggregators/traders) and officials of NMPB, SMPB and RCFCs, donors

**GFCP**

- For collectors, SFDs, NGOs, Forest villages, Aggregators
Setting up of demonstration plots of identified medicinal plants
Potential Organizations

GAP Demo Plots:

GFCP Demo Plots:
Pilot Certifications
Interaction with 23 CBs (Incl APEDA approved)

10 applications received by QCI along with the requisite registration fee

Complete documentation received from 9 CBs to complete DRR

On-site visit and assessment conducted for 7 CBs

6 CBs have been approved*
Adopting VCSMPP as a SAARC Regional Standard
Interaction with 19 Certification Bodies organized as a kick-start
Capacity building pan-India

Oushadhi, Kerala

The Covenant Centre for Development, Madurai

Sehore, Madhya Pradesh

Shunya Herbal, Pune

Lacon, Certificate Distribution

PLIM, Ghaziabad
About the Speaker – Mr. N.B. Brindavanam

- Presently a Consultant in NRM, Biodiversity & Medicinal plants-based at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)

- He is a Project Management Consultant to Tripura SCATFORM Project funded by JICA. In addition, he on advisory role to organizations like Dabur Research & Development Centre, Ghaziabad, Indian Council for Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun, National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi and Quality Council of India, New Delhi

- Educational Background: Graduation in Ayurveda (B. A. M. S.) & M. Sc. in Medicinal Plants

- Work Experience- Spans across many facets of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Research:
  - Standardization & Quality Protocol Development for medicinal plants
  - Formulations Development & Process validation
  - Pharmacological, toxicological & clinical research projects
  - Regulatory Affairs, Techno-commercial functions
  - Bio Resources Development Projects

- Awarded 5 national & international patents concerning Herbal Formulations & Processes

- Contributed Chapters in 3 reference books & edited one. Over 40 research publications

- Awards & Accolades:
  - Fellowship: Society of Ethnobotanists
  - Bharat Excellence Award-2008
  - NMPB Award for Life time contributions in Sustainable development of Medicinal Plants-2014
Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCSMPP) & Its Role in Quality and Sustainability

NB BRINDAVANAM
Consultant,
(NRM | Biodiversity | Medicinal Plants)
(Expert Consultant, Quality Council of India)
Medicinal Plants Trade in India:

Reasonable Assumption:

Age-old practice- Scaled-up by Commercial Manufacture of ASU medicine
Precipitated by Poly-pharmacy Concept of Ayurveda

Historical Evidence

Citations in Harsha Charita (1st Century AD)
Specific References in Kautilya’s Arthasastra

Livelihoods & Cultural Aspects of Collection:

Supplementary income of dependent communities
Collection methods are specific to eco-systems & cultural practices of ethnic tribes
Medicinal Plants Trade: Current Scenario

Growing Needs

- Plants in Demand
  - ~ 1100 Species
- Large Volume Consumption:
  - ~ 248 Species (> 100 MT/ p.a.)
- Threatened Species:
  - 174 Species
- Endemic Species:
  - 85 Species
- Emerging Global Paradigms
  - Traceability
  - Sustainable Supply Base

Dwindling Resource Base
### Current Potential of the Sector

#### Volumes & Value
- 1178 Species- 5,12,000 MT on Dry basis (Min. 24,00,000 MT of Wet-biomass)
- Estimated Value: Rs. 20,000 cr
- Fragmented & Volume Driven business

#### Cultivation
- 70 (out of 248 high-volume species)
- Areas under Cultivation: 2,02,000 ha

#### Employment Potential
- 6 m man-days (largely during off-season)
- Youngsters in collection & aged members in post harvesting activities

#### Coverage
- At least, 58% nation’s Forest Area
- 9 States contribute to >70% traded volumes
Major Crops of Medicinal Plants

Plantago ovata
Major Crops of Medicinal Plants

*Senna alexandriana*
Major Crops of Medicinal Plants

Withania somnifera
Risk profile of Medicinal Plants Produce (MPP)

Quality

Sustainability

Traceability (includes Legality)
The Issue of Quality-I

- Multiple & Incorrect Botanical Species
  - Historical Usage Practices
  - Variability in Sanskrit & Colloquial Nomenclature
- Dwindling Traditional Knowledge Base (of Dependent Communities)
  - Failures in Species Identification
  - Failures in Collection Practices
- Risks of Cross Contamination:
  - Incidental plucking of neighbors & Weeds
  - Storage & Handling
  - Process failures in Sorting/ grading
The Issue of Quality-II:

- **Risk of Adulteration:**
  - Purposeful Mixing of related/mimicking species/Plant Parts
  - Demand-Supply Gaps/Financial Considerations in Value Chain

- **Risks of Residual Contaminants:**
  - Contamination at Source (Soil & Water Pollution)

- **Commercial Issues:**
  - Multiple Players & No investments
  - Failures & Circadian Rhythms & Unforeseen Shortages
  - Compulsive Procurements (Buy the Available Stuff)
Grounds of Quality Rejections

- ~ 60% of Rejections on Subjective Grounds
  - Compliance to Physical Description (29%)
  - Degradation/Visible Fungal Infections (10%)
  - Extraneous Matter (12%)
  - Packaging (9%)

- 40% Rejections on account of Objective Tests:
  - 9 Different Parameters

- Inter-dependent Nature of Subjective & Objective Assessments

- Rejected Volumes:
  - Resource Lost forever

Control Criteria in the Standard addresses Rejection effectively
The Issue of Sustainability

- Confinement of Medicinal Activity to Non-renewable Plant Parts
  - For > 50% of Total Species
Sustainability Issues-II

- Increasing Demands & Dwindling Resource Base
  - Persistent increase in Demands, Sometimes Craze & Affordability
  - Diversion of Forest Lands & Loss of Biodiversity
  - Increasing Forage Distances

- Limitations at Ecosystem & Species Levels:
  - Gaps between Harvests & Natural Regeneration

- Endemism:
  - Every Species is endemic (Quantitative & Qualitative)
  - Qualitative Endemism is Bigger risk
The Ecological Wonders: Challenges in Sustainability

Aquillaria malaccensis
Cordiceps sinensis
Pistacia integerrima

They are “Medicinal because of Complex Ecological Interactions”
Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plants Produce- VCSMPP

A Viable tool to address Quality, Sustainability & Traceability
Quality Ecosystem: At A Glance

Quality Management

Regulatory Controls

Voluntary Approaches

Product Based Quality Management

Process Assurance

Process-cum-Product Based

VCSMPP: Process-cum Product Verification
Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plants Produce (VCSMPP)

**Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**
- For Cultivated Medicinal Plants

**Good Field Collection Practices (GFCP)**
- For Wild Medicinal Plants

- Based on World Health Organization’s (WHO) Guidelines on Good Cultivation & Collection Practices
- Bifurcated into Two Standards through Multi-stakeholder’s Consultation Process

Scheme Owner: National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH Government of India
Co-owner & Scheme Managers: Quality Council of India, New Delhi
Part-A:
GAP-MP of Certification Scheme

Needs & Scientific Relevance of Standard
Need for Certification for Cultivation of MP

- Promotion of Scientifically Validated Cultivation
- Market Driven Quality Management
- Prevention of Quality Failures & resultant losses
- Value Addition through Quality & Presentation
- Acceptability in International Markets
Cultivation of Medicinal Plants: Major Issues

- Lack of Information: Consolidation of Market Demands
  - Lack of Crop-Classification- Area-wise
  - Promotion of Fads & Unethical practices of Nursery Business
- Inadequacies in regulatory checks of Wild collection
  - No enforcement of prohibitions on Collection of “Cultivable Species”
- Inadequate Consolidation of Quality Demands
- In accessibility of Scientific Protocols of Cultivation
Structure of GAP Standard: At A Glance

Control Criteria
- Site Selection
- Soil Conditions
- Seeds & Propagation Material
- Crop Management
- Harvest & Post-harvest Management
- Identification & Traceability
- Personnel & Equipment
- Worker’s Health, Safety & Welfare
- Record Keeping, Internal Self Assessment/ Internal Inspection

Annexures
- Terminology
- Model Structure for Preparation of POP
- Sample Record
- Information on Container Label
Site Selection & Soil Conditions

- Practices of Wild Collections:
- Quality is Endemic
- Native Habitats - Ecosystem & Rhizosphere

The Case of Ashwagandha & Chitramool Cultivation
Criteria-2: Havocs in Seed Selection-1
Criteria-2: Havocs in Seed Selection-2:

Swertia angustifolia

Swertia chirata
Resource Saved = Resource Produced

Control Criteria-5: Harvest & Post Harvest Management
The Case of Nagaramustaka (*Cyperus scariosus*)

- **The Issue:**
  - Presence of Thin/ hairy roots over rhizome
  - Cleansing the harvested rhizomes
  - Drying cycle is prolonged
  - Adds to the weight of undesirable plant parts

- **Traditional Wisdom of Communities:**
  - Removal of Roots by burning phase

- **Disadvantages:**
  - Burning process is un-controlled
  - 25% of harvested rhizomes are charred
  - Drastic reduction in Volatile Oil Contents
Resource Saved = Resource Produced
Final Round of Drying
Effect of Modified PHT on Constituents of Volatile Oil

Under 254 nm

Under 366 nm
Effect of Modified PHT on Constituents of Volatile Oil

After Derivatization with Anesaldehyde in Sulphuric Acid

Under Normal Light

Under 366 nm
Part-B: GFCP of Certification Scheme

Needs & Scientific Relevance of Standard
Standards for GFCP:

- **Core Principle:**
  - Collection of Wild Medicinal Plants in a Sustainable Manner and maintaining Quality of produce used by all Stakeholders and ensuring traceability at all levels

- A total of 10 Criteria for Control & Compliance

- **Supporting Sections:**
  - Terminology: Annexure- “A”
  - Guidelines for Collection/ Post harvest Management for Different Plant Parts: Annexure- “B”
  - Recommended Packaging Materials for Different Plant Parts: Annexure- “C”
  - Information on Container Label: Annexure- “D”
  - Passport Data for Medicinal Plant Produce: Annexure- “E”
  - Harvesting time for Different medicinal plant Species: Annexure- “F”
  - List of Abbreviations: Annexure- “G”
10- Control Criteria in GFCP Standard

1) Site Selection
2) Regulatory Compliance
3) Harvest/ Collection Management
4) Post Harvest Management
5) Packaging & Storage
6) Machinery & Equipment
7) Documentation, Identification & Traceability
8) Training & Monitoring
9) Workers’ Health, Welfare & Safety
10) Record Keeping, Internal Audits
### Clause-1: Site Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Compliance</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Freedom from toxic elements/ risk of contaminations</td>
<td>Information on exposure of the collection place from insects, chemicals, toxic gases, sewage, automobiles etc., also from or near anthills, industrial areas, sewage lines, crematoria, hospitals, mining sites, public utilities, automobile workshops</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Are the sites close to road with heavy vehicular traffic?</td>
<td>Harvested/collected from plants close to roadside as perpetual exposure to vehicular exhaust renders the plant and its produce unsuitable for human consumption.</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Clause-1: Site Selection

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<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Does the site is known as a reliable source for the species intended to collect?</td>
<td>Site survey report from an authorized agency</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Does the site have gregarious populations of the intended species?</td>
<td>Site survey report from an authorized agency</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Criteria-2: Regulatory Compliance

- Subject to the regulatory provisions of:
  - Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules (as amended up through 30th June-2005)
  - The Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India, Ministry of AYUSH (formerly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)
  - The Siddha Pharmacopoeia of India, Ministry of AYUSH (formerly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)
  - The Unani Pharmacopoeia of India, Ministry of AYUSH (formerly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)
  - The Indian Forest Act-1927
  - The Wildlife (Protection Act)-1972
  - The Biological Diversity Act-2002
Criteria-2: Regulatory Documentation at Project Sites:

- A Copy of Red Listed Species notified by Government of Odisha
- A Copy of Resolution Assigning NTFP to Communities/ Gram Panchayats
- A List of Biodiversity Management Committees Operating in the Project Area
- A Copy of Transit Rules for Forest Produce:
- Receipts of Payments/ Registration Fee Paid to Respective Gram Panchayats (For Current & Past)
- Any relevant Regulatory Clearances Obtained for Previous transactions
Harvest Management: Generous & Ethical

Essential Considerations for Collection

- Quality
  - Market Realities
- Environmental
  - Sustainability
- Social
  - Ethical Significance
- Local Uses
  - Preferential Approach
- Equity
  - Internal & External
- Cultural
  - Ethnic Sanctity
Harvest Management: Generous & Ethical

- Essential Considerations
  - For Collection
    - Quality
      - Market Realities
    - Environmental
      - Sustainability
    - Social
      - Ethical Significance
    - Local Uses
      - Preferential Approach
    - Equity
      - Internal & External
    - Cultural
      - Ethnic Sanctity
Quality Considerations: An Illustration

- Single dried *Tagar* Rhizome weighs between 434 to 832 mg; Average: 633 mg
- 1 ton of material will come from = 15,79,778 plants

What if the -
- Foreign matter - more than 2 %, OR
- Ash - more than 12 %, OR
- Acid insoluble ash - more than 10%, OR
- Alcohol Extr. - less than 30 %, OR
- Water Extr. - less than 19 %
Harvest Management: Generous & Ethical

Essential Considerations
- For Collection
  - Quality
    - Market Realities
  - Environmental
    - Sustainability
  - Social
    - Ethical Significance
  - Local Uses
    - Preferential Approach
  - Equity
    - Internal & External
  - Cultural
    - Ethnic Sanctity
Sustainability of Resource Base

- Limited production base: economically unviable for collectors:
  - Example: OFSDP Sites in Kandhmal Forest Division

- Critically important: Economically & Ecologically:
  - Example: The Case of Endemic Species in Dist. Mayurbhanj
Harvest Management: Generous & Ethical

Essential Considerations For Collection

- Quality
  - Market Realities

- Environmental
  - Sustainability

- Social
  - Ethical Significance

Local Uses
- Preferential Approach

Equity
- Internal & External

Cultural
- Ethnic Sanctity
Cultural Considerations of Field Collection

The Case of Trading with Aerial Roots of Banyan
Resource Saved = Resource Produced

Control Criteria-4: Post Harvest Management under GFCP: Promotes Innovation
The Case of Hareetaki (*Terminalia chebula*)

- Multiple Uses
- Variable Requirements
- Multiple Sources
- Practices Governed by ethnic practices (for Medicinal Uses)
- Process Losses
- High-degree Wastages noted in Different Process
Re-visiting the Community’s Practices

Pre-Heating Sand: 10 min
Roasting Whole Fruits: 20 min
Completion of Total Cycle: 10 days
Optimal Process

- Process Outline:
  - Collection & Exposure to Sunlight: 3 days
  - Roasting Phase: 40 Minutes
  - Drying Cycle-II: 4 days

- Visible Advantages:
  - Brittleness of Dried fruits increased & Smooth De-seeding
  - Improved Recovery of Fruit Pulp
  - Process Cycle Reduced by 4 days
  - Reduction of Wastages: from 175 grams/ per kg to 100 grams/ kg of Green Fruits
The Issue of Traceability:

- Highly Complex Regulatory Scenario
  - Age-old/ Archaic Regulations in place
  - Greater Process Orientation & No Focus on the Outcomes
  - Erased boarders between the Needs &

- Highly complex Supply Chain:
  - Collection- Aggregation- Large Volume Delivery-Utilization
  - Leading to Traceability Issues

- User has no Clue on the Source
  - No Opportunities to Intervene

- High Rates of Quality Based Rejections
  - Permanent Damage to Wild Resource
VCSMPP: Addressing the Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traceability:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Regulatory Considerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpected focus on Clusters/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative/ Social Enterprises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainability:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Site Selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Harvesting Levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cultural &amp; Social Dimensions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Site Selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Harvesting &amp; PHP processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Packaging &amp; Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Testing of End-produce &amp; Surveillance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme Design:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Both for Cultivation &amp; Collection of MPP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations from Certification Scheme

- Knowledge & Skills of Collectors/Farmers
- Consistency in Quality of Deliveries
- RM Quality translating to FP
- Opportunities for Global Acceptance
- Resilient Resource Base & Reliable Incomes
More about VCSMPP

Dr Manish Pande
Driving Voluntary Certifications within the Compliance Ecosystem In India

Primary Processors/Manufacturers/Supply Chains/Service Providers/Aggregators/Retailers

Consumers/Citizens receive benefits of higher quality

Regulations

Rules

Act

Surveillance

Regulator

Regulatory Approval (License)

Government

Rules

Act

Voluntary Mechanism

Voluntary Scheme

Scheme Owner

Conformity Assessment System (ABs/CABs – CB/IB/Labs)

Certificate/Test/Inspection Report

HEALTH, SAFETY
NATIONAL SECURITY

QUALITY, COMPETITIVENESS
GLOBAL TRADE

Market-driven compliance

Regulator

Certificate/Test/Inspection Report

Scheme Owner

Conformity Assessment System (ABs/CABs – CB/IB/Labs)

Consumers/Citizens receive benefits of higher quality

Primary Processors/Manufacturers/Supply Chains/Service Providers/Aggregators/Retailers

Regulatory Approval (License)

Government

Act

Rules

Regulations

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Consumers/Citizens receive benefits of higher quality

Primary Processors/Manufacturers/Supply Chains/Service Providers/Aggregators/Retailers

Regulatory Approval (License)
Standards

Voluntary Mechanism

Voluntary Standards
- AYUSH Mark, VCSMPP, INDGAP, ICMED, VCSTCHP

Private Standards
- GLOBALG.A.P

Private Sustainability Standards
- FSC, PEFC

Technical Regulations

Mandatory

Standards

Voluntary Standards

Private Standards

Private Sustainability Standards

Vertical Standards

Horizontal Standards
Ecosystem of Medicinal Plants across India

- Preparation of technical training material for Capacity Building
- Capacity Building for GAP and GFPC
- Compiling a guidebook with Package of Practices
- Setting up Demonstration Plots
- Conducting Pilot Certification
- Upgrading the Scheme Documents based on Feedback
- Adopting VCSMPP as a SAARC Regional Standard

Medicinal Plants- Raw Material for AYUSH medicines

Domestic Trade of AYUSH Industry = INR 100 Billion
Export Value = INR 10 Billion+

Trade in India, extremely complex, secretive, traditional and unregulated

Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce

Lack of transparent system/framework to achieve ecological, social and economic sustainability
Reasons to opt for Voluntary Certification

- Maximizing Sustainable Output, so as to ensure availability to stakeholders (consumers and the AYUSH industry) in the long term.
- Consumer Awareness on sustainability aspect of trade in Natural Resources.
- ‘To know’ the origin of material Traceability and ensure safety of the product.
- Increased focus on meeting export requirements.
- Using Regulatory Policy and Economic Instruments for aiding QUALITY.
- Ensuring appropriate prices to collectors and cultivators.
- To know the origin of material Traceability and ensure safety of the product.
- Increased base for raw material Production and Supply.

Why VCSMPP?

- Increased focus on meeting export requirements.
- ‘To know’ the origin of material Traceability and ensure safety of the product.
- Maximizing Sustainable Output, so as to ensure availability to stakeholders (consumers and the AYUSH industry) in the long term.

Ensure the QUALITY of raw material and facilitate the STANDARDISATION of quality ISM drugs for acceptance in the science-led world.

Using Regulatory Policy and Economic Instruments for aiding QUALITY.
Mechanism of Execution of the Voluntary Certification Scheme

Scheme Owner(s)
(NMPB & QCI)

Stakeholder Consultation: MSC – SC, TC, CC
AYUSH, NMPB, Growers, Collector,
Consumer Industry, NGOs, Instt., etc

Accredited Certification Bodies

VCS-MPP Scheme

Standards

Demonstrating Compliance

Grower - GAP

Collector - GFCP

Processors

GFCP

Growers
Mechanism for multi-stakeholder consultation

I. Agreement on Governing structure
   Nominations of Committees - SC/TC/CC

II. At least 3 meetings of each committee

III. Criteria for Technical, Certification requirement agreed upon

IV. Logo/Mark – Designed with usage guideline

V. SC Agrees and Draft scheme is ready for launch by NMPB

Interaction with stakeholders viz. NMPB, Dept. of AYUSH, States, Industry, Instt./NGO/VCO and CBs

Time Span: 9-12 months
Certificate No:_________

This is to certify that

Company's Name
Company’s Address

(Certified Unit's Physical Address - if different from above)

has been assessed and is in compliance with the requirements of the Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCMP) of the National Medicinal Plants Board operated by the Quality Council of India

Level – 1 Compliance to GAP for producer/GFCP for collectors

as per Section III – Certification Criteria available at the link

https://www.qci.org.in/certifs.php

This certificate, valid from 23/08/2017 until 22/08/2020, is subject to satisfactory continued compliance by the producer to the requirements for certification and is subject to stipulated Surveillance visits.

Authorized by:

SAMPAT SURI
Head Certification Business

TQ Cert Services Private Limited,
(formerly FoodCert India Private Limited)
A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Tata Projects Ltd
7-7-86 to 87, Fourth floor Nithanna Towers
Penchergadda Road, Secunderabad -500003, India.
Tel: +91-40-66182222, 9908878777

This certificate is subject to satisfactory continued compliance by the collector to the requirements for certification and is subject to stipulated Surveillance visits.

Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCMP)
Requirements for Certification bodies
(Resource Requirements)
**Competence of Management and Personnel**

- The certification body shall have processes to ensure that personnel have appropriate Knowledge of the following for which certification is being offered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicinal Plant Produce</th>
<th>Produce Certification</th>
<th>Produce Standards</th>
<th>Normative References</th>
<th>Regulations for the Produce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Resource Requirements**
Resource Requirements

Personnel involved in the Certification Activities

The certification body shall have

Personnel having sufficient competence for managing the certification scheme

A sufficient number of evaluators and technical experts
Personnel involved in the Certification Activities

Competence of Evaluators

Education

- Post-secondary education in agriculture including knowledge of basic processes

Work Experience

- At least 5 years of full time post qualification experience including at least two years of work in quality assurance

Evaluator Training

- Successfully completed training in audit techniques based on ISO 19011

Evaluation Experience

- Within the last three years the evaluator has performed at least 10 evaluations in at least 5 organizations
Evaluation Team

The CB shall identify and provide the competence needed to perform the Initial Evaluation of the applicant at site.

The certification body shall not carry out any on site evaluation of duration lesser than one day.
Publicly Available Information

The certification body shall maintain a website for providing information about its services

Information provided by the CB shall be accurate and not misleading

The certification body shall make publicly available the list of suspended certificates
The certification document(s) shall identify the following:

- Name of each client
- Dates of granting, extending or renewing certification
- Unique identification code
- Scope of certification with respect to product
- Certification mark for which certified
- Name, address of the certification body
- Expiry date or recertification due date
Information to the Clients

The certification body shall provide and update clients on the following:

- Detailed description of the certification activity
- Certification criteria
- Information about the fees
- Certification body's requirements
- Documents describing the rights certified clients
- Information on procedures for handling complaints
Certification Options for GAP Certification

Option 1
Individual producer/collection applies for certification and gets certification for his/her produce.

Option 2
A producer/collector group applies for group certification and the producer/collector group, as a legal entity, gets certification.

Option 3
Individual farmer may not opt for lot wise certification model based on GAP where he/she gets certificate of conformity of the lot of produce submitted to approved certification body for inspection.

Option 4
An intermediate entity applies for certification of the certified MPP for proper storage for supplies in the market of Ayush Products.
Certification Process for Group Producer/ Individual Farmer/Collector

Application for Certification

Any producer/collector who is a legal person can apply for certification to an approved CB.

The application shall be made before sowing of the crops/collection.

All relevant information concerning producers/collectors applying for certification shall be recorded to become registered.

The CB shall respond to all enquiries received from prospective applicants, within seven days of receipt of the query.
Application for Certification

• CB shall reject or close an application under the following conditions:
  
  - If Initial Evaluation is not carried out within six months of registration of application
  - If more than 20% of samples drawn fail on testing during the Initial Evaluation
  - Lack of competent personnel for production/collection and handling
  - Misuse of Certification/Certification mark
  - Evidence of malpractice
Grant of Certification

The CB shall grant certification after ensuring:

- Complete compliance to the Certification Criteria based on evaluation reports
- Certification scheme requirements
- Compliance to limits of contaminants
- TLC profiling, whenever needed
- Satisfactory resolution of nonconformities raised
Surveillance Evaluation

- During the surveillance evaluation, the evaluators shall as a minimum check and report on the following:

1. Status of compliance to the requirements of the certification criteria
2. Internal self-assessment reports
3. Handling and disposal of nonconforming products
Certification Process for Group Producer/ Individual Farmer/Collector

Recertification

3 Months Validity Period

At expiry

Renewal of Certificate

Before expiry

Send 4 Months Prior Notice
Certification Process for Group Producer/ Individual Farmer/Collector

**Certification Process**

Use CCCC checklist for evaluation (Annex A & Annex B)

Applicant may seek a Pre-assessment

Within 3 months of registration of application, conduct Initial Evaluation

Evaluation Process will be conducted (Annex D will be referred)

Comply with Compliance Criteria

Conduct Internal Self-assessment quality assurance at least once a year

Inspection Timing

First Inspection Timing for Multiple produce Certification
Samples of certified produce shall be purchased from the market and tested in independent laboratories.

Market sample shall be drawn in the original packaging.

Failure of sample shall be communicated to the certified unit for investigation.

When there is repetitive failure of the sample, the CB shall suspend the certification, till effective corrective actions are taken.
Certification Process for Group Producer

Concept of Group Certification

- The group shall be registered as a legal entity as Producers Association
- The producer group shall maintain a register of all Member Producers
- Applicable sites used for production
Quality Management System of Group Facility

- The organizational structure of the group shall be documented and shall include:

  - GAP Management Representative
  - Internal Inspector
  - Member of the Group
  - Internal auditor
  - Agricultural Technical Person
  - QMS Persons
Quality Management System of Group Facility

- The group shall have

  Adequately trained personnel who will meet defined competency requirements

  Quality manual containing all relevant procedures and policies
Reviewed & approved by authorized personnel

Adequately Controlled

Quality Management System of Group Facility

- Quality Management System documents shall be

Certification Process for Group Producer
Certification Process for Group Producer

Quality Management System of Group Facility

- The group shall
  - Maintain records for a minimum of 3 years
  - Effectively manage customer complaints
The Way Forward
Way Forward

Public Procurement Policy to prefer quality over cost

Certification to be accepted as a means of monitoring and evaluation

Government to impress quality certifications as an integral part of their funding. Example:
- NMPB to mandate certification of the projects funded by them
- DGCA to receive QCI certification as a prerequisite to licensing of RPAS

Backward and Forward linkages: Example
Medicinal Plant ---------- ASH&U Formulation
VCSMPP ---------- AYUSH MARK

Aim for global acceptance of scheme through benchmarking:
INDGAP ~ GLOBALGAP
VCSMPP ~ Acceptability in the SAARC/BIMSTEC region

Consumer Awareness through increased sensitivity towards quality

Incentives by Government/Retailers/Industry Bodies for better offtake of schemes
Any CB interested can apply to QCI along with Information in the Application form.

The applicant shall also enclose the required documents as Specified in the application form.

The filled application form for approval shall be duly signed by The CEO/authorized representative/s of the CB seeking approval.

On receipt of the application form, it shall be scrutinized by The secretariat at QCI and those found complete in all respect shall be processed further.

- Validity of certification: in accordance with scope
Team PADD

Dr. Manish Pande
Director & Head, PADD

CS Sharma
Deputy Director

Kamla Joshi
Administrative Officer

Ajita Srivastava
Administrative Officer

Shivesh Sharma
Executive Officer

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Project Associate

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Junior Associate

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Junior Associate

Om Tripathi
Analyst

Tishya Mahajan
Analyst

Nishtha Khanna
Junior Analyst
Any Questions?
These are Tough Times. We are together in this!

The human race has never witnessed such a unifying effort against a pandemic that has disrupted the global economy, businesses and supply chains everywhere.

These extraordinary times are testing how human activities have shaped the globe. A crisis of this scale was unprecedented. We are balancing the need to resume crucial activities with the imperative to contain the virus and the resolve to be compliant to the lockdown requirements. We are making sure that there are long term solutions too.

We would like to thank all the Corona Warriors for their spirit!

We, at PADD, have resolved to abide by the nationwide lockdown and even as the nation begins to ease some of the lockdown restrictions, it is vital that we continue to observe critical physical-distancing practices to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Let’s beat this Covid-19 by taking good care of ourselves, of our families and of people around us.

Stay safe!

PADD team, QCI
Thank you

PAD Division, QCI

For queries, write to: Ms. Nishtha Khanna, vcsmpp@qcin.org

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