



Brief information about India Good Agriculture Practices (IndG.A.P.)		Doc No. : INF- 4.6.2P
Rev. No. : 00	Rev. Date : 13/06/2024	Page 1 of 3

1. What are the objectives of the IndG.A.P. certification process?

The objectives of the IndG.A.P. (India Good Agricultural Practices) certification process is to:

- Ensure an objective assessment and certification of IndG.A.P. produce at the farm level.
- Promote uniformity in the operation of the certification scheme.
- Facilitate effective interaction between Certification Bodies (CBs) and producers seeking certification.

These objectives are aimed at maintaining high standards in agricultural practices, ensuring food safety, and providing assurance to consumers and buyers about the quality of the produce.

2. What are the two options available for applicants seeking GAP certification?

Applicants seeking Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification under the IndG.A.P scheme have two options available:

Option 1: Individual Certification:

This option is for individual producers who apply for certification and get certified. It includes two sub-options:

- a. Multisite without implementation of QMS (Quality Management Systems)
- b. Multisite with implementation of QMS

Option 2: Group Certification:

This option is for a producer/farmer group that applies for group certification and gets certified as a legal entity.

Each option has specific requirements and processes that applicants must follow to achieve certification.

3. What are the requirements for a producer to apply for IndG.A.P. certification?

To apply for IndG.A.P. (India Good Agricultural Practices) certification, a producer must meet the following requirements

- a) **Application before Harvest:** The application for certification should be made before the harvesting of the crops. The operator must apply to the CB on the prescribed Application form and provide minimum information such as the name and address of the applicant, proof of legal entity, production location, total land held at the location, whether land is held under ownership or lease, produce being produced/handled, relevant certification criteria, and option of IndG.A.P. against which certification is sought. The application found to be complete and supported with all documents sought shall be accepted and registered in order of receipt with a unique identification number, acknowledged, and records maintained.
- b) **Information Submission:** All relevant information concerning the farmer/producer applying for certification must be recorded for registration. This includes details such as the name of the producer, annual area under production, farm produce to be covered, and first harvest or further harvest details/timings.
- c) **Accurate Information:** Refer to ADITI website <https://aditicert.net/> where we are maintaining publicly available accurate information describing the certification processes.
- d) **Declaration of Proceedings:** The applicant must declare any judicial proceedings relating to their operations/product, any proceedings by any body certification/approvals under any regulations, or otherwise.
- e) **Verification:** The applications shall be verified by technical personnel. If the applicant has been punished under the law, the application may not be entertained during the period of punishment and in any case for at least one year from the date of punishment.



Brief information about India Good Agriculture Practices (IndG.A.P.)		Doc No. : INF- 4.6.2P
Rev. No. : 00	Rev. Date : 13/06/2024	Page 2 of 3

- f) **Misuse of Certification:** Applications from farmers/producers who have earlier either misused the Certification/certification mark or whose earlier certificate was cancelled because of violation of terms and conditions/misuse of certification mark shall not be entertained within one year of cancellation of the certificate by any CB.
- g) **Duplication of Registration:** An applicant may not register the same product more than once with different CBs or under different certification options.
- h) **Conditions for Registration:** For the registration to be completed, the applicant shall satisfy all the conditions specified in the document, including submitting the relevant application, signing the IndG.A.P. Sublicense and Certification Agreement, being assigned a UIN (Unique Identification Number), and agreeing in writing to pay the IndG.A.P. registration fee.

These requirements are designed to ensure that the certification process is thorough, and transparent and that only producers who meet the necessary criteria are certified under the IndG.A.P. scheme.

4. What is the Assessment Methodology?

The IndG.A.P. certification process involves various assessments to ensure compliance with the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards. For individual producers without QMS, self-assessment and external inspections are conducted annually. Multisite operations with QMS and group certifications require internal assessments and external QMS audits. The CB conducts announced and unannounced inspections and audits to verify compliance with the control points.

5. What is the appropriate Inspection Timings?

The ideal time for inspections is during harvest to verify the maximum number of control points. If this is not possible, alternative timings may be considered. The first inspection should take place after registration and before or after harvest, with justification for alternative timings recorded in the audit report. Subsequent inspections occur annually within an 8-month window around the certificate's expiry date.

6. What do you mean by Certification Process?

The certification process includes registration, assessment, and granting of certification. Producers must submit detailed information before harvest, and CBs must provide information about their certification processes. The assessment includes self-assessment, pre-assessment, initial evaluation, and external inspections.

7. How do we get the Certification?

Certification is granted only after all non-conformances have been resolved. The scope of certification is linked to the location where the product is produced, and the entire production process must comply with the requirements. The certificate is issued to the registered producer/organization for the declared and registered produce.

8. What if we do not fulfill the standard requirements?

Non-compliance occurs when a major or minor control point is not fulfilled. Non-conformance is an infringement of IndG.A.P. certification rules, such as non-compliance with major or more than 5% of applicable minor control points. All non-conformances must be closed before certification is granted.

9. What are the requirements to Achieve and Maintain IndG.A.P. Certification:



Brief information about India Good Agriculture Practices (IndG.A.P.)		Doc No. : INF- 4.6.2P
Rev. No. : 00	Rev. Date : 13/06/2024	Page 3 of 3

To obtain IndG.A.P. certification, producers must comply with major (100% compliance) and minor (95% compliance) control points. They must also adhere to the agreements signed with the CB and the current version of the certification criteria.

10. Sanctions:

If non-conformances are detected, the CB applies sanctions such as warnings, suspensions, or cancellations. Sanctions remain in place until the non-conformance is resolved. Producers cannot change CBs until the sanction is lifted.

11. Product Suspension:

If the cause of a warning is not resolved within the defined period, the CB imposes a product suspension. The suspension can apply to one or all products covered by the certificate. The producer is prohibited from using the IndG.A.P. logo/trademark during the suspension period.

12. Certificate Validity:

The IndG.A.P. certificate is valid for one year from the date of the certification decision. The validity may be extended by up to 4 months under specific circumstances, such as resource constraints or force majeure events.

13. Surveillance of Certification:

Surveillance evaluations are conducted at least once a year to ensure compliance. The full checklist is completed annually, and the evaluation is timed to coincide with harvest if possible.

14. Suspension and Cancellation of Certification:

Suspension is issued for unsatisfactory performance during consecutive surveillance evaluations or voluntary requests by producers. If the cause of the suspension is not resolved within six months, the certification is cancelled. Cancellation also occurs due to major contractual non-conformities or contravention of certification terms. Producers cannot reapply for certification within 12 months of cancellation.

These processes are designed to ensure that agricultural produce meets the required standards for food safety and quality, and that producers maintain compliance with the IndG.A.P. certification criteria.

Link to standard <https://padd.qci.org.in/india-good-agriculture-practices/>