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Lecture -28

Operational structure of NPOP

Introduction



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- To provide a focused and well-directed development of organic agriculture and quality products, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, launched a National Program on Organic Production (NPOP) in the year 2000, which was formally notified in October 2001 under the Foreign Trade & Development Act (FTDR Act).
- The standards and procedures have been formulated in harmony with international standards such as those of Codex and IFOAM. NPOP is implemented under AGMARK by Ministry of Agriculture for the domestic market.



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Aims of NPOP

- To provide the means of evaluation of certification programmes for organic agriculture and products as per the approved criteria.
- To accredit certification programmes
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity to the National Standards for Organic Products.
- To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.



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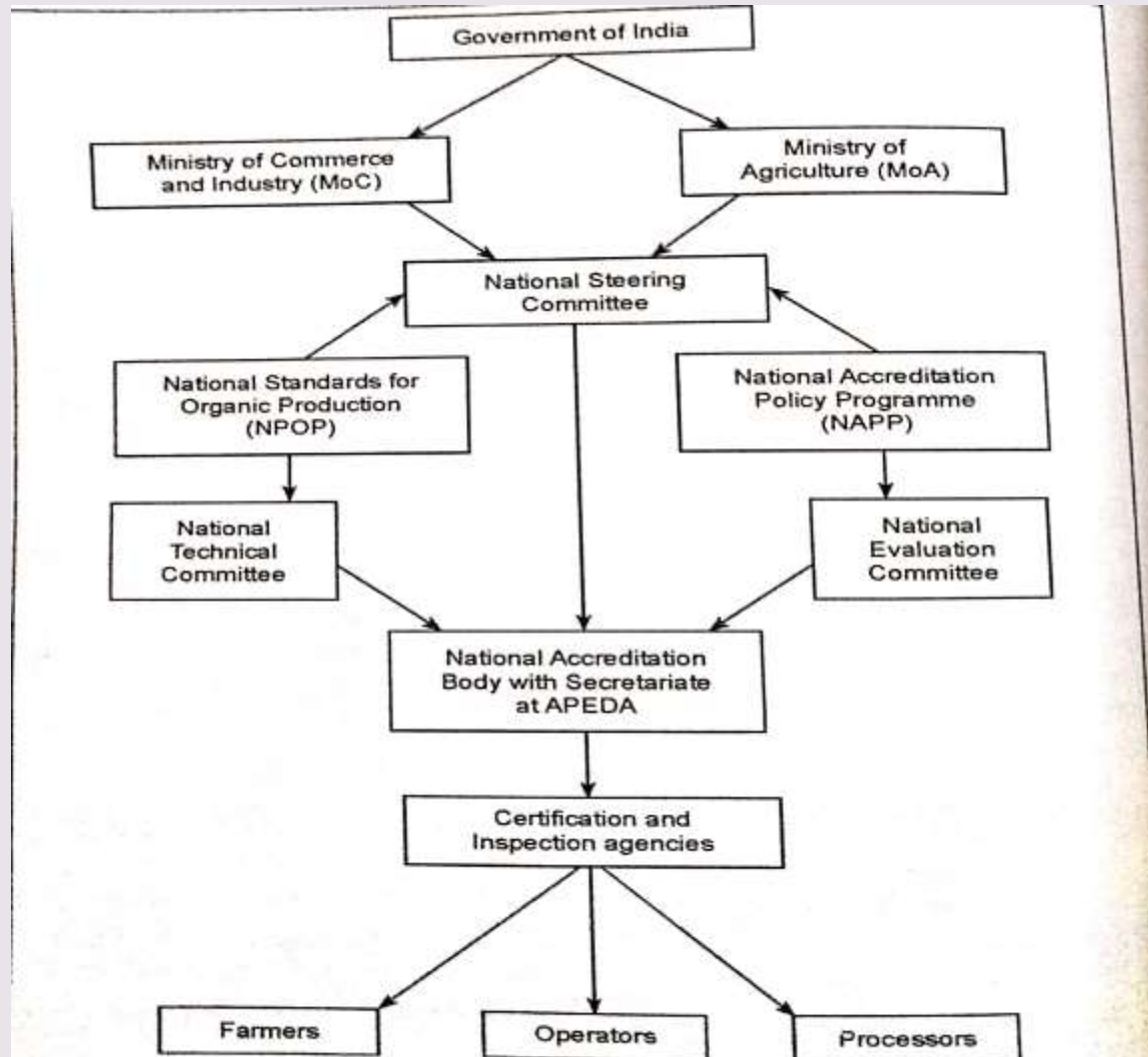


FIG 7.1 Operational structure of national programme for organic production (NPOP)



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- The programme will be developed and implemented by the Government of India through its Ministry of Commerce and Industry as the apex body.
- The Ministry will constitute a National Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Production, whose members will be drawn from Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Coffee Board, Spices Board and Tea Board and other government and private organisations associated with the organic movement.



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- To advise the National Steering Committee on relevant issues into National Standards and Accreditation, sub-committees will be appointed.
- The Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Production will formulate Accreditation Policy and Programme and draw up National Standards for Organic Products, which will include standards for organic production and processes as well as the regulations for use of the National Organic Certification Mark.



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- National Accreditation Policy Programme will be administered by the National Accreditation Body, which will define the overall policy objectives for the Accreditation programmes and operations.
- The National Steering Committee may amend the Accreditation procedures whenever it deems fit.
- The National Accreditation Policy and Programme is subject to periodic internal review, which will be conducted by the Technical Committee, which will advise the National Steering Committee about the need and content of such amendments in the National Programme for Organic Production.



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Evaluation committee

- Eligible Inspection and Certification Agencies implementing certification programmes will be evaluated by an evaluation committee.
- The evaluation committee will be accredited by the National Accreditation Body.
- The members of the Evaluation Committee will comprise of members drawn from APEDA , Coffee Board, Spices Board, Tea Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Export Inspection Council of India (EIC/Export Inspection Agencies (EIAS)).



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Thank You