

# **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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

- 1. Decision making by the Local group**
- 2. How many times a year, LG Summary sheets are to be filled and submitted to the RC**

It depends upon the cropping season and one summary sheet is to be prepared for every cropping season.

- 3. In case if a group fails to submit the LG Summary sheet in time, then what will be the scenario?**

It becomes non-compliance and creates doubt about the commitment of the group. If no Summary sheet is submitted for one full year or two consecutive seasons then it is presumed that group is not active and not functioning as per the norms of PGS-India program and group gets suspended.

- 4. Is it necessary for all the group members to be present while filling LG Summary sheet and deciding the status of its members?**

Normally all the group members are required to be present when decisions are made. But in case of large groups the designated certification team can take decisions on behalf of the group.

- 5. Is it necessary for certification team to accept the recommendations of peer appraisers?**

No it is not necessary. Certification team need to take objective decision based upon the facts recorded in the peer appraisal, independent surveillance, complaints and its own assessment.

- 6. If certification team or group does not agree with the findings of peer appraisal team then what will be the future course of action?**

In case where certification team differs with the decision of peer appraisers, then the reasons for changing the decision must be recorded and communicated to the farmer member and peer appraisers. All such cases should also be brought to the notice of full group body before being sent to RC.

- 7. Does LG summary sheet can be submitted in part e.g. in respect of few farmers on one occasion and remaining farmer on other occasion?**

Generally LG summary sheet is to be sent once in every season for all the farmer members. Summary sheet in parts should be avoided

**8. What is the procedure for on-farm and off-farm input approval?**

Group and certification team need to ensure that all on-farm inputs are approved if no prohibited substance were used in their making.

Same is also to be ascertained in case of purchased inputs, such as of composts, FYM or vermicompost etc.

**9. If a member fulfills all standard requirements for crop production but fails in animal/ veterinary issue, then what will be the status of its crops? His crops can be certified under PGS-India, but veterinary products shall not be certified.**

**10. While deciding on each member status, can a farmer has two statuses, i.e. partly PGS-Green and partly PGS-Organic**

Generally a farmer who has brought his particular land holding at one time be granted with one status. Means if a farmer has brought 10 acres at time under PGS-India program and has qualified for certification in 5 acres and not qualified in remaining 5 acre, then he cannot be certified and he shall remain not-qualified for its entire land holding.

But if a member has brought his land holdings which are distinctly separated at two different occasions under organic then he can be granted two statuses for his two holdings.

**11. Can a group decide on members statuses in more than one meeting?**

Yes it can be done, but LG summary sheet need to be sent only once for one season.

**12. In cases where RC returns the decision with certain observations, then how to proceed with the situation?**

LG can study the objections and undertakes necessary correction. If needed, it can also undertake another peer appraisal in respect of any particular member and revise decision. In all such cases a revised LG summary sheet need to be submitted to RC.

**13. Who is the appellate authority if there is some disagreement on PGS procedures among the LG group members?**

RC is the appellate authority

**14. In case if LG does not get decision approval from RC within 15 days of LG summary sheet decision, then whom to appeal?**

In such cases LG can appeal to concerned Zonal Council

**15. If many LGs under one RC are not happy with the functioning of RC then can they make their own RC? If yes then what is the procedure.**

Yes they can make their own RC as per the procedure.

**16. Can LGs be transferred from one RC to another RC?**

Yes LGs can be transferred from one RC to another. For this, application needs to be made to PGS Secretariat along with reasons and justification.

**17. In cases where an ICS is converging to PGS from third party certification, what will be the procedure for their registration and what will be their status?**

They also need to provide all the documents needed to form an LG and need to apply in prescribed formats along with last three years scope certificates. Their certification status under third party shall continue as it is provided there is no break in continuity. Means such ICS need to get themselves registered under any RC well before the expiry of validity of their scope certificate.