

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ORGANIC & NATURAL FARMING

Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad

Information in accordance to the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 under Section 4 (1)(b) is as under :

1. ORGANISATION AND FUNCTION :

1.1 Particulars of its organization, functions and duties

- i. **Name and address of Organisation** : National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Hapur Road, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201 002.

Phone : 0120-2764212, 2764706, 2764901

Toll Free Number : 1800-180-3049

Email : nbdc@nic.in

Website : <http://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

- ii. **Head of Organisation** : Director

Regional Centres : Ghaziabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Nagpur and Imphal,.

iii. VISION, MISSION AND KEY OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Administration and monitoring of Office for National and Regional Centres of NCONF.
- ❖ Promotion of chemical free agricultural systems like organic, natural, regenerative etc, farming in the country through capacity building of stakeholders.
- ❖ To function as national knowledge repository for various organic and bio-fertilizer and assess market demand, supply and production capacities of production units in the country for such organic and biological inputs.
- ❖ To function as national knowledge repository for natural, organic and other chemical free sustainable farming systems, package of practices, best practices and success stories on natural and organic farming.
- ❖ To serve as nodal quality control laboratory for analysis of bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers as per the requirement of Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 (FCO).
- ❖ To develop standards and testing protocols for various organic agricultural inputs.
- ❖ To develop facilities for testing, training, screening, monitoring and quality assessment of organic and natural farming products including facilities for agrochemical residue testing
- ❖ To develop, manage and keep on updating national database of organic and natural farming farmers, organic product producers, processors and input manufacturing facilities
- ❖ To serve as Secretariat for Organic, Natural farming and other chemical free sustainable Certification System and will also work for developing standards and compliance assessment protocol for other worldwide accepted product

and process certification systems for chemical-free agricultural systems including agro-chemical residue free certification.

- ❖ To co-ordinate and liaise with all scientific Institutes like MANAGE, SAMETI, ICAR, SAU etc and regulatory Institutes (FSSAI, APEDA, BIS, QCI, NABL and other Centre and State agencies) for ensuring quality at all levels for organic products and processes.
- ❖ To carryout IEC activities related to organic and natural farming system by organizing/participating in National / International Exhibitions/ Trade Fairs, Seminars and events.
- ❖ To create awareness and publicity by print and electronic media and publication of training literature, quarterly organic farming newsletter, half-yearly biofertiliser newsletter and validated and documented indigenous practices
- ❖ To support Central and State Governments in policy formulation, monitoring, evaluation and introduction of new schemes, activities, programmes related to organic, natural and other forms of non-chemical farming systems.

iv. Functions and Duties :

- I) Strengthening and up-gradation of National Centre of Organic Farming/Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming in respect of Buildings, staff and equipments
- II) Development and implementation of quality control regime and technical support for organic and biological inputs
 - (i) Quality Control Analysis of Biofertilizer and Organic Fertilizers
 - (ii) Development of quality control regime for organic input which are not covered under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO,1985)
 - (iii) Development and maintenance of authenticated strains of microorganisms
- III) Human resource development through trainings
 - (i) Certificate Course on organic farming
 - (ii) Training/Refresher course for Analysts/Fertilizer Inspectors
 - (iii) Training on PGS Certification
 - (iv) Training of Field Functionaries / Extension Officers on Organic Farming
 - (v) International Trainers' training/ cooperation and liaison with international bodies
- IV) Facilitate and implement alternative Organic Certification process-Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India) with development of standards and protocols
- V) Support and encourage production and use of organic inputs through Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for setting up of Commercial input Production units
- VI) Publication of Newsletters, Training manuals and literature etc and collection of data related to organic farming and inputs
- VII) Encourage and Support Research, studies and/or surveys etc on organic package of practices, inputs and management protocols proposed by government agencies.
- VIII) New Initiatives, Market Development, Awareness Creation, Publicity and Evaluation

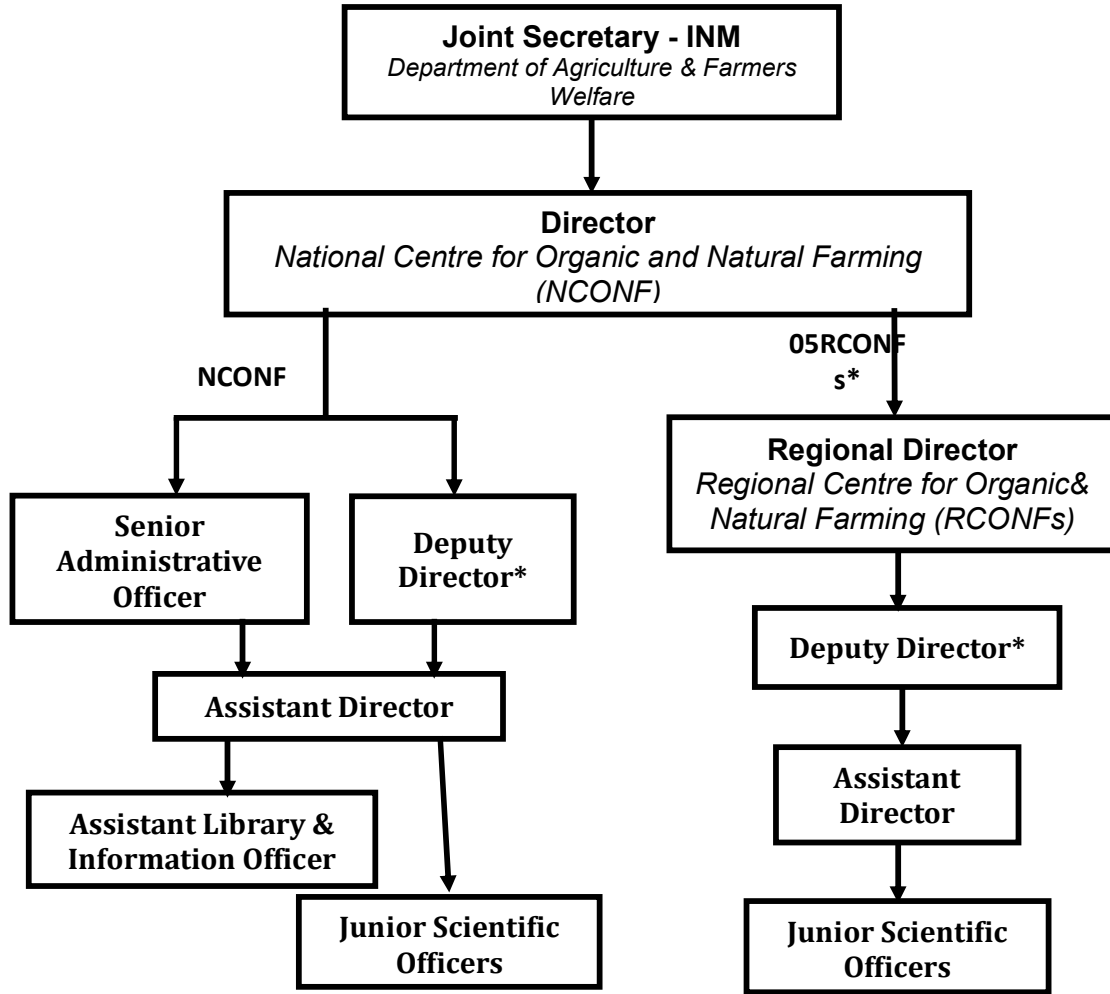
IX) Evaluation and monitoring of organic agriculture schemes/ programmes of Central and State Governments

- **List of services being provided by the public authority with a brief write-up on them**

a. Certificate Course on Organic Farming for Rural youth having Intermediate qualification (30 days)
b. Trainers training on various subjects i.e (i) Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), (ii) Certification system of organic farming (iii) Organic Management, (iv) Production & Quality Control of organic inputs & other related aspects.
c. Training for Field Functionaries/ Extension Officers on Organic Farming Management & cultivation practices (02 days)
d. Farmers training and demonstration to create awareness at village about organic farming and its benefit including PGS-India portal operation (1 day)
a. Nodal quality analysis laboratory for biofertilisers and organic inputs under FCO-1985
b. Development of standards and quality analysis protocols for new inputs
c. Maintenance of biofertilizer mother culture strains.
To disseminate effective and productive package of practices for different crops.
To develop uniform training literature, publication of newsletters and technology dissemination
Facilitating Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India) of organic certification of farmers organic produce for the domestic market.
Seminars/ conferences/ workshops/exhibitions and publicity through print and electronic media.

v. **Organisational Chart**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



* Deputy Director : only two posts exists in the organisation

vi. **Any other details – the genesis, inception, formation of the department and the HODs from time to time as well as committee/ commissions constituted from time to time have been dealt**

Brief history of the public authority

National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) was being implemented under umbrella of KrishiUnnatiYojana's National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) through National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF). During 2022-23 Government has restructured NCOF as National Center for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) with revised mandate to promote chemical free farming including natural farming with following mandates::

Mandates

- ❖ Administration and monitoring of Office for National and Regional Centres of NCONF.
- ❖ Promotion of chemical free agricultural systems like organic, natural, regenerative etc, farming in the country through capacity building of stakeholders.
- ❖ To function as national knowledge repository for various organic and bio-fertilizer and assess market demand, supply and production capacities of production units in the country for such organic and biological inputs.
- ❖ To function as national knowledge repository for natural, organic and other chemical free sustainable farming systems, package of practices, best practices and success stories on natural and organic farming.
- ❖ To serve as nodal quality control laboratory for analysis of bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers as per the requirement of Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 (FCO).
- ❖ To develop standards and testing protocols for various organic agricultural inputs.
- ❖ To develop facilities for testing, training, screening, monitoring and quality assessment of organic and natural farming products including facilities for agrochemical residue testing
- ❖ To develop, manage and keep on updating national database of organic and natural farming farmers, organic product producers, processors and input manufacturing facilities
- ❖ To serve as Secretariat for Organic, Natural farming and other chemical free sustainable Certification System and will also work for developing standards and compliance assessment protocol for other worldwide accepted product and process certification systems for chemical-free agricultural systems including agro-chemical residue free certification.
- ❖ To co-ordinate and liaise with all scientific Institutes like MANAGE, SAMETI, ICAR, SAU etc and regulatory Institutes (FSSAI, APEDA, BIS, QCI, NABL and other Centre and State agencies) for ensuring quality at all levels for organic products and processes.
- ❖ To carryout IEC activities related to organic and natural farming system by organizing/participating in National / International Exhibitions/ Trade Fairs, Seminars and events.
- ❖ To create awareness and publicity by print and electronic media and publication of training literature, quarterly organic farming newsletter, half-yearly biofertiliser newsletter and validated and documented indigenous practices

- ❖ To support Central and State Governments in policy formulation, monitoring, evaluation and introduction of new schemes, activities, programmes related to organic, natural and other forms of non-chemical farming systems.

1.2 Powers and duties of its officers and employees :

The duties of the Officers and employees working in the National/ Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming are allocated through order of Work Allocation from time to time and as per Manual of Office Procedure. The following is a list of posts and its powers and duties of this organization :

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Powers and duties*
1	Director	Overall Technical and Administrative head of NCONF&RCONFs. He holds the powers delegated by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare for time to time.
2	Regional Director	Regional Directors are head of their respective RCONFs and holds the administrative and financial powers delegated to them by the Director, NCONF for execution of administrative and technical activities of RCONFs.
3	Senior Administrative Officer	To look after all administrative, personal and accounts responsibilities at NCONF and matters related with RCONFs.
4	Deputy Director	Management of Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme & Coordination with NABARD, Coordination/ Parliament & Audit matters, disposal of grievances and complaints of farmers, training related matters etc.
5	Assistant Director	Assistant Directors assist Regional/ Deputy Directors in discharge of their responsibilities. They are responsible for implementation of assigned technical targets with the assistance of JSOs.
6	Junior Scientific Officer	Junior Scientific Officers are responsible for implementation of all technical work such as analysis of quality control samples and provide assistance to Assistant Director/ Deputy Director/ Regional Director, as case may be.
7	Assistant Library & Information Officer	Over all responsible to all technical activities, up-keep and maintenance of library.
8	Store Keeper	Responsible for maintenance of chemical and technical stores.
9	Accountant	Responsible for all accounts related work and to assist DDO, HOO, SAO, Regional Director for financial matters.
10	Stenographer Grade I	Assisting Director, Regional Director, Senior Administrative officer and Deputy Directors. Taking dictations, transcription etc.
11	Stenographer Grade II	
12	Junior Hindi Translator	All Translation related work, Implementation of policies of Rajbhasha Vibhag.
13	Upper Division Clerk	Data loading, personal matters, Cash handling and typing etc.
14	Lower Division Clerk	Typing, file maintenance, record keeping, receipt and dispatch etc.
15	Technical Assistant	To assist JSOs in discharging of technical/ Laboratory activities
16	Laboratory Assistant	To assist TA/JSOs in discharging of technical activities.

17	Driver Grade I	Driving and up-keep of vehicle.
18	Driver Grade II	
19	Ordinary Grade	
20	Field-cum-Lab Attendant	Responsible for maintenance and up-keep of laboratory, cleaning of glassware, preparation of distilled water.
21	Multi-Tasking Staff	Responsible for office works and to assist respective officer.

* The powers and duties, mentioned against each post, are post specific and may vary with allocation of work order. Duties also include some deviation of work, on need basis assignment, from time to time to any post.

All the duties and powers are technical and administrative in nature. Besides, maintaining of office files/records, registers like budget, parliament matters, VIP references relating to various aspects of organic farming and biofertilisers.

The Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Ghaziabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Panchkula, Imphal, Jabalpur, Nagpur, Patna and Gandhinagar are the attached offices of National Centre of Organic Farming. The Regional Directors of each centre are the head of offices and are exercising all administrative and financial powers as delegated to them from time to time.

1.3 Procedure followed in decision making process :

As per rules, regulations prescribed by the Government for the purpose and guidelines issued by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare from time to time.

Key decision making points :

Sl. No.	Subject on which the decision is to be taken	Guidelines/ directions, if any	Process of execution
1	Quality status of samples of Biofertilisers and Organic Farming	As per FCO 1985 standards	Office Incharge of RCONF Labs.
2	Organization of trainings	As per guidelines set by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare	Office Incharge of RCONF Labs.
3	Decision on contents in publications such as training manuals and newsletters.	As per the prevailing practices	Collection of MSS, editing, processing and publishing

Channels of supervision and accountability :

Director, Regional Directors, Deputy Director, Senior Administrative Officer, Assistant Directors, Junior Scientific Officers.

Final decision marking authority :

Joint Secretary (INM), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

1.4 Norms for discharge of functions :

The centre is sensitized to redress grievances in a responsible and effective manner through the following:

- a. A grievances cell has been set up in the centre as well as its Regional offices in order to ensure speedy redressal of grievances received from public and employees directly or through Department of administrative reforms and Public Grievances.
- b. Director, National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Ghaziabad functions as Director (Public Grievances) and Regional Director/Head of Office functions as Grievance officer in their jurisdictions in order to ensure expeditious redressal of grievances.
- c. On every Tuesday between 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, the public can meet the Director/Regional Director/Assistant Director with regards to their grievances and complaints.

Name, address and contact numbers of grievance redressing officers

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Sl.No.	Name of officer with address	Contact Numbers	Jurisdiction
1.	Dr. Gagnesh Sharma, Director National Centre for Organic & Natural Farming, Hapur Road, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad – 201002 (Uttar Pradesh)	Phone:0120-2764906, 2764212, Email: nbdc@nic.in	All India in respect of NCONF and RCONFs
2	Sh. Ravindara Kumar, Regional Director Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (HQ), First Floor, Campus of NCONF, Hapur Road, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad – 201002 (Uttar Pradesh)	Phone:0120-2764212, Email: rcofhq.gzb-agri@gov.in	Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi & Chandigarh.
3	Sh. Ravindara Kumar, Regional Director(Additional Charge) Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming Kannamangala, Cross, Whitefield – Hosekote Road, Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru-560067 (Karnataka)	Phone:080-28450503 Email: biofkk06@nic.in ,	Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Daman & Diu, Lakshdweep& Puducherry.
4	Dr. V.K. Verma, Regional Director Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Khandagiri-ChandakaRoad, Near Kalinga Studio Chowk, Ghatikia Bhubaneshwar-751003 (Odisha)	Phone:0674-2721281 Email: biofor04.or@nic.in	Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

5	Dr. V.Y. Deoghare, Deputy Director Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming Langol Road, Lamphelpat, Imphal-795004 (Manipur)	Phone: 0385-2413239 Email: biofmn01@nic.in	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram , Nagaland and Tripura.
6	Dr. A.S. Rajput, Regional Director, Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Amravati Road, NH 6, Village Gondkhairi, Post Wadi, Kalmeshwar, Nagpur- 440023 (Maharashtra)	Phone: 07118-297054, Email: biofmn10@nic.in	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra , Dadar & Nagar Haveli

1.5 Rules, regulations, instructions manual and records for discharging functions

Type of Document : choose one of the types given below (Rules, Regulation, Instructions, Manual, Records, Others	Brief write-up on the document	From where one can get a copy of rules, regulation, instructions, manuals and records	Fee charged by the department for a copy of rules, regulations, instructions, manual and records (if any)
Rules and regulations	Government instructions issued from time to time regarding rules and regulations	From the website of Department and from open market	Free of cost and available in the website of the Department.
Manuals and booklets	Information related with various activities, objectives of the Project. Booklets on publicity of organic farming, trainings and related aspects	From the website of Department NCONF and RCONFs	Free of cost
Newsletters	Articles, News on Biofertiliser and Organic Farming	From the website of Department and NCONF	Free of cost.
Books	On various aspects of Organic Farming, Biofertilisers, Agricultural Sciences, Literature etc. and reference books	Own publications from NCONF/ RCONFs and other publications from open market	Own publications free of cost and others as per market price. The books are available for consultation only.
Journals/periodicals	On various aspects of Organic Farming, Biofertilisers, Agricultural	Own publications from NCONF/	Own publications free of cost and

	Sciences, Literature etc.	RCONFs and other publications from open market	others as per market price. Except own publications, the journals are available for consultation only.
Records	Files and registers containing information of correspondence, administrative and financial sanctions, trainings, demonstrations, quality testing reports, stores, legal matters and other activities of the project.	From concerned Centre i.e. NCONF/ RCONFs	As per fee structure under RTI Act, 2005.

1.6 Categories of documents held by the authority under its control :

Sl. No.	Category of document	Name of the document and its introduction in one line	Procedure to obtain the document	Held by/under the control of
1	Registers	<p>Accounts/Admn : Diary Register, Dispatch Register, Bill Register, Pay Bill Register, Budget Register etc.</p> <p>Stores : Dead Stock register, consumable register, stationary register, miscellaneous items register etc.</p> <p>Library : Accession, Periodical, Circulation, Newspaper, publicity/ publication register etc.</p> <p>Technical : Training, Quality Control, Field Demonstration etc.</p> <p>The variety of registers maintained by Sections/ Units i.e. NCONF and RCONFs.</p>	As per prescribed Government Rules	All registers are being held by concerned Officer/Official
2	Files	The variety of files maintained by Sections/ Units i.e. NCONF and RCONFs such as Personal Files, Service Books, Store Files, Library files, Accounts file, Administrative files, Court case related files, Trainings, Field demonstrations, Quality control, Schemes related files etc.	As per prescribed Government Rules	All files, service books etc. are being held by respective dealing officer/ official
3	Publicity booklets	On various aspects of Organic Farming and Biofertilisers : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organic Agriculture (Hindi/English) 2. Training manual on Certification and Inspection system in organic farming in India (Hindi/English) 3. Biofertilisers and organic fertilizers in Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985. 	By request or from the website of the Department	NCONF/RCONFs

		4. Annual Reports 5. JaivikKhetiSahayakPustika (Hindi/English) 6. Capital investment subsidy schemes for promotion of organic inputs in India. 7. Biological and organic inputs in organic farming. 8. KenchuaKhad 9. Newsletters 10. Pumphlets/ information brochures.		
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1.7 Boards, Councils, Committees and other bodies constituted as part of the public authority:

- i. Name of Board, Council, Committee etc. : None.
- ii. Composition :
- iii. Date from which constituted :
- iv. Term/Tenure :
- v. Powers and functions :
- vi. Whether their meetings are open to the public :
- vii. Whether the minutes of the meetings are open to the public :
- viii. Place where the minutes if open to the public are available :

1.8 Directory of officers and employees :

Please see 'Staff Directory' under RTI in the office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

1.9 Monthly remuneration received by officers & employees including system of compensation

Please see 'Staff Directory' under RTI in the office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

1.10 Name, designation and other particulars of public information officers :

Please see 'CPIO' and 'Appellate Officer' under RTI in the office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

1.11 No. of employees against whom Disciplinary action has been proposed/ taken :

(i) Pending for Minor Penalty or Major penalty proceedings :

During 2022-23 : Four

(ii) Finalised for Minor penalty or Major penalty proceedings :

During 2022-23 : Zero

1.12 Programmes to advance understanding of RTI :

The CPIO/APIO and FAA have been nominated for trainings from time to time.

1.13 Transfer policy and transfer orders :

As per transfer policy framed by controlling department i.e. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

2 BUDGET AND PROGRAMME :

2.1 Budget allocated to each agency including all plans, proposed expenditure and reports on disbursements made etc.

Sl. No.	Name of Head	Budget Estimate 2023-2024 (Rs.Lakh)
1	Major Head : 2401	
	Salary-180101	580.00
	Wages-180102	5.00
	Rewards-180105	15.00
	Medical Treatment-180106	45.00
	Allowance- 180107	500.00
	Leave Travel Concession- 180108	30.00
	Training Expense- 180109	10.00
	Domestic Travel Expenses-180111	100.00
	Foreign Travel Expenses-180112	10.00
	Office Expenses-180113	600.00
	Rent, Rate and Taxes-180114	10.00
	Rent for others-180118	40.00
	Digital Equipment- 180119	14.00
	Materials & Supplies-180121	20.00
	Fuel and Lubricant- 180124	10.00
	Advertising & Publicity-180126	15.00
	Minor Civil & Elect. Work- 180127	100.00
	Prof. Services- 180128	10.00
	Repair & Maintenance- 180129	15.00
	Other Revenue Expense- 180149	5.00
	Total	2134.00

2.2 Foreign and domestic tours :

Budget allocation 2023-24 : Domestic : 100.00 lakh
Foreign : 10.00 lakh

Details of Foreign and Domestic Tours by Ministries and officials of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government and above, as well as the Heads of the Department			
Place visited	Period of visit	Number of members in the official delegation	Expenditure on the visit
NIL			

Information related to procurement :

The procurement is made through GeM, Bids on GeM and through open tender by publishing on eprocure.gov.in portal as per GFR 2017.

2.3 Manner of execution of subsidy programme :

None

2.4 Discretionary and non-discretionary grants :

None

2.5 Particulars of recipients of concessions, permits of authorizations granted by the public authority

None

2.6 CAG & PAC

None

3. PUBLICITY BAND PUBLIC INTERFACE :

3.1 Particulars for any arrangement for consultation with or representation by the members of the public in relation to the formulation of policy or implementation there of :

- i. Relevant Acts, Rules, Forms and other documents which are normally accessed by citizens**

Through website, notice board, publicity literatures and advertisement.

- ii. Arrangement for consultation with the representation by**

- a. Members of the public in policy formulation/policy implementation :**

None. Policy formulation by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare.

- b. Day & time allotted for visitors :**

Not applicable as formulation of policy and its implementation is as per guidelines of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare.

Contact details of information & facilitation counter to provide publications frequently sought by RTI applicants :

Sl.No.	Name of officer with address	Contact Numbers	Jurisdiction
Sl.No.	Name of officer with address	Contact Numbers	Jurisdiction
1.	Dr. Gagnesh Sharma, Director National Centre for Organic & Natural Farming Hapur Road, Kamla Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad – 201002 (Uttar Pradesh)	Phone:0120-2764906, 2764212, Email: nbdc@nic.in	All India in respect of NCONF and RCONFs
2	Sh. Ravindara Kumar, Regional Director Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (HQ), First Floor, Campus of NCONF, Hapur Road, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad – 201002 (Uttar Pradesh)	Phone:0120-2764212, Email: rcofhq.gzb- agri@gov.in	Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi & Chandigarh.
3	Sh. Ravindara Kumar, Regional Director(Additional Charge) Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming Kannamangala, Cross, Whitefield – Hoskote Road, Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru-560067 (Karnataka)	Phone:080-28450503 Email: biofkk06@nic.in ,	Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Daman & Diu, Lakshdweep & Puducherry.
4	Dr. V.K. Verma, Regional Director Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Khandagiri-Chandaka Road, Near Kalinga Studio Chowk, Ghatikia Bhubaneswar-751003 (Odisha)	Phone:0674-2721281 Email: biofor04.or@nic.in	Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
5	Dr. V.Y. Deoghare, Deputy Director Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming Langol Road, Lamphelpat, Imphal-795004 (Manipur)	Phone: 0385-2413239 Email: biofmn01@nic.in	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram , Nagaland and Tripura.

6	Dr. A.S. Rajput, Regional Director, Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Amravati Road, NH 6, Village Gondkhairy, Post Wadi, Kalmeshwar, Nagpur- 440023 (Maharashtra)	Phone:07118-297054, Email: biofmh10@nic.in	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra , Dadar& Nagar Haveli
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iii. Public-Private partnership (PPP) :

None

3.2 Are the details of policies/ decisions, which affect public, informed to them :

Yes, through website, notice board, publicity literatures and advertisement by the concerned Department.

3.3 Dissemination of information widely and in such form and manner which is easily accessible to the public

Through website, notice board, publicity literatures and advertisement.

3.4 Form of accessibility of information manual/ handbook

Both in electronic format and printed format

3.5 Whether information manual/ handbook available free of cost or not

All in-house publications are free of cost.

4. E. GOVERNANCE

4.1 Language in which information Manual/ Handbook available :

Hindi, English and Regional Languages. List of available materials is given below :

1.	Organic Farming News letter (Quarterly)	01
2.	Bio-fertilizer News letter (Bi-annual)	01
3.	Comprehensive Training Manual on Organic Farming (English)	01
4.	Organic Food & Certification (Hindi & English)	02
5.	Schemes for promotion of organic farming (Hindi & English)	02
6.	Organic Package of Practices for Horticultural Crops (English)	01
7.	Field Guide for Organic Grower	01
8.	Usage of Biofertilizers	
9.	JaivikKhetiSahayakPustika (Bengali, Malayalum Khasi and Garu)	04

10	Booklets & Pamphlets on Organic Farming (Hindi & English)	11
11	PGS-India Training Manual	01
12	FAQs on PGS India Certification	01
13	Compilation on PGS India certified progressive farmer success stories	01
14	Leaflets for PGS India Local Groups	05
15	Bhu-Sanrakshan pamphlet	01
16	Comprehensive Training Manual on Natural Farming	01
17	Compilation of Natural Farming Practices	01
18	Two Days Training Module on Natural Farming (English)	01
19	One Day Training Module on Natural Farming (English)	01
20	Field Guide for Natural Farming (Hindi & English)	01
21	Farmer Field School (English)	01
22	Published pamphlets on organic and natural farming in English and Hindi	11
23	E-Module on FCO	01
24	Other publications (Newsletters published by other agencies/journals etc)	01

4.2 When was the information Manual/ Handbook last updated :

2023-24

4.3 Information available in electronic form :

PGS India Scheme at <https://pgsindia-ncof.gov.in>

4.4 Particulars of facilities available to citizen for obtaining information :

In person, through website, notice board, advertisement, postal communications. Contact details as per para 3.1 above.

Working hours : 09.30 AM to 06.00 PM, Monday to Friday.

4.5 Such other information as may be prescribed under Section 4(i)(b)(xvii) :

i. Grievance redressal mechanism :

A grievances cell has been set up in the centre as well as its Regional offices in order to ensure speedy redressal of grievances received from public and employees directly or through Department of administrative reforms and Public Grievances.

Director, National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Ghaziabad functions as Director (Public Grievances) and Regional Director/Head of Office functions as Grievance officer in their jurisdictions in order to ensure expeditious redressal of grievances.

On every Tuesday between 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM or as consented by the officer, the public can meet the Director/Regional Director/Deputy Director/ Assistant Director with regards to their grievances and complaints.

ii. Details of applications received under RTI and information provided :

Please see 'RTI Application Details' under RTI in the office website <https://nconf.dacnet.nic.in>

iii. List of completed schemes/ projects/ programmes

Schemes –PGS-India – are continued.

iv. List of schemes / projects/ programmes underway :

PGS India (online low cost certification scheme),
Website : <https://pgsindia-ncof.gov.in>

v. Details of all contracts entered into including name of the contractor, amount of contract and period of completion of contract :

Details can be accessed from concerned Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming as per list under 3.1 (ii) above.

vi. Annual Report

Please see the Annual Report section in the office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

vii. Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Please see para 8 below.

viii. Any other information such as :

A. **Citizen Charter** : Please see 'About Us' section in the office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

B. **Result Framework Document (RFD)** :

None

C. **Six Monthly reports on the** : None

D. **Performance against the benchmarks set in the Citizen's Charter** :

As per A above.

4.6 Receipt and Disposal of RTI Applications and Appeals

Please see 'RTI Application Details' under RTI in the office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

4.7 Replies to questions asked in the Parliament :

NA. the relevant information is provided to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare for framing reply.

5. INFORMATION AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED

5.1 Such other information as may be prescribed :

Name and details of current CPIOs and FAAs :

Please see 'CPIO' and 'Appellate Authority' under RTI in the office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

Details of third party audit of voluntary disclosure :

Third party audit done during July 2022. Report is available with CIC.

Appointment of Nodal Officers not below the rank of Joint Secretary/ Additional HoD :

NA

Consultancy committee of key stake holders for advice on suo-moto disclosure :

None

Committee of PIOs/FAAs with rich experience in RTI to identify frequently sought information under RTI :

None

6. INFORMATION DISCLOSED ON OWN INITIATIVES

6.1 Item/ information disclosed so that public have minimum resort to use of RTI act to obtain information

As displayed and linked in office website <https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in>

6.2 Guidelines for Indian Government Website (GIGW) is followed (released in February 2009) and included in the Central Secretariat manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP) by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions, Govt. of India)

The website has been developed and hosted by NIC and certificates related with STQC is available with them.

7. DETAILS OF OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION :

Website : <http://ncof.dacnet.nic.in> and <http://pgsindia-ncof.gov.in>
Email : nbdc@nic.in and as per address list under para 3.1 above.

Annual Reports, Newsletters and Booklets are being made available to the citizens. Books, Journals and other related documents are available in the Library of NCONF for use by the citizens on prior permission. Information regarding organization can also be obtained from the website at <http://ncof.dacnet.nic.in> and <http://pgsindia-ncof.gov.in>.

All requests for seeking information are to be addresses to the Director or Regional Director, as the case may be, of the concerned centre.

The information can be sought under Right to Information Act, 2005 through online at <https://rtionline.gov.in> or through postal mode addressed to the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the concerned Centre alongwith prescribed fee, preferably in form of Demand Draft/ Indian Postal Order, in favour of "Pay and Accounts Officer (Sectt.2), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare" (DAC&FW) payable at New Delhi.

8. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS.

1. What is definition of Organic Farming?

As per the definition of the USDA study team on organic farming "*organic farming is a system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic inputs (such as fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, feed additives etc) and to the maximum extent feasible rely upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, off-farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection*".

In another definition FAO suggested that "*Organic agriculture is a unique production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity, and this is accomplished by using on-farm agronomic, biological and mechanical methods in exclusion of all synthetic off-farm inputs*".

In philosophical terms organic farming means "farming in spirits of organic relationship. In this system everything is connected with everything else. Since organic farming means placing farming on integral relationship, we should be well aware about the relationship between the soil, water and plants, between soil-soil microbes and waste products, between the vegetable kingdom and the animal kingdom of which the apex animal is the human being, between agriculture and forestry, between soil, water and atmosphere etc. It is the totality of these relationships that is the bed rock of organic farming.

(<https://ncof.dacnet.nic.in/OrganicFarming>)

2. What is meaning of biofertilisers?

Generally defined as preparations containing live or latent cells of efficient strains of N-fixing, P-solubilising or cellulolytic microorganisms used for

application to seed or soil e.g. Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, BGA, Azolla, Mycorrhizae for providing plant nutrients for overall growth.

3. What is definition of biofertiliser?

'Biofertiliser' means the product containing carrier based (solid or liquid) living microorganisms which are agriculturally useful in terms of nitrogen fixation, phosphorus solubilisation or nutrient mobilization, to increase the productivity of the soil and/or crop (FCO, 1985).

4. Can one-biofertiliser supply two major plant nutrients?

'No'. One biofertiliser can supply/made available mainly one major nutrient.

5. What nutrient is supplied by the fungal group?

Some species of fungal group solubilises insoluble forms of phosphate present in the Soil and make it available to the crop plants.

6. What nutrient is supplied by the bacterial group?

The bacterial organisms present in the biofertiliser either fix atmospheric nitrogen or solubilise insoluble forms of soil phosphate.

7. What is the most important source of N?

It is available in the atmosphere. The atmospheric air contains about 79% nitrogen in gaseous form. One hectare area column of atmospheric air contains approx. 80,000 T of nitrogen. This form of nitrogen (N_2) from air cannot be utilized by plants as such.

8. What is symbiotic association?

Certain bacteria like Rhizobium live inside the root nodules of leguminous plants. These nodules are bacterial houses. While living inside the root nodules, the bacteria get shelter and food material from the plant and fix atmospheric nitrogen which is used by the plants. The plants and bacteria both are mutually benefited and hence it is called symbiotic association.

11. What is *Rhizobium*?

Nitrogen is available to the leguminous plants mainly through biological nitrogen fixation by the root nodule bacteria called Rhizobium. These bacteria are symbiotic in nature and host specific. Higher yields in legumes can be obtained by exploiting this system.

12. Are the usage of bacterial strains for all the leguminous crops?

No. Cowpea Rhizobium benefits certain other legumes also whereas other Rhizobium strains have specific hosts. It is necessary to apply only the specific strain, which is recommended for that crop.

13. What is *Acetobacter*?

Acetobacter is symbiotic bacteria capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen by living within the sugar plant. The organism is found in all parts of plant body. The *Acetobacter* is suitable for sugarcane cultivation.

14. What is an Associative Symbiotic Bacteria?

This bacterial group live partly within the root and partly outside. There is a fair degree of symbiosis between the host and the bacteria. Hence, they are called as Associative Symbiotic bacteria. *Azospirillum* is an important bacterium in this group, recommended for millets, grass, wheat, maize, sorghum, rice etc.

15. What is a non-symbiotic bacterium?

Certain bacteria live independent of root system of plant capable of fixing nitrogen or solubilising soil phosphate without any symbiotic association and hence they are called non-symbiotic bacteria or free-living symbionts.

16. What is *Azotobacter*?

It is non-symbiotic nitrogen fixing bacteria, aerobic in nature, recommended for non-leguminous crops like paddy, millets, cotton, tomato, cabbage and other monocotyledonous crops. *Azotobacter* also produces growth promoting substances like IAA, Gibberellic acid, Cytokinin, Vitamins and certain chelating agent and polysaccharides as reducing and binding agents. *Azotobacter* performs well, if the soil organic matter content is high.

17. What is *Azolla*?

Azolla is an aquatic floating fern, found in temperate climate suitable for paddy cultivation. The fern appears as a green mat over water, which becomes reddish due to excess anthocyanin pigmentation. The BGA cyanobacteria (*Anabaena azollae*) present as symbiont with this fern in the lower cavities actually fixes atmospheric nitrogen. The rate of nitrogen fixed is around 25 kg/ha.

18. What is the dose of *Azolla* required for one-acre paddy crop?

Azolla application can be done in two ways: One as green manure, where *Azolla* is grown alone (two to three weeks) in flooded fields, water drained and *Azolla* fern is incorporated (10 Mt material) in the field before planting paddy. Second method 4-5 Q of fresh *Azolla* is applied in standing water one week after planting of paddy. When a thick mat of *Azolla* is formed, water is drained and *Azolla* is incorporated into the soil.

19. What is blue green algae?

The blue green algae are also called as cyanobacteria or PPO. This Chlorophyll containing algal organism fixes atmospheric nitrogen. Application of BGA (10 kg/ha) is recommended for flooded paddy as it can survive and multiply easily in standing water.

20. How the phosphate solubiliser is functioning in the soil?

The phosphate solubiliser produces organic acids like tartaric, fumaric, malic, succinic and acetic acid etc. which solubilise insoluble forms of phosphate present in the soil to available form.

21. Whether the phosphate solubilisers are crop specific?

No. They can be applied to and recommended for all crops.

22. What is VAM?

The VAM is Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhizae, called fungi - which possess special structures known as vesicles and arbuscules - later helps in the transfer of nutrients from soil to root system. These are intercellular, obligate endosymbionts - which have not yet obtained in pure culture. They often help increased uptake of nutrients and water. These fungi (VAM) are found very suitable for groundnut, soybeans, millets, coffee, citrus, pepper, cloves nutmeg etc.

23. Does VAM act as phosphate solubiliser?

Yes. Mycorrhizae help in mobilize insoluble soil phosphates present beyond plant root zone. They further help increasing nutrient uptake (phosphorus as well as zinc). This product is not commercially exploited.

24. Why biofertilisers are environmental friendly?

The biofertilisers are not at all harmful to soil, predators, animals and human beings. Moreover they are pollution free and renewable. Hence they are called environmental friendly.

25. What are the advantages of biofertiliser?

Fixes atmospheric nitrogen or solubilises insoluble phosphates in the soil. provides ever increasing biological nitrogen to the plants. enhances germination and plant growth due to release of vitamins, auxins and hormones, increased yield by 10-20%. Controls and suppresses soil borne diseases to some extent (Antagonise). helps in survival of beneficial micro-organisms in the soil (Proliferate)

26. What is organic farming?

Cultivating the land for raising field crop using biological sources of plant nutrients without involving any chemical either as fertilizer or Insecticides to avoid its possible ill effects on soil, ground water, crop and ecology.

27. Whether the organic manures and biofertilisers are essential in modern agriculture along with chemical fertilisers? If so, why?

Very sensibly, the Government of India adopted the policy of encouraging the use of local manurial resources & bio-inoculants in modern agriculture along

with the balanced & efficient use of chemical fertilisers to a limited extent. It is essential for increased soil fertility & productivity and ecological sustain ability.

28. What are the benefits of Organic Farming?

- Improve seed germination, seedling emergence, growth of plants, flowering, fruiting and ripening of grains and fruits.
- Improves photosynthetic potential.
- Increase tolerance in plants against pest attack.
- Improves physico-chemical and biological properties of soil.
- Help in control of soil borne pathogens.
- Interdependent biological activity of different EM organisms creates a congenial environment for growth and spread of soil's flora and fauna. They also promote the growth and colonization of VAM, which further help in plant growth promotion.
- Help in quick degradation of organic matter. With the use of EM the requirement of compost can be reduced or dispensed with. Just recycling of crop residue with EM can give similar results as with good compost. This saves lot of labour and space required for compost preparation.
- Improves soil biota and makes the soil soft and porous.

30. What is Organic Manure?

Plant nutrient carriers derived principally from substances of plant origin but sometimes also containing solid and liquid animal wastes. Partially humified and mineralized under the action of soil micro-flora, the organic manures acts primarily on the physical and biological components of fertility. Example : compost, farmyard manure, seed cakes, animal meals etc.

31. Does Organic Products More Nutritious?

To assess the claims of organic farming proponents that organically grown products are more nutritious, although very little studies have been done in India but lot of studies have been taken up in Britain, Europe and USA. Most of such studies when taken into account individually do not indicate any significant variations in quality, but some studies seem to show conclusive evidence on way or the other. But interestingly when the nutritional comparisons are piled up together and we ask the right questions, a different picture emerges which suggests that organically grown crops are more rich in some essential vitamins are minerals and has lower toxic components such as nitrates and heavy metals. Majority of the studies indicate significantly higher levels of vitamin-C, essential minerals such as iron, magnesium, phosphates and calcium. More than 90% of organic products have been found to be having low to very levels of free nitrates in saps. In conclusion it can be safely stated that there are enough indications to prove that organically grown products are superior in nutrients. Although, there may be dispute that how much superior and whether this quantity will have some significant impact on overall health scenario or not, but trends indicate their superiority over conventional products.

32. Impact of organic fertilizers on soil and environment?

- Improve seed germination, seedling emergence, growth of plants, flowering, fruiting and ripening of grains and fruits.
- Improves photosynthetic potential.
- Increase tolerance in plants against pest attack.
- Improves physico-chemical and biological properties of soil.
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- Improves soil biota and makes the soil soft and porous.

33. What is certification?

It is a certification process for producers of organic food and other organic agricultural products. In general, any business directly involved in food production can be certified, including seed suppliers, farmers, food processors, retailers and restaurants. Requirements vary from country to country, and generally involve a set of production standards for growing, storage, processing, packaging and shipping that include:

- Avoidance of synthetic chemical inputs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, antibiotics, food additives, etc) and genetically modified organisms;
- Use of farmland that has been free from chemicals for a number of years (often, three or more);
- Keeping detailed written production and sales records (audit trail);
- Maintaining strict physical separation of organic products from non-certified products;
- Undergoing periodic on-site inspections.

34. What are the processes of certification?

In order to certify a [farm](#), the farmer is typically required to engage in a number of new activities, in addition to normal farming operations:

- **Study** the organic standards, which cover in specific detail what is and is not allowed for every aspect of farming, including storage, [transport](#) and sale.
- **Compliance** - farm facilities and production methods must comply with the standards, which may involve modifying facilities, sourcing and changing suppliers, etc.
- **Documentation** - extensive paperwork is required, detailed farm history and current set-up, and usually including results of soil and water tests.
- **Planning** - a written annual production plan must be submitted, detailing everything from seed to sale: seed sources, field and crop locations, fertilization and pest control activities, harvest methods, storage locations, etc.

- **Inspection** - annual on-farm inspections are required, with a physical tour, examination of records, and an oral interview.
- **Fee** – A fee is to be paid by the grower to the certification body for annual surveillance and for facilitating a mark which is acceptable in the market as symbol of quality.
- **Record-keeping** - written, day-to-day farming and marketing records, covering all activities, must be available for inspection at any time.

In addition, short-notice or surprise inspections can be made, and specific tests (e.g. soil, water, plant tissue analysis) may be requested.

For first-time farm certification, the soil must meet basic requirements of being free from use of prohibited substances (synthetic chemicals, etc) for a number of years. A conventional farm must adhere to organic standards for this period, often, three years. This is known as being in *transition*. Transitional crops are not considered fully organic. A farm already growing without chemicals may be certified without this delay.

Certification for operations other than farms is similar. The focus is on ingredients and other inputs, and processing and handling conditions. A transport company would be required to detail the use and maintenance of its vehicles, storage facilities, containers, and so forth. A restaurant would have its premises inspected and its suppliers verified as certified organic.

35. What is identification of organic product?

Being able to put the word "organic" on a food product is a valuable marketing advantage in today's consumer market. Certification is intended to protect consumers from misuse of the term, and make buying organics easy. However, the organic labelling made possible by certification itself usually requires explanation. In many countries organic legislation defines three levels of organics. Products made entirely with certified organic ingredients and methods can be labelled "100% organic". Products with 95% organic ingredients can use the word "organic". Both may also display organic seal. A third category, containing a minimum of 70% organic ingredients, can be labelled "made with organic ingredients". In addition, products may also display the logo of the certification body that approved them. Products made with less than 70% organic ingredients can not advertise this information to consumers and can only mention this fact in the product's ingredient statement.

36. Is there any criteria for adopting organic farming?

To start with organic farming, following parameters need to be addressed in first stage :

- Enrichment of soil
- Management of temperature
- Conservation of rain water
- Maximum harvesting of sun energy
- Self reliance in inputs
- Maintenance of natural cycles and life forms
- Integration of animals

- Maximum reliance on renewable energy sources, such as solar power and animal power

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on Organic Foods (Source : FSSAI)

37. Which legislation regulates the Organic Food in India?

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has the mandate to regulate manufacture, distribute, sell or import “organic foods” as per the provisions laid under Section 22 of the Food Safety Standards Act, 2006. Organic foods are regulated by Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 notified under the provisions of the Act.

38. Which systems of certification are recognized in the Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017?

The Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 recognize already established two systems of certification i.e. Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) implemented by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

39. Who is exempted from the need of verification of compliance?

Organic food which is marketed through direct sales to the end consumer by the small original producer or producer organisation is exempted from the provisions of the certification. Small original producer or producer organisation is the one whose annual turnover is not exceeding Rs 12 Lakhs per annum.

40. Which food products can be labelled as ‘Organic ‘?

- Under NPOP system: In case of single ingredient product where all requirements been met as per the specified standards can be labelled as ‘Organic’.
- In case of multi ingredient product where min. 95% of ingredients are of certified origin, can be labelled as ‘Certified Organic’.
- Under PGS-India system: In case of single ingredient product where all requirements have been met, may be labelled as ‘PGS- Organic’. In case of multi ingredient product where min. 95% of ingredients are organic, it may be labelled as ‘PGS- Organic’

41. Which logo FSS (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 refers to as FSSAI's Organic Logo?

The FSSAI's Organic Logo is ‘Jaivik Bharat’ Logo.

42. Which logo shall a consumer look on the label of Organic Food?

The consumer shall look for Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's organic logo (Jaivik Bharat) and FSSAI Logo License number.



In addition, the label may carry India Organic Logo (NPOP certified) or PGS-India Organic Logo (PGS-India certified) under whichever system it is certified.



43. What are the residual limits of Insecticides in Organic Foods?

For residues of insecticides in organic food, limits shall be 5% of the maximum limits prescribed or Level of Quantification (LoQ) whichever is higher as for foods specified under Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

44. What are the limits for Contaminants in Organic Foods?

The organic food shall comply to the maximum limits of contaminants (Metal contaminants, Naturally Occurring Toxic substances, Aflatoxins etc.) as specified for foods under Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

45. The organic foods should comply with which Microbiological parameters and their limits?

For Microbiological parameters, the Organic Foods should comply with parameters and limits specified in Appendix B of FSS (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

46. The organic foods should comply with which other standards besides food safety parameters?

Besides Food Safety parameters, the organic foods should comply with the requirements of various quality parameters prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

47. Who is responsible for certifying Organic Food?

The Accredited Certification Bodies in case of NPOP and Local Group in case of PGS-India are responsible for certifying the Organic Food.

48. What about imported organic products?

Organic Food is not required to be re-certified on import to India if there is bilateral or multilateral agreement based on the equivalence of standards as per National Programme for Organic Production. All organic food consignments to be accompanied by a Transaction Certificate issued by an Accredited Certification Body.

49. What an existing FBO dealing with organic food is required to do if he is already registered or licensed under FSSAI?

The FBO who is already Registered/Licensed under FSSAI, is not required to take a separate licence under FSSAI. The FBO shall get his existing Registration/License endorsed for organic foods. The endorsement can be done online through Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS). It can be accessed via link which is <https://foodlicensing.fssai.gov.in/index.aspx>

50. What a FBO is required to do if he wants to start with new organic food business?

Certification under NPOP/PGS-India is a pre requisite for handling organic food and is a requirement for taking Registration or License under FSSR.

51. Are foods which are 'In-Conversion' to organic covered under the FSS (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017?

No, foods which are 'In-conversion' to organic are not covered under FSS (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017.

52. Can 'In-Conversion' to organic food use Jaivik Bharat Logo?

No, organic foods which are 'In-conversion' cannot use Jaivik Bharat Logo.

53. Do 'In-Conversion' to organic food needs to take Registration/License under FSSR for Organic Food?

No, such foods are treated as non organic foods.

54. Is there any provision for seller of organic food for keeping their organic foods distinguishable from the conventional food products in their shops?

There is a provision in the Regulations that all the organic products needs to be displayed distinguishable from conventional foods at the shelves. The seller of organic food either exclusively or as part of his retail merchandise shall display such food in a manner distinguishable from the display of non-organic food.

55. Is re-certification required for the exporting countries for organic products to be imported into India?

The imports of Organic Food from countries, with which bilateral equivalence agreements are there, are not required to be re-certified.

56. What are the punitive actions for FBO for not complying with the Regulations?

The Offences and Penalties for the Food Business Operators who are not complying with the FSS Act, Rules and Regulations are liable for offences and penalties provided under Section 48 and 49 of the FSS Act.

57. What are the powers of the Food Safety Officer (FSO)?

The powers of the Food Safety Officer (FSO) are mentioned under Section 38 of the FSS Act, 2006.

58. What are the responsibilities of Food Business Operator (FBO)?

The responsibilities of a FBO are covered under Section 26 of FSS Act, 2006

59. Who will pay for the samples analysis, if a consumer wants to get it analyzed?

Purchaser will pay the cost of the same and analysis. If the report of the Food Analyst shows that the article of food is not in compliance with the Act or the rules or regulations made there under, the purchaser shall be entitled to get refund of the fees paid by him.

60. What are the sampling protocols for Organic Food?

The Sampling protocols for organic foods shall be same as for non organic foods under FSSR. It shall be as per Section 47 of the FSS Act, 2006 that covers Sampling and Analysis Procedure.

61. If someone is selling organic cotton, does it come under this regulation?

No, non-food items are not covered under the mandate of FSS Act, 2006.

62. How is traceability maintained in Organic Food Systems?

Traceability is to be maintained as required in NPOP or PGS-India through whichever system it is certified.

63. From where a farmer can seek complete information on organic farming?

As per addresses mentioned in table under para 3.1.