



कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद
निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority**
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

APEDA/Advisory/2025/05
08.07.2025

**Advisory on Grower Group Certification requirement under the National Programme for
Organic Production (NPOP) 8th Edition**

Dear Certification Bodies,

As you are aware, the Eighth Edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) was notified by DGFT vide notification No. 39/2024-25 dated 05.01.2025 with a transition period of 180 days.

As the transition period is over, the NPOP 8th Edition has come into force vide the aforementioned notification.

The major requirements related to the Grower Groups under NPOP are given below:

- i. **Legal Entity of the Grower Groups:** Regulation 5.2 (i) of NPOP, 2024 provides for legal entity requirement for a Grower Group certification under NPOP. Detailed provision is reproduced below:

"5.2 Requirements for Grower Groups

- i. *The Grower Group shall be a registered legal entity in the form of,*
- a. *Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or relevant State Societies Act/Rules,*
 - b. *Farmers Producer Organization (FPO)/Farmers Producer Company (FPC) incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, as amended from time to time,*
 - c. *Co-operative society."*

In this regard it is mandatory for a Grower Group to have a legal entity as prescribed under Regulation 5.2 (i) of the NPOP 8th Edition. All Certification Bodies must ensure that all Grower Groups under their certification must comply with the requirements of Regulation 5.2(i) of the NPOP 8th Edition.

ii. ICS Office Location and Geographical Proximity of farmers of Grower Group:

It is mandatory that the ICS Office of a Grower group must be at the address mentioned in the Scope Certificate. Further, member farmers and the ICS Office Location of a Grower Group must be in geographical proximity of 50 km radius. The concerned provisions of NPOP 8th Edition are as below:

"5.2 Requirements for Grower Groups

iii. Land or unit, as applicable, of each member of the Grower Group shall be in geographical proximity and preferably in the same village or adjacent villages of the same district/border districts within a radius of maximum 50 Km."

iii. Public Information:

Regulation 5.8 of NPOP 8th Edition provides for mandatory disclosure of details of grower group members. The concerned regulation is reproduced below:

"5.8 Public information

i. The ICS of the Grower Group shall ensure disclosure of updated list of the farmers under its Grower Group, including:

- a. name of farmer(s) in full, with father's/ husband's name,
- b. addresses with pin code (location),
- c. crop grown and/or product details, as applicable,
- d. details of farm holding(s) with their location
- e. organic status,
- f. other details and information as may be specified from time to time, etc.

ii. Such information shall be updated from time to time at regular intervals and shall be published at the ICS office.

iii. The information should be readily accessible to the various Government Agencies (Central/State/Local) for the effective implementation of their schemes related to organic production and for the purpose of verification etc.

iv. APEDA-NPOP Secretariat may seek such information from time to time based on regulatory requirements for ensuring transparency and credibility of the organic certification system."

In view of the above provision, display of the details of member farmers of the Grower Group at the ICS office has been made mandatory for the ICS of the Grower Group. The format for displaying the information at the ICS Office is attached herewith.

Failure to comply with the aforementioned provisions will attract penalties as specified in the Sanction Catalogue.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Saswati Bose
08.7.2025
Dr. Saswati Bose
General Manager

[illegible][illegible]