



**GAP Certified Medicinal Plant Produce
Under NMPB – QCI Scheme**



**GFCP Certified Medicinal Plant Produce
Under NMPB – QCI Scheme**



Q C I

N
M
P
B

VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS PRODUCE

Introduction



India is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of biodiversity, has 15 agro-climatic zones. Out of the 17000-18000 species of flowering plants, more than 7000 are estimated to have medicinal usage in folk and documented systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy (AYUSH System of Medicine).

Medicinal plants are not only a major resource base for the traditional medicine & herbal industry but also provide livelihood and health security to a large segment of Indian population. About 1178 species of medicinal plants are estimated to be in trade of which 242 species have annual consumption levels in excess of 100 metric tons/year. The domestic demand of medicinal plants has been estimated 1,95,000 MT for the year of 2014-2015 and export demand of medicinal plants has been estimated 1,34,500 MT during 2014-2015. Total consumption of herbal raw drug in the country for the year 2014-2015 has been estimated at 5,12,000 MT with corresponding trade value of ₹ 5,500 Crore. The major increase has been recorded in export value which has increased from ₹ 345.80 Crore in 2005-06 to ₹ 3211 Crore in 2014-15, registering a nine fold increase in during last decade.

Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plants Produce

INTRODUCTION

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI), India's apex quality facilitation body, has developed a voluntary certification scheme for medicinal plants based on good agricultural and field collection practices to enhance confidence in the quality of India's medicinal plant produce and make available good quality raw material to the AYUSH industry.

GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF SCHEME

The scheme will be overseen by a Steering Committee (SC) under the chairmanship of Secretary (AYUSH), which would guide the development and operation of the Scheme.

The standards for certification are the responsibility of the Technical committee (TC), while a Certification Committee (CC) looks after the certification related issues. The standards for good agricultural practices and good field collection practices were approved in Jan, 2010. The certification related documents were approved in Oct, 2010. However, the Scheme has been subsequently revised in 2017 and is now in operation.

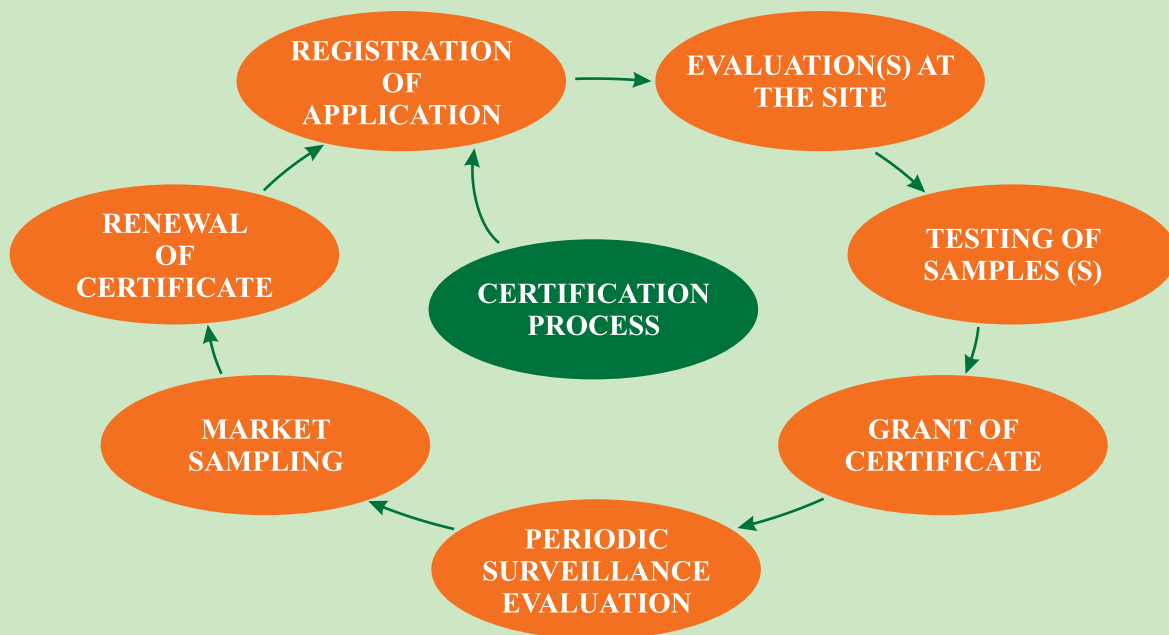
The scheme documents are available on the websites of NMPB (www.nmpb.nic.in) as well as QCI (<http://www.qcin.org/vcsmpp.php>).

OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

Under the Scheme, any cultivator/collector/group of cultivators/collectors can obtain a certification from an approved certification body (CB) and will be under regular surveillance of the certification body. An option of getting a lot inspected and certified has also been made in the Scheme. It also allows certification of intermediaries like traders who may source certified medicinal plant material and supply further.

QCI will initially provisionally approve some CBs for the Scheme but ultimately the technical competence of such CBs would be established through the internationally recognized concept of accreditation. The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) under QCI, as the national accreditation body, is already operating a scheme for accreditation of Product Certification Bodies as per applicable international standard, ISO 17065, and will provide certification bodies accredited as per the applicable international standard and competent to operate the medicinal plant certification scheme. Similarly, NABL accredited labs will be used under the Scheme. These measures are designed to facilitate acceptance of the Scheme in international market in the future.

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS IN GENERAL WOULD COVER FOLLOWING STEPS :



Beneficiary

The scheme will benefit the medicinal plants cultivators/collectors/group of cultivators /collectors, traders, manufacturers of herbal medicines, societies, Ayush industry and Ayush consumers due to the assured quality of the medicinal plants/ herbs.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Reduced risk of recall/rejection.
- Increase buyer confidence in Indian herbs.
- Assured legal compliance.
- Assured sustainable collection.



About NMPB

In order to promote medicinal plants sector, the Government of India has set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) on 24th November 2000. Currently the board is located in Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Government of India. The primary mandate of NMPB is develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination between various ministries/departments/organizations in India and implements support policies/ programs for overall (conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants sector both at the Central / State and International level.

In recent years cultivation of medicinal plants has started gaining momentum. However, still a significant part of our requirements continues to be met from wild sources.

To meet increasing demand for medicinal plants, the NMPB focusses on in-situ & ex-situ conservation and augmenting local medicinal plants and aromatic species of medical significance. The NMPB also promote research & development, capacity building through trainings, raising awareness through promotional activities like creation of Home/ School herbal gardens.

NMPB also support programmes for quality assurance and standardization through development of Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACPs), development of monographs laying down standards of quality, safety and efficacy; development of agro-techniques and credible institution a mechanism for certification of quality of raw drugs, seeds and planting material.

About QCI

Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i/e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.

Accreditation facilitates international trade by way of establishing equivalence and global acceptance of certification, inspection and testing being undertaken by various conformity assessment bodies, in areas of quality, environment, food safety etc.

National Quality Campaign aims at promoting quality by enabling manufacturers and suppliers of goods/ services to apply quality standards and tools and simultaneously empowering consumers to demand quality goods/ services. The promotion of quality encompasses all segments including manufacturing, health, education and public services.

For further details kindly contact :



National Medicinal Plants Board

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India,
3rd Floor, AYUSH Bhawan, B Block,
G.P.O. Complex, INA,
New Delhi - 110023, India
Tel.: 011 - 24651825
Email: info-nmpb@nic.in,
Website: www.nmpb.nic.in



Quality Council of India

Institution of Engineers Building, 2nd Floor
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi- 110002, India
Tel: +91- 11- 23379321, 23379260,
E-mail: vcsmpp@qcin.org
Website: www.qcin.org