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Module-4

Inspection and Certification Process



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Analysis and Residue Testing: Testing is a major instrument for organic certification, provided it is done by competent institutions approved as per ISO 17025 having appropriate facilities for quality testing.

- (a) Identification of cases in which samples shall be taken for analysis where, use of a substance prohibited by the standards, is suspected.
- (b) Indication of any random sampling requirements.
- (c) Instructions to the inspectors on sampling requirements and methods.
- (d) Post-sampling procedures.
- (e) fixation of responsibility for payment of sampling.



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Inspection Regime for Part Conversion and Parallel Production:

- (a) Part conversion is the stage or situation when conventional, in conversion and/or organic production or processing occur in the same unit.
- (b) Parallel production is defined as any production where the same unit is growing, breeding, handling or processing the same products both of certified organic quality and of non-certified organic quality. A situation where "organic" and "inconversion" production of the same product is carried out, is also parallel production.



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Provisions for part conversion in production and processing:
The Authorized Inspection and Certification Agencies shall develop special inspection regimes when part conversion occurs.

The Authorized Inspection and Certification Agencies shall ensure:

- i) that appropriate storage capacity exists to ensure separate handling
- ii) that the documentation regarding the production is well managed and makes a clear distinction between certified and not certified production;
- iii) that inspections are carried out at critical times;
- iv) that inspection is done in a timely manner;
- v) that accurate production estimates are available.



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Provisions for parallel production:

If a farm is engaged in parallel production, the Authorized Inspection and Certification Agency shall ensure, in addition to the requirements for part conversion, the following: -

- i) buffer zones are maintained for demarcation
- ii) crops are visually distinguishable or
- iii) the crops are harvested in such a way that there are reliable methods to verify the actual harvest of the respective crops (inspections between harvests, extra inspections during harvests).