

IndGAP CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR GOOD AGRICULTURE PRACTICES



INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT:-

“The Mission of QCI is to lead nationwide quality movement in India by involving all stakeholders for emphasis on adherence to quality standards in all spheres of activities primarily for promoting and protecting interests of the nation and its citizens.”

IndGAP CERTIFICATION SCHEME

IndGAP Certification Scheme has been developed by the QCI to promote Good Agriculture Practices in India. The scheme is aligned as per ISO 17065, the international standard for product / process certification, complete with certification and accreditation framework. The Scheme has been developed to address the need of the domestic as well as the international market. The Scheme is not only meant for large farm holders but also for small and marginal farmers, who can reap the benefits from this Scheme.

The focus of IndGAP standards is to address the quality and safety of the produce obtained from

a unit area, pre-and post-harvest practices and workers’ health and safety to ensure sustained supply of produce of the desirable quality. While the scope of IndGAP standards covers all agriculture farm produce, they are structured in a manner to address the small and marginal farmers through IndGAP Basic Standard and allowing them a phased approach to international GAP; while for the bigger farmers, large farms and group farming, IndGAP Premium Standard has been developed, which they can adopt straightaway.



WHY IndGAP

- IndGAP helps production of safe food at primary production level by eliminating chances of entrance of contaminants like pesticide residues, veterinary (antibiotic) drug residues, metallic residues, aflatoxin residues, microbiological contaminants, etc
- It increases the awareness amongst the farmers on the importance of Soil Analysis, Water Testing, Planning of Crops, Judicious Use of Agri Inputs, Crop Management and Harvesting
- It defines measurable improvements in terms of increased productivity, quality of the produce and income levels
- Many processors, exporters, retailers and food service buyers are increasingly demanding GAP certified produce

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

IndGAP certification will:

- enable farm produce to be internationally competitive, incorporating the concept of globally accepted GAP
- ensure better price realization of the produce, which provides a competitive edge in domestic and overseas marketing
- secure and strengthen the livelihood of small and marginal farmers
- ensure safety and quality of produce in the food chain
- facilitate capturing new market advantages by modifying supply chain governance
- improve natural resources use, workers health and working conditions
- creating new market opportunities for farmers and exporters
- greater trust among producers, marketers and consumers



MAIN COMPONENTS OF IndGAP

- Soil amendments and manuring
- Planting material
- Water management
- Pesticides and their use
- Workers' health safety and training
- Harvesting practices and field sanitation
- Traceability and record keeping

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

IndGAP Basic covers the basic requirements of Good Agricultural Practices and is applicable for all farming practices in sustainable manner for maintaining quality and food safety of agricultural produce. This standard covers control points and compliance criteria mainly for farms that are either small or marginal or the ones that aspire to introduce quality in their farms for the farm produce in fresh unprocessed form for direct human consumption or for further processing for human consumption by food industry.

IndGAP Premium covers control points and compliance criteria for any farm wanting to be assessed for global standards for the farm produce in fresh unprocessed form for direct human consumption or for further processing for human consumption by food industry. The main components of this standard are base modules and crop-based modules:

General Modules

- a) All farm base modules
- b) Crops-base modules
 - Fresh fruits and vegetables
 - Combinable crops
 - Tea
 - Green Coffee



SCHEME DOCUMENTS:

Quality Council of India (QCI) has designed the IndGAP certification scheme and requirements comprising of following documents available at <http://www.qcin.org/india-good-agriculture-practices.php>:

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 2 – Governing Structure

Section 3 – Certification Criteria (IndGAP Basic and IndGAP Premium)

Section 4 – Certification Process

Section 5 – Requirements for Certification Bodies

Section 6 – Rules for Use of Certification Mark

In order to align the Scheme with other national and international requirements, various national and international standards and best

practices such as GLOBALG.A.P, prevalent industry standards, related ISO standards and guides have been referred to.

The certification cost for IndGAP certification scheme by QCI has been subsidized by:

- Ministry of Agriculture under the Mission For Integrated Development of Horticulture ([https://midh.gov.in/pdf/midh\(english\).pdf](https://midh.gov.in/pdf/midh(english).pdf))
- Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in their Agriculture and Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme For the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (2017-18 to 2019-20) (<http://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/Announcements/SchemeGuidelinesMTEF27042018.pdf>)



Creating an Ecosystem for Quality

Quality Council of India

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