

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## On Participatory Guarantee Systems for India (PGS-India)

### **1. Peer Appraisals/ Group member inspections**

#### **2. What is the minimum requirement of a member to become peer appraiser?**

Any LG member can become peer appraiser. He only need to be well versed with the PGS-India standards and peer appraisal process.

#### **3. Is it mandatory for each member to participate in peer appraisals?**

It will be an ideal situation if each and every member of the group participate in peer appraisals, but this is not a mandatory requirement.

#### **4. Can non-group members, (such as members of other groups, state Govt officers, representatives of traders and consumers) be included in peer appraisals?**

Yes they can participate on the request of LG or RC, but their participation is not mandatory.

#### **5. Is it necessary to conduct peer appraisal in the presence of the member himself or any of its family members?**

Yes presence of farmer member or his family member is must during the peer appraisal.

#### **6. In case if a member is not making himself/ herself or family member available intentionally for peer appraisal, then what course of action to be taken?**

Three chances can be given to the member for making himself or his family member available at the time of peer appraisal. If members do not heed the request then the name of the members shall be deleted from the list of active members and no peer appraisal need to be done for such member. This also needs to be brought into the notice of the RC to avoid appeal.

#### **7. What is the procedure for selection of peer appraisers?**

Peer appraisers need to be selected from among the group members and be selected in such a way that reciprocal appraisal do not occur. Peer appraisers also need to be rotated for appraisal of different members. Means every year the composition of peer appraisal team for each member keep on changing

**8. Is it necessary to keep on changing peer appraisers for fair assessment?**

Yes it is necessary and forms a pillar of trust

**9. Is it necessary for LG to inform RC well in advance about their peer appraisal plan?**

Yes RC need to be informed well in advance about the peer appraisal program, so that it can decide for participation in few of them or can undertake surveillance on methodology of peer appraisal adopted the local group.

**10. What documents peer appraisers need to carry at the time of peer appraisal?**

Last peer appraisal copy

**11. How peer appraisals are conducted?**

Peer appraisals are conducted by physical verification of all the fields, physical verification of farm facilities and livestock, discussion with farmer member and checking of inputs used. Crop condition, presence of insects (pests and beneficial insects), soil structure, irrigation systems etc should also be verified.

**12. What shall be the frequency of peer appraisals?**

Peer appraisals to be done in every growing season. In rainfed situations where there is only one crop there will be one peer appraisal. If two crops are taken then two appraisals need to be done and if three crops are taken then three appraisals are to be done.

**13. In permanent crops such as plantations (tea, fruit orchards, coconut) what will be the frequency of peer appraisals**

In permanent crops if no intercrops are taken then only one peer appraisal is to be done in one year

**14. If intercrops are being taken for more than once a year in plantation crops, then what will be the frequency of peer appraisals?**

If intercrops are taken then peer appraisal need to be done according to the number of intercropping seasons.

**15. Is it necessary for the peer appraisers to give the decision about the compliance of standards and status of farmer at the end of the appraisal?**

Yes it is always desirable to recommend the status of farmer, there it self and in the presence of the inspected farmer or his family member.

**16. What will be the scenario, if farmer or its family member refuses to sign the peer appraisal or refuses to accept the outcome of the peer appraisal?**

In such cases peer appraisal shall record the same on the appraisal sheet and bring it to the notice of the group leader.