

**ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ORGANIC PRODUCTS CERTIFICATION  
AUTHORITY**

**Brochure**



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## **Introduction**

Andhra Pradesh State is having varied Agro-Climatic zones with different types of soils, natural vegetation and diverse agricultural production systems. In every year the growth of organic cultivation area and organic products has been increasing steadily which was creating a demand to the certified organic products in the market. To further increase in the organic cultivation area the government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a forward step by establishing the Andhra Pradesh State Organic Products Certification Authority (APSOPCA) to certify the Organic crop production in compliance with the National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP) under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

## **Advantages of Organic farming**

1. It helps to maintain environment health by reducing the level of pollution.
2. It reduces human and animal health hazards by reducing the level of residues in the food products.
3. It helps in keeping agricultural production at a sustainable level.
4. It reduces the cost of agricultural production and also improves the soil health.
5. It ensures optimum utilization of natural resources for short-term benefit and helps in conserving them for future generation.
6. It will increase the crop diversity, and reduces the risk of crop failure.
7. It helps to decrease the global warming.
8. It improves the soil physical properties such as granulation, good tilth, good aeration, easy root penetration and improves water-holding capacity and reduces erosion.
9. It improves the soil's chemical properties such as supply and retention of soil nutrients, reduces nutrient loss into water bodies and environment and promotes favorable chemical reactions.

## **Organic Certification**

It is a certification process, through which, an identified production and processing systems are methodically assessed and confirms to meet the specific requirement of NPOP standards.

### **Advantages of organic certification:**

- ✓ Helps the producer to market the organic products
- ✓ Assures the consumers to have confidence on the product purchased.
- ✓ Access to fast-growing local, regional, and international markets.
- ✓ Helps producers to receive premium prices for their products.

### **Quality Policy**

The APSOPCA will consistently certify the organic products that in compliance to the NPOP standards under Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (hereinafter referred to as 'APEDA'), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India & ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and meet the certifications requirements of the operators and it will subject to continuous review and improvement with measurable objectives

### **Aim**

The principal aim of the APSOPCA is to inspection and certification of the agriculture, horticulture and plantation cropping systems for both Individual & Grower groups, processing & handling, wild harvested products and Input approval as organic by conforming to the National Standard for Organic Production (hereinafter referred to as 'NSOP') and to give confidence & trust to all the stakeholders by an impartial and competent demonstration.

### **Objectives**

- ✓ To provide organic certification at a reasonable cost.
- ✓ To establish an efficient and transparent organic certification programme as per ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and NPOP.
- ✓ To ensure that certified organic products are in compliance with NPOP standards.

## **Certification Categories**

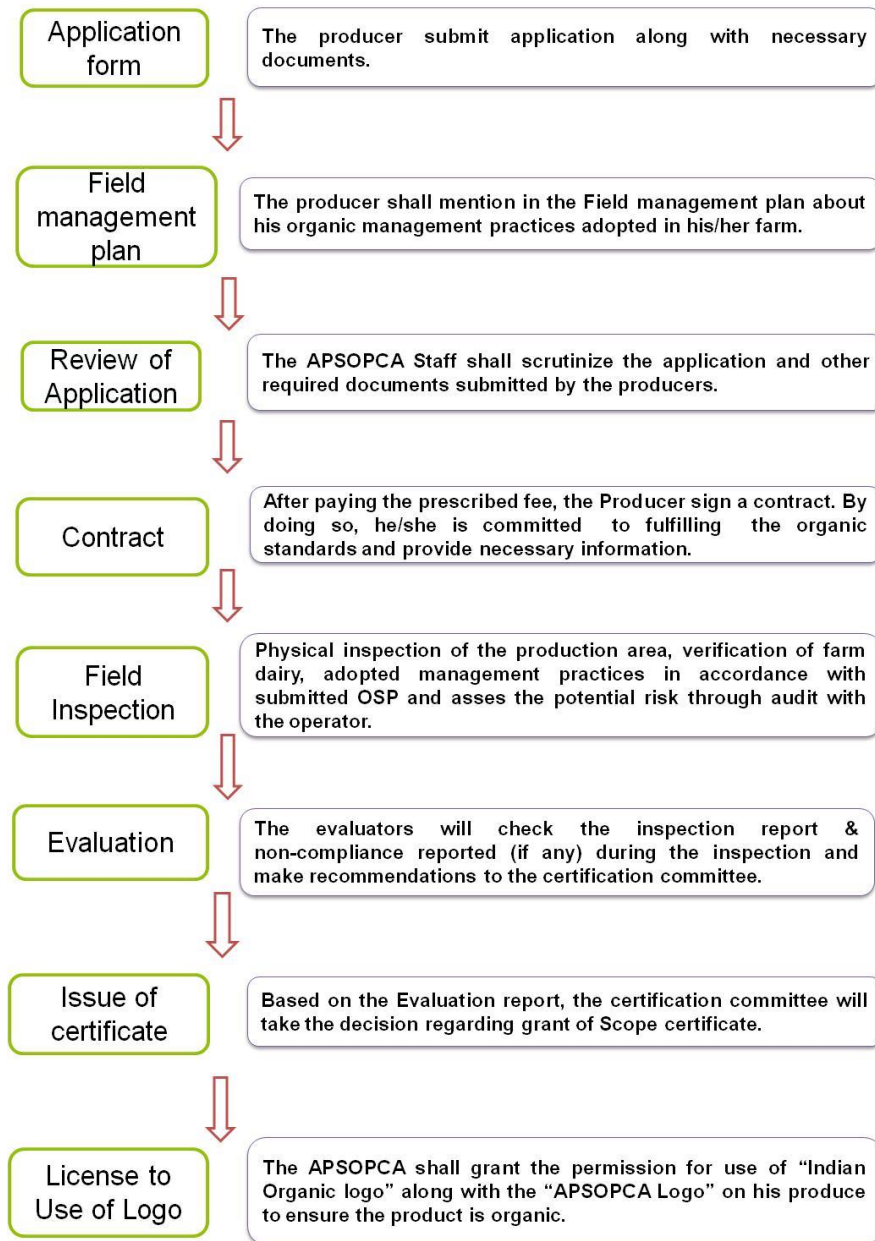
APSOPCA will offer certification services in the following categories in compliance with National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP) under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP):

- a. Crop Production (including Agriculture, Horticulture and Plantation crops)
- b. Processing and Handling
- c. Wild harvest
- d. Input Approval

## **Standards for Crop production:**

- Crop production plan includes description of practices & procedures, list of inputs, source of organic planting material (Seed & Seedlings), management practices and physical barriers, recording keeping system implemented to comply with the requirements.
- Maintain conversion period of 2 Years for annual crops and 3 years for perennial crops.
- Adopt organic farming practices to maintain Biodiversity and natural ecosystem.
- Use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are prohibited.
- Select crops and varieties adapted to local conditions, pests and disease resistance & use organic certified seed & planting materials if available.
- Maintain diversity in crop production and farm management plan.
- Use biodegradable materials, mineral fertilizers in natural composition, bio-fertilizers etc and avoid all synthetic nitrogenous fertilizers.
- Adopt physical and preventive cultural techniques to control pest, diseases and weeds.
- Adopt soil and water conservation practices in sustainable manner to avoid land degradation and pollution of ground water & surface water.

## Certification procedure:



## Producers

### Individual Producers

A farmer, processor, trader, handler or exporter who is under organic certification

## **Grower Groups**

Grower Groups are organized group of producers who intend to produce organic products in accordance with the National Standards of Organic Production. It shall consist of minimum 25 and maximum 500 members. It includes producers, processors and retailers or exporters.

The grower group should consist of Internal Control System (ICS) to maintain standards, to conduct internal inspection, organizing training programme and documentation of all farm activities etc.

## **Issue of certificates**

The certification body shall issue two types of certificates

### **1. Scope certificate**

A certificate issued by the accredited Certification Body to its operator annually for their specific activity in terms of production, processing and trading.

Scope certificate shall consist of

- Name and address of the Licensed Operator
- Reference to the applicable standards
- Products or process for which certification is granted
- Date of issue of certificate

### **2. Transaction certificate**

A certificate issued by the accredited Certification Body to its operator for every sale of his product to the buyer. The transaction certificate will be issued for the specific lots of organic products meant for export. The certificate is essential for both domestic and export purpose.

## **Residual Testing**

The APSOPCA shall take and analyze samples in ISO/IEC 17025 accredited and APEDA Recognized laboratory. In case where the use of products or techniques not authorized for organic production is suspected.