



PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIC FARM CERTIFICATION IN TAMILNADU

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Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department (TNOCD) was established in the year 2007 – 2008 to carry out inspection and certification of organic production system in accordance with National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), which was launched by the Government of India in the year 2000 and notified in October 2001 under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992. Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department has been accredited by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The accreditation number allotted to Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department is NPOD / NAB / 0019.

Table.1 Organic Certification Operational Jurisdiction

S.No	Organic Certification Unit	Jurisdiction
1.	Organic Certification Inspector 1 (Training)	Whole of State
2.	Organic Certification Inspector 2 Evaluation & E-Supporting Cell)	Whole of State
3.	Organic Certification Inspector – Coimbatore	Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Nilgiris, Erode, Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri Districts.
4.	Organic Certification Inspector – Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam Districts.
5.	Organic Certification Inspector – Madurai	Madurai, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Dindugal, Thoothukudi, Kanyakumari Districts.
6.	Organic Certification Inspector – Vellore.	Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Villuouram, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore Districts.

Source : Agriculture Department, Ministry for Agriculture.

Organic Certification Operational Jurisdiction is shown in Table 1 Organic Certification carried out by this Department is on par with the standards of the European Union. Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department also imparts free training to registered organic farmers on National Standards for Organic Production and Tamil Nadu Organic Certificate Department Standards.

Procedures For Organic Certification

According to the report of Agriculture Department (2011) Organic Farming is a production system, which avoids the use of synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, livestock feed additives and genetically modified organisms. It is the key to the sound development of a sustainable environment. It minimizes environmental

pollution and maximizes the use of renewable nature resources.

Organic Certification is a certification process for producers of organic agricultural products and generally involves a set of production standards for growing, storage, processing, packaging and shipping for which a written assurance is given by the certification body. Organic Certification intends to assure quality of organic products and aims at regulating and facilitating the sale of organic products to consumers. It addressed the growing worldwide demand for organic food.

During the year 2010 – 2011, 28115 acres of land have been registered under Organic Certification as against the target of 28000 acres. This includes 427 individual farmers possessing 8204 acres of land, 37 groups containing 7945 farmers holding 19488 acres and 27 corporate firms holding 423 acres. During 2011 – 2012 it is proposed to register an area of 30000 acres of land under Organic Certification.

Table.2 Status Of Organic Certification In Tamil Nadu

Organic Certification (Acres)						
S.No	Details	2009 – 2010		2010 - 2011		2011-2012
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Plan
1.	Area Registered	28000	28219	28000	28115	30000

The Table.2 Shows details of area registered, target and achievement for the year 2009 – 10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Organic Certification is carried out in accordance with National Programme for Organic Production Norms International Organization for standardization (ISO 65).

Organic Certification Involves:

1. Receipt and scrutiny of application
2. Field Inspections
3. Supervision at post harvest stages
4. Sampling and Analysis
5. Grant of Certificate

Eligibility:

Any person desired to produce Organic product can do so by registering himself with Department of Organic Certification. Registration Fee of Rs.500 for small and marginal farmers and Rs.1000 for other farmers along with Rs. 1000 towards inspection & certification charges and Rs. 200 towards travel cost shall be paid under individual registration. For group certification a registration fee of Rs. 5000 along with Rs. 100 towards inspection & certification charge and Rs. 200 towards travel cost shall be paid. Similarly Rs. 5000 is charged at a registration fee for corporate sector along with Rs. 2000 towards inspection & certification charges and Rs. 400 for travel costs. All crops are eligible for Organic Certification. In Appendix – 2 Form –1 A, Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department (TNOCD) Application for Registration of Organic Certification, Appendix –3 Form –2 for Fee structure and Appendix –4 for Annual Cropping Programme are attached.

Management Of Organic Farming

Management of the organic farming system involves organization of crop and livestock production, and the management of farm resources in such a way that it harmonizes rather than conflicts with natural systems.

1. Organization of crop and livestock production, and the management of farm resources in such a way that it harmonizes rather than conflicts with natural systems.
2. Maintenance of soil fertility for optimum production, relying primarily on renewable resources.
3. Reduction of pest and disease incidence through a carefully, designed farm rotation and enterprise structure, use of resistant varieties, the encouragement of beneficial pest predator, and the use of other biological pest control techniques.
4. Use of farms of animal husbandry which respects the welfare and behavioral needs of farm livestock.
5. Use of appropriate farm machinery and cultivation techniques which reduces non- renewable resource consumption.
6. Enhancement of the environment in such a way that wildlife flourishes and it's enjoyable for people both working within the system and viewing it from outside.

Barriers To Organic Farming

1. Land resources can move freely from conventional farming to Organic Farming. They do not move freely in the reverse direction.
2. In changing over to Organic Farming, an initial crop loss generally occurs, particularly if it is rapid.
3. Biological controls may have been weakened or destroyed by chemical, which may take three or four years to build up.
4. Organic Farmers may be afraid to enter the new market without adequate government support.

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