



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/ORG/2024/Advisory/05
Dated 28th Sept 2024

**Sub: - Verification of Details & particulars of Grower Groups Certified under
NPOP- reg**

Certification Bodies,

This is to inform that APEDA has recently conducted a tele-verification of the contact details and related particulars of all the grower groups under NPOP, entered on Tracenet, and during the same it was observed that in many cases, the contact details and particulars of the grower group could not be verified/tallied. The following, were the main discrepancies observed:

- In a number of cases, the contact details pertained to someone who was not related to the Grower group or an office bearer of its ICS.
- In some cases, the contact details were old and not updated on Tracenet. The contact person whose details still exist in the contact has left the ICS/Service provider of the Grower group.
- In some cases, the contact person was not reachable, or the mobile number was invalid.

Further, in terms of the Grower group particulars, it was also observed that in some cases, the Grower Group address is in one location/ state and the ICS/Service provider is based in another place, distant from the area of operation of the grower group and in some cases, even in another State.

In view of the above and given the fact that the grower groups are under your certification control, it is the responsibility of the Certification body to ensure that the details and particulars of the ICS of the grower groups are accurate and they are traceable on the ground. **Thus, in order to maintain a healthy and a credible Organic eco-system, it is imperative that the details and particulars of the grower groups in the TraceNet, including their contact details, the ICS office particulars etc are thoroughly re-verified by the CBs expeditiously.**

In this regard, please refer to APEDA's Advisory dated 12th April 2024 wherein it was directed that the ICS office should be in the location of the grower group. In case the Service provider/ mandator's main office/area of operation is in another State, the address of the local office should be entered instead of the main office of the company, so that it is ensured that proper oversight is maintained on the operations of the grower groups.



It is also emphasized for clarity that the contact person's address should be of the ICS manager, who should be a local representative (preferably from within the group), staying in close proximity to the area of operation of the grower group.

In view of the above, all the Certification Bodies are hereby directed to verify and update the contact details and particulars of their operators especially with respect to the list which could not be verified. The list shall be shared with you separately.

You are required to complete the verification exercise **within 3 weeks. The outcome of the verification shall be recorded against each Grower Group and progress report to be submitted to APEDA on a weekly basis along with the verification sheet.**

This exercise should be treated at the highest level of priority and on its part APEDA shall be conducting random checks on the ground to verify that the information entered is correct and matches with the situation on the ground. Strict action as per the extant regulations shall be taken in case of non-compliance/lack of progress.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Saswati Bose
28.09.2024
(Dr. Saswati Bose)
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