



**ISCOP**

Date: 28.07.2022

## Cotton Farmers and Cotton based ICS – Traceability Mandate

*ISCOP's policy level intervention for risk mitigation*

Dear Organic Cotton Growers,

ISCOP shall adapt a comprehensive screening for non-GMO that covers 67 genes, which covers three level screening of cloning markers and event-based markers. It is mandatory for all farmers both independent and part of ICS to undergo this testing for Transaction certificate application. This testing must comply ISO-IWA 32:2019 and ISO 17025:2017 requirements for TC processing. We invite the attention of ICS managers and traders to help farmers understand the significance of this mandate to your growers.

ISCOP alerts all operators to undertake 'tag and trace' approach to cultivating organic cotton. ISCOP shall help tag seed for non-GMO status before planting in order to avoid the risk of contamination. All the operators shall get seed approval as a recommendation before undertaking sowing. ISCOP inspection team shall take leaf sample testing during cultivation, if the farmers require non-GMO validation.

Hereby ISCOP brings to the attention of all operators that 'tag and Trace' approach is recommended for all cotton growers, while ISO-IWA 32:2019 is mandatory for TC processing. ISCOP shall attend support farmers with these traceability requirements. We also take this opportunity to inform all the cotton growers that ISCOP shall invite you to call us for clarifications in this regard. We will keep you informed about our training schedule in this regard. We plan to conduct an awareness training program every quarter to help growers.

Looking forward to your support to maintain organic integrity of cotton.

Yours truly,

Prof. Dr. Sree Rangaswamy

President, ISCOP

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