

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

On Participatory Guarantee Systems for India (PGS-India)

Application and adoption of PGS-India standards by local group and its members

- 1. In cases where PGS-India standards are not clear and require further clarification then who will provide the details?**

National Standards for Organic production (NSOP) under NPOP shall be referred.

- 2. In cases where no prohibited substances have been used by the group form past several years and this can be verified from many reliable sources then what will be the minimum period for conversion?**

In such cases the conversion period can be reduced as per the objective decision of the RC.

- 3. Whether hybrid seeds or high yielding variety seeds can be used in PGS-India organic farming systems?**

Yes hybrid and high yielding varieties can be used. But genetically modified seeds cannot be used.

- 4. Whether chemically untreated conventional seeds can be used without any restriction?**

Yes conventional chemically untreated seeds can be used in cases where organically grown seeds are not available.

- 5. Does any input allowed under NPOP and has been approved for use in certified organic farming by any accredited agency under NPOP can be used in PGS-India program?**

- 6. Whether mineral grade potash can be used in PGS-India organic farming system?**

Water soluble minerals are not allowed. Chlorides of potash is also not allowed.

- 7. Whether dung or urine from on-farm cattle being fed with organic fodder but also fed with purchased conventional feed can be used for making manure**

Yes can be used after proper decomposition

8. In cases of purchased inputs where it is not approved under NPOP and the Local group is not able to ascertain its organic compatibility, then who will provide the guidance

In all such cases consult Zonal councils or PGS-India Secretariat.

9. What is minimum eligibility for grant of PGS-Green certificate?

Crop grown after grant of registration to LG by RC can be granted with PGS-Green certificate provided all standard requirements are fully met.

10. For getting PGS-Green certificate is there any relaxation in PGS-standards

PGS-Green is not a diluted version of organic, it is granted to the same system during the in-conversion period.

11. Is it necessary for a group to meet at least six times a year and each member to participate in at least 3 such meetings.

Yes it is mandatory

12. What happens if any group and/or its member fail in this requirement?

It becomes minor non-compliance. Continuous minor non-compliance can become major non-compliance and can affect the certification status of the group.

13. What is the importance of key trainings and is it necessary to have such trainings in a year?

Key trainings are technology sharing events and are needed for continuous knowledge up-gradation of group members.