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Center for Smart Agriculture

Organic Certification and Inspection Systems



Module 4: Inspection and Certification Process
Session 5 : Inspection Visit and Report



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Inspections and Certification of Grower Groups

The Inspection and Certification Agency will have documented policies and procedures for carrying out inspection of grower groups.

Constitution of the Group Organization:
The grower group will have a legal status or constitution of the organization and shall be presented by an organizational chart.



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**What to Expect
at an
Organic Farm Inspection**

Source: Google Image



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For implementation of the procedures to maintain the internal control system, responsibilities shall be delegated to individual members / committees for carrying out specific activities.

Internal Quality System (IQS): Group certification is based on the concept of an Internal Quality System comprising of the following:

- ❖ Implementation of the internal control system
- ❖ Internal standards
- ❖ Risk assessment.



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An external inspection and certification body should be identified for conducting annual inspection of the individual group / unit.

The external inspection agency shall evaluate by checking the IQS documentation, staff qualifications and re-inspecting some farms.



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Development of IQS: The following are the minimum requirements for setting up an IQS for grower groups

- Development of Internal Control System (ICS)
- Identification of producer groups
- Creation of awareness about group certification
- Identification of qualified personnel for maintaining the internal control system



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- ❑ Give necessary training in production and IQS development
- ❑ Preparation of IQS manual containing policies and procedures
- ❑ Implementation of the policies and procedures
- ❑ Review and improvement of the IQS document for maintaining a harmonized IQS.



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Organic Certification Process, Source: Google Image



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Internal Quality System Manager (IQS Manager):

- ❖ IQS manager shall develop and implement the IQS and would be responsible to organize internal inspections, coordinate between field staffs, approval staff, and the external inspection agency.
- ❖ The IQS manager shall have defined procedures to approve or sanction farmers.



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- ❖ The responsibility of IQS manager shall be to ensure that all the standards requirements are fully implemented by the group.
- ❖ Internal inspectors: Adequate number of internal inspectors shall be identified from within the group.
- ❖ The approval manager/committee shall be well versed with organic procedures of IQS, internal standards and Organic Agricultural.



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- The inspectors shall be qualified and well versed with the standards to perform internal inspections.

- Approval Manager / Committee: Qualified person or approval committee shall be designated from within the group to take the approval decision.



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Field officers: Field officers should be identified among the group, one at each production area.

Purchase officers: Purchase officers shall be identified who would be responsible for correct purchase of produce from the farmers.

Warehouse Manager: If there are separate warehouses, it may be necessary to have a warehouse manager who would be responsible for handling the produce.



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Processing Manager: If a processing unit is operated by the IQS Licensed Operator, it may be necessary to assign a processing manager.

Internal Standards: The internal standards shall be prepared in local language by the IQS manager for the region of operations under these Rules.



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The internal standards would contain:

- ❖ Definition of production unit
- ❖ How to deal with part conversion
- ❖ Conversion period
- ❖ Farm production norms for the entire production unit



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Conflict of Interest: The IQS personnel shall not have any conflict of interest that might hinder the work.

Scope of Certification: The certification shall be granted to the group with reference to the regulations / standards adopted by the group.

Trade: The group will market the products under a single entity. For trading the products from the group of producers, the IQS shall draw up relevant procedures.



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THANK YOU