

PGS-INDIA NATURAL FARMING CERTIFICATION

UPDATED CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES & COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Official Certification Notice

We are pleased to inform all farmers, farmer groups, operators and other stakeholders that the requirements applicable to **PGS-India Natural Farming Certification** have been updated to strengthen Natural Farming verification, transparency, traceability, group integrity and certification compliance.

Authorization & Certification Scope	Our Certification Body is authorized to undertake Natural Farming Certification activities under the applicable PGS-India Natural Farming certification framework, in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
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1. Purpose of the Updated Requirements

The updated requirements are intended to ensure that Natural Farming certification is supported by objective evidence and effective field-level verification. The certification process places emphasis on actual farming practices, permitted input management, records, traceability, farmer declarations, group-level integrity and timely closure of identified non-conformities.

2. Core Natural Farming Compliance Requirements

- **Natural Farming Practices:** Farmers shall follow the applicable Natural Farming principles and prescribed practices throughout the certification period.
- **Prohibited Inputs:** Chemical fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, herbicides and other prohibited agricultural inputs shall not be used where prohibited by the applicable certification requirements.
- **Permitted Inputs:** Inputs used on certified farms shall comply with the applicable requirements, and their source, preparation and use shall be verifiable.
- **Farm-Level Integrity:** The certified production area shall be clearly identified and managed in accordance with the declared Natural Farming practices.
- **Farmer Declaration:** Farmers shall provide accurate declarations and cooperate fully during inspection, verification and follow-up activities.
- **Records:** Farmers and groups shall maintain required farm, input, production, inspection and other supporting records.

3. Inspection & Verification

Inspection is a critical component of the certification process. Inspectors may verify field conditions, crop and livestock practices where applicable, input use, storage, records, farmer declarations, production areas, segregation and traceability. Information provided by the farmer or group shall be supported by objective evidence wherever required.

Inspection findings: Observations, non-conformities and other findings identified during inspection shall be documented and evaluated in accordance with the applicable certification procedure. Major non-compliances may affect certification and may require corrective action and/or re-inspection before certification is granted or continued.

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TRACEABILITY • GROUP INTEGRITY • CORRECTIVE ACTION • CERTIFICATION

4. Traceability & Record Management

- **Farmer Identification:** Each participating farmer and certified production area shall be identifiable through the applicable PGS records.
- **Production Records:** Production and relevant activity records shall be maintained accurately and made available for verification.
- **Input Records:** Details of permitted inputs, source, preparation, application and supporting documents shall be maintained where applicable.
- **Product Traceability:** Certified produce shall be identifiable and traceable from the certified farmer/group through applicable handling, storage and movement stages.
- **Segregation:** Certified and non-certified products shall be appropriately segregated and identified wherever required to prevent mixing or loss of identity.
- **Documents:** Relevant declarations, inspection reports, registers, purchase/sales records and other supporting documents shall be maintained as applicable.

5. PGS Group Integrity & Peer Verification

For group-based certification, all participating farmers are expected to comply with the applicable Natural Farming requirements. The PGS group shall maintain effective internal control, farmer records and peer-verification mechanisms as prescribed. Any identified deviation shall be documented, evaluated and addressed through the applicable corrective action process.

6. Corrective Actions & Non-Conformities

Where non-compliances are identified, the farmer or group shall implement appropriate corrective actions within the specified timeframe. Corrective action should address the identified issue and, where applicable, prevent recurrence. Evidence of implementation shall be submitted or verified during follow-up inspection as required.

Major Non-Conformity: A major non-compliance may result in withholding, suspension, withdrawal or other certification action in accordance with the applicable certification procedure. Re-inspection may be required to verify effective implementation of corrective actions.

7. Certification Decision

Certification shall not be based solely on a declaration. The certification decision shall be based on the prescribed process, including inspection findings, field verification, records, declarations, traceability evidence, corrective actions and other relevant objective evidence. Certification shall be granted or continued only where the applicable requirements have been satisfactorily met.

8. Continued Compliance

Certification is subject to continued compliance throughout the certification period. Certified farmers and groups shall maintain Natural Farming practices, records and traceability and shall cooperate with inspections, verification and follow-up activities as applicable. Any significant change in farming practices, inputs, production area, ownership or other relevant information shall be reported in accordance with the applicable requirements.

9. Compliance Checklist Before Inspection

Area	Required Action
Farm Practices	Ensure declared Natural Farming practices are being followed consistently.
Inputs	Verify that only applicable permitted inputs are used and records are available.
Records	Keep farmer, input, production and other required records updated.

Area	Required Action
Traceability	Maintain identification, segregation and traceability of certified produce.
Group Compliance	Ensure all participating farmers comply with applicable requirements and peer verification.
Corrective Actions	Close previous observations/non-conformities with verifiable evidence.
Inspection Readiness	Make fields, records, declarations and supporting documents available to the inspector.

Important: All farmers, farmer groups and concerned operators are requested to carefully review the applicable PGS-India Natural Farming Certification requirements and ensure full compliance before inspection and throughout the certification period. The Certification Body reserves the right to evaluate compliance based on objective evidence and the applicable certification procedure.