



ADITI
Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd.

Bangalore
January 23, 2025

CIRCULAR

Subject: Compliance with Certification Requirements for Wild Collection Operations under NPOP

Ref. No.: ADITI/HO/2025/Circular/002

Dear Valued Clients,

We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to share an important update regarding certification requirements for **Wild Collection** operations under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). This update is critical to ensure the integrity and sustainability of wild or Natural Forest produce certifications.

Background

Recent investigations into wild harvest certifications have brought to light some serious concerns, including:

- Alleged forgery of Forest Department documents.
- Misrepresentation of products claimed to be naturally available in certain regions.
- A specific investigation in Rajasthan related to moringa leaves revealed instances of forged permissions. Consequently, all permissions for wild harvest operations in Rajasthan have been revoked, and strict verification protocols have been mandated by the Rajasthan Forest Department.

In light of these findings, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has issued a directive to strengthen compliance and uphold the standards for certifying forest produce and non-cultivated materials.

Actions Required, we as the Certification Body:

- Verify the authenticity of permission letters issued by local Forest Department field offices with the respective state's Forest Department Head Office.
- In Rajasthan, where permissions have been revoked, CBs must directly clarify with the Forest Department Headquarters at Aranya Bhawan, Jaipur.
- Implement stricter scrutiny of documents submitted by operators to ensure compliance.
- Report any irregularities immediately to APEDA.

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For Wild Harvest Operators:

- Maintain complete and accurate documentation for audits and inspections.
- Ensure all permission documents are authentic and verified as required.
- Include the potential and estimated harvest/collected figures provided by the Forest Department or Regulatory Authority for each product, along with the authorized map from the respective authority.
- Participate in regular training sessions on certification standards and documentation protocols to stay updated on compliance requirements.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

We trust that you understand the importance of adhering to these requirements. Non-compliance will result in:

- Revocation of certifications.
- Legal actions as deemed necessary by the authorities.
- Blacklisting of operators found to be involved in fraudulent activities.

We sincerely request your cooperation and proactive efforts to ensure that wild harvest operations adhere to sustainable practices and comply with all certification requirements.

These measures are essential to maintain the credibility of certifications and the trust placed in organic forest produce by consumers and stakeholders.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, let us work towards a more transparent and sustainable system for wild harvest certifications.

Thank you for your attention.

With warm regards,
For ADITI Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd.

For ADITI ORGANIC CERTIFICATIONS PVT. LTD.

Managing Director

Narayana Upadhyaya
Managing Director

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