

Bangalore June 28, 2024

Circular

Subject: Important Update: Aditi Procedure for Cotton Project Certification

Ref. No.: ADITI/HO/2024/CIRCULAR/010

Dear Valued Clients,

Greetings from Aditi Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd.

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to inform you about the procedures followed by Aditi for the certification of growers group projects with cotton as main crop, ensuring alignment with the Standard's requirements. Our goal is to make this process as smooth and beneficial as possible for all operators.

1. Cotton Seed Sample:

- Operators are required to maintain the seed sample at the ICS office until the harvest of cotton is completed. It is not necessary to send the cotton seed sample to Aditi Head Office, as the final product will undergo third-party sampling and testing in an NABL accredited laboratory.
- Please ensure the following documents are available at the ICS for verification during an audit:
 - o GMO-Free declaration from the cotton seed manufacturer for purchased seeds.
 - Test report from an NABL accredited laboratory confirming that the cotton seeds are GMOfree.
 - Seed purchase invoice and transport bill.
 - o Seed distribution list with information on quantity distributed, farmer-wise.

2. Annual Audit:

• Aditi will conduct one mandatory annual audit. An additional or unannounced audit may be necessary if the operation is classified as high risk, serious non-compliances are recorded during the annual audit, or if the project has a history of detections or risk of cross-contamination of certified products.

3. Procurement Audits:

• Procurement audits will not be routinely conducted. However, if non-conformances related to harvest, procurement, or storage conditions are recorded during the annual audit, a procurement audit will be necessary.

4. Third-Party Sampling and Testing:

• Aditi will coordinate the third-party sampling and testing for the final product before issuing the Transaction Certificate (TC).

We believe these procedures will enhance the overall operator experience and foster growth in the organic cotton industry while ensuring the integrity of the organic certification process. We emphasize the importance of operator responsibility in maintaining compliance with these procedures.

Our team is committed to working with you to address any challenges and ensure a smooth certification process. Please reach out if you need additional information or clarification.

Kind regards,

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