



ORGANIC INSPECTOR

Basic Crops Inspection Training

11-15 AUG 2026

Bosan, Champadevi, Dakshinkali

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Organic Certification and Inspection

Context, Issues and Challenges

Organic Inspection Certification Training Curriculum

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Independent Organic Inspector

History of Organic Agriculture

- ▶ Vedic Agriculture/Indigenous in our Area
- ▶ Natural Agriculture (Mokichi Okada in 19th Century)
- ▶ Biodynamic Agriculture –Dr Rudolf Steiner
- ▶ Use of Chemical in World War
- ▶ Thought of Organic Agriculture (A Howard in 1947)
- ▶ Organic Agriculture in USA – Robert Rodale 1950
- ▶ Establishment of IFOAM 1972
- ▶ Natural Farming Movement (Fukuoka)
- ▶ Permaculture (Bill Mollison)
- ▶ Other Initiative (LEISA, IPM, GAP in Nepal)

Our Scriptures about Soil Fertility

मृद्धी भूः सर्वबृक्षाणाम हिता तस्यम तिलान वपेत् पुष्पितामशतामश्च मृदियात् कर्मैतत्प्रथमं भुवः
श्रोत - बृहत्संहिता ५५.२

सबै प्रकारको खेति पाती, रुख बिरुवाको लागि नरम, खुकुलो माटो भएको जमिन उपयुक्त हुन्छ । यसरी माटो खुकुलो र बुर बुराउदो बनाउन किसानले पहिले सो जमिनमा तिल लगाउनु उपयुक्त हुन्छ । जब तिल फुलेको हुन्छ त्यति बेला तिललाई जोतेर माटोमा मिलाउने, केहि दिन पछि खेति गर्ने वा बिरुवा सार्ने गर्दा राम्रो फाईदा हुन्छ, बिरुवाको वृद्धि सन्तुलित हुन सक्छ । आधुनिक प्राङ्गारिक कृषि बिज्ञानमा भन्ने गरिएको हरियो मल पद्धति यहि नै हो ।

For every crop fertile and loose soil is good. To build such soil use of Sesame is good. When Sesame start flowering, plant should be incorporated into the soil. Good Example of Green Manuring. Likewise Sesame is considered as an indicator plant for soil fertility.

Ancient Belief about Food

“आहारशुद्धौ सत्त्वशुद्धौ ध्रुवा स्मृतिः स्मृतिलम्भे सर्वग्रन्थीनां विप्रमोक्षस्” (छंदोग्योपनिषद् ७.२६.२)
अर्थात् (शुद्ध आहारले मन शुद्ध, शुद्ध मनले स्मरण शुद्ध, बुद्धि, विचार र सोचाई शुद्ध भए सम्पूर्ण
शरीर शुद्ध हुन्छ र राम्रो कार्य गर्न सकिन्छ ।

(“When the food is pure, the mind becomes pure. When the mind is pure the memory becomes firm. When the memory is firm all ties are loosened.”)

In Modern Organic Agriculture- Healthy Soil for Healthy Plant, Healthy Plant for Healthy Food, Healthy Food for Entire System (Thinking, Feeling and Willing), Which Drives to Good Deeds.

Ancient Standard

- ▶ May be some 5000 years ago Ancient scriptures stated for the good and healthy soil for healthy plant (Ramayana)
- ▶ Mahabharat stated about Kamadhenu (Celestial cow) for better soil fertility
- ▶ Atharwa veda (II 7 & 8) stated several points for soil fertility, plant protection e.t.c.
- ▶ Quran Stated about nutrient recycling (at least 30 % of harvested plant biomass should be returned to the soil of same plot)

Organic Agriculture in Nepal –Chronology

- ▶ Some Initiatives in 80's (Permaculture, Conservation Agri.)
- ▶ Some NGOs initiatives in 90's (Representation on IFOAM)
- ▶ First Organic Certification in around 1997
- ▶ After 2000 more organic tea and coffee garden to organic
- ▶ Some support started from government as well
- ▶ In 2007 Draft Organic Standard developed
- ▶ In 2008 Organic Standard and Guidelines adopted by GoN
- ▶ Some Initiative on Organic Tea, Coffee, Aromatic herbs and Spices & NTFP
- ▶ Now there is some subsidy for Export oriented Organic Products
- ▶ Different Guidelines helpful for Organic/ICS implemented by GoN
- ▶ IPM and NEPAL GAP introduced/helpful for Organic Conversion Gradually

Present Scenario of Global Organic Agriculture (FiBL Data)-2025

- ▶ Organic Agriculture Information from 188 countries
- ▶ 4.3 million organic growers
- ▶ In India alone 2.3 million producers
- ▶ 0.13 million processors
- ▶ Global market share of organic products 136.4 billion Euro
- ▶ 98.9 million hectare land area organic
- ▶ Organic Import in Europe decrease where as it is increased in USA
- ▶ Global Organic Market 43.2 USA , 34.1 Europe

Our Position on this Global Organic Agriculture Database

- ▶ **Organic Certified Area- 9493.6 ha**
- ▶ **Number of Farmer Involved -983 small holders + few others**
- ▶ **Wild collection Area 24422 ha + (IFOAM/FiBL)-old data (2017)**
- ▶ **The above figures are mainly for commodities like tea, Coffee, Spices, Aromatic herbs**
- ▶ **This does not include the domestic certification.**
- ▶ **Others may need to be added**

Trend of Organic Certification

7 Years observation in Nepal

- ▶ In 2011 – 8187 ha Organic certified
Growers 1512
- ▶ In 2017 -9493 ha Organic Certified
Growers 1808
- ▶ Trend seems not encouraging (The database may be lacking the information)

Standards and Requirements

There are several definition for Standard, in general it is a set of document which specify the process for the production, processing and handling of any commodities;

ISO standards for agriculture cover all aspects of farming, from irrigation and global positioning systems (GPS) to agricultural machinery, animal welfare and sustainable farm management. They help to promote effective farming methods while ensuring that everything in the supply chain – from farm to fork – meets adequate levels of safety and quality. By setting internationally agreed solutions to global challenges, ISO standards for agriculture also foster the sustainability and sound environmental management that contribute to a better future. (ISO)

Chronology of Organic Standard Globally

- ▶ 1924 Rudolf Steiner lectures on agriculture
- ▶ 1924 Demeter biodynamic label founded
- ▶ 1940 Sir Albert Howard -*An Agricultural Testament*
- ▶ 1942 J.I. Rodale -*Organic Farming and Gardening*
- ▶ 1943 Lady Eve Balfour publishes *The Living Soil*
- ▶ 1946 Soil Association founded in UK
- ▶ 1967 Soil Association publishes first organic standards
- ▶ 1972 Founding of IFOAM
- ▶ 1974 Oregon State (US) adopts legislation
- ▶ 1979 First California Organic Foods Act adopted

Chronology of Global OA Standard Contd...

- ▶ 1980 IFOAM Basic Standards published
- ▶ 1985 France adopts legislation
- ▶ 1990 Organic Foods Production Act passed in US
- ▶ 1991 EU Regulation 2092/91 adopted
- ▶ 1992 Establishment of the IFOAM Accreditation Programme
- ▶ 1999 Codex Alimentarius guidelines adopted
- ▶ 1999 EU organic livestock regulation published
- ▶ 2000 Japanese organic regulation published
- ▶ 2000 US national organic standards published
- ▶ 2000 India adopted NPOP
- ▶ 2002 US National Organic Programme in force
- ▶ 2007 Draft Organic Standard developed (Nepal)
- ▶ 2008 Organic Standard and Guidelines adopted by GoN

Common Features on Organic Standard

- ▶ Institutional Mechanism-Human Resources, Capacity Building
- ▶ Soil Fertility
- ▶ Use of Seed/Seedling-Varieties
- ▶ Use of Livestock Breed and types
- ▶ Management Plan-Documented Verification
- ▶ Soil and Plant Health Management System
- ▶ Use of External Materials (No synthetic fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide)
- ▶ Recorded Management Plan (3 years of conversion)
- ▶ Harvesting and Transportation

Common Features on Standard

- ▶ Standard Operating Procedures for Each Steps
- ▶ Minimum Infrastructure Requirement for Processing including Storage
- ▶ Processing Procedures
- ▶ Use of Additive and Processing aids (flavour e.t.c)
- ▶ Documentation
- ▶ Internal Audit of facility
- ▶ Human Resources and Capacity Building
- ▶ Social Accountability
- ▶ Application of Social Standard

Common Features of Standard

- ▶ Single or multiple ingredients –Recipe
- ▶ Operation according to Plan –Identification of Steps and Designation
- ▶ Packaging Materials and Compliance
- ▶ Labelling Procedures and Clear Identification
- ▶ Warehousing
- ▶ Flow of Products
- ▶ Traceability – (TDL/P/22/117/A/1-34)
- ▶ Transportation Units In and Out
- ▶ Mass Balance

Internal Quality Management System

- ▶ Internal Quality Management System
- ▶ Internal Control System for Grower Groups
- ▶ Quality Management Coordinator
- ▶ Internal Inspector/Auditors
- ▶ Service Provider /Technical Officers
- ▶ Different Committees (Technical, Internal, Certification)
- ▶ Processing Managers
- ▶ Warehouse and Storage Controller
- ▶ Management and Financial
- ▶ Managing Label

EU Organic Law and Regulations

- ▶ EU Organic Regulation 2092/91 Adopted in 1991
- ▶ EU organic livestock regulation published 1999
- ▶ Publication of New EU Organic law (2018/848) in 2018
- ▶ Implemented in EU Member states by January 1, 2022
- ▶ Implementation in Third Countries by December 31, 2024
- ▶ Recent Changes on EU Organic Regulation Impact to countries like Nepal
- ▶ Mainly Companies/Cooperative and Grower Groups
- ▶ Producers need to be an official entity (registered)

Some Features of New EU Regulation on Grower Groups

- ▶ Registered Entity
- ▶ Annual General Assembly
- ▶ Annual Election
- ▶ Board of Directors not less than 7 Executive Members
- ▶ Annual Report and Audit
- ▶ Annual Renewal with relevant Authority
- ▶ Clear ICS Organogram
- ▶ Separation between Advisory and Auditing personalities
- ▶ Internal Inspectors and Relevant Committees

Some Features of New EU Regulation on Grower Groups

- ▶ Documents –Manual, Training to Members and others
- ▶ Composition of Group –Maximum 2000 members
- ▶ Individual Land holding less than 4 ha
- ▶ Annual Inspection of member compulsory (external) for the members having more than 4 ha of land
- ▶ Total ICS land size should not be 50% or above of such 4 ha of land holding
- ▶ Inspection of 5% of members and 2% sampling
- ▶ Practical Challenge in case of fresh products

EU-Key Features New Rule

- ▶ Documented Procedures –Monitoring, Yield and Future Plan
- ▶ ICS Managers-ICS Management, Verifying Eligibility of Members, Sub contracted activities, Cor Act over NCs, Linkage GOO and CB
- ▶ Internal Inspection and Internal Inspectors –Col, Training, Traceability
- ▶ Managing Inputs (in house and Off Farm), Compliance to Standard
- ▶ Product Detail-Harvesting
- ▶ Dispatch Note, GRN and others for traceability
- ▶ In out and Mass Balance

USDA National Organic Program

- ▶ United States Department of Agriculture published the organic standard in 2000
- ▶ Implementation of Standard started from 2002
- ▶ 36 months (3 Years) of organic management prior to the application for certification
- ▶ Documented verification (OSP)/(OHP)
- ▶ SOP for each operation
- ▶ Provision for the Necessary Communication
- ▶ Responsibilities
- ▶ Others

USDA National Organic Program

- ▶ Technical Part as stated on OSP/OHP
- ▶ Composting Materials Carbon and Nitrogen Ratio
- ▶ Composting Methods (temperature)
- ▶ Composting Timing (Aerobic and Anaerobic)
- ▶ Issues of Sewage/Sludge
- ▶ Ionizing Radiation
- ▶ All Inputs according to National List and derogation from CBs
- ▶ Recipe and Organic labelling (100%, 90% & 70% Organic)
- ▶ Processing Aids, Monitoring and others

For Additional Information –Federal Register eg <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-02-28/pdf/2022-03851.pdf>

Organic –JAS

- ▶ Japanese organic regulation published in 2000
- ▶ There are some differences within JAS from others
- ▶ Completion of Application for JAS Certification
- ▶ Attend JAS Training from qualified Trainer
- ▶ Internal Audit System (Provision of PPM & GM)
- ▶ First Year of Organic Conversion is not Monitored by CB
- ▶ No In conversion Certificate during 1st year of Conversion
- ▶ SOP for Each activities Focus on Grading

Opportunities for Nepalese Organic Products

- ▶ For Beverage crops (Tea, Coffee)
- ▶ Spices and Herb and Aromatic Plants
- ▶ Essential oil
- ▶ For Fresh Products (if possible) may be India –
Quality Assurance through G2G Initiative Chinese
Requirement more stringent (human resources)
- ▶ EU
- ▶ Others –Australia, New Zealand
- ▶ North America (USNOP/COR)
- ▶ Nepal (Nepali Organic Standard)

Nepalese Organic Standard and Guidelines

- ▶ It covers broad issues of farming like Conversion period, arable cropping, soil and water Nutrient Management, Disease/Pest and Weed Management, Seed, Animal husbandry, Aquaculture, Apiculture, Processing, Handling, Storage, Warehousing, Social Issues, Fair Trade e.t.c.
- ▶ Structure for Organic Certification
- ▶ Annexure for Inputs and materials
- ▶ Operational Guidelines for the implementation of Standard as well as Internal Control System for Small Holder Producers.
- ▶ Adoption of this standard for any products entering into domestic market with organic labelling could be a good start.

Role of Organization

- ▶ Government –Policy, Environment and Regulation/Standard and periodic revision of standard
- ▶ Private Sector-Voluntary Standard, Recognition
- ▶ Accreditation Bodies –Government and Non Government NGOs like IOAS, Naturland e.t.c.
- ▶ Certification Bodies-Inspection and Certification of Producer, Processor, Exporter, Suppliers (Bulk, Retailer e.t.c)
- ▶ Education and Promotion-No strict regulation could influence policy, regulation through advocacy and Lobbying

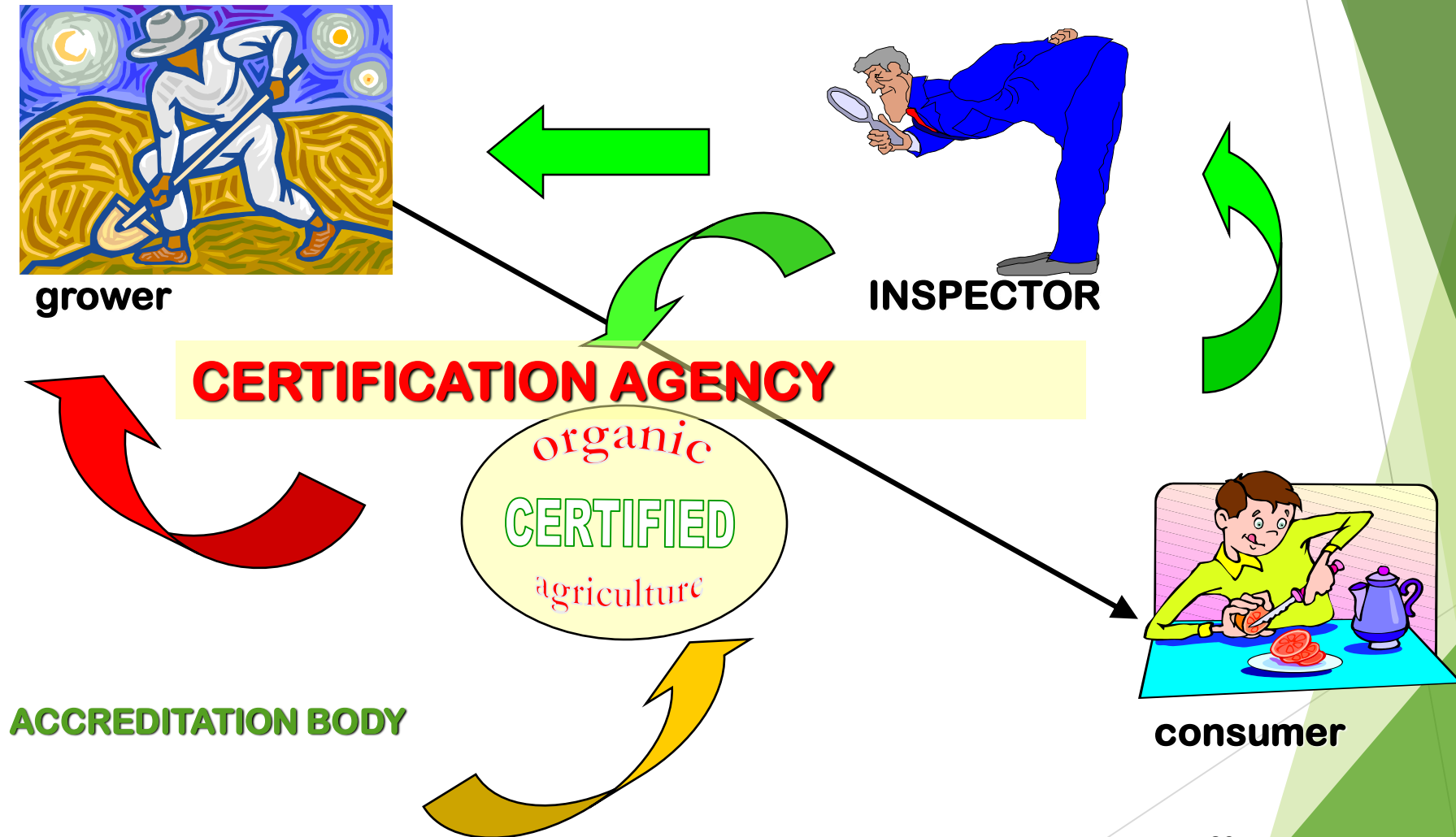
Process/Steps of Organic Certification

- ▶ Adoption of Organic Practices for 3 years
- ▶ Looking for Market Demand
- ▶ Cost Benefit Analysis (volume and possible sale –Revenue)
- ▶ Select Certification Body (Cost, Services, Recognition and others)
- ▶ Communication with CB
- ▶ Get the Necessary Documents
- ▶ Completion of Documentation and application Submission
- ▶ Review of Documents by CBs
- ▶ Inspector Assigned

Inspection Process

- ▶ To provide an overview of the certification process
- ▶ To identify the roles of each stakeholder in the process
- ▶ To outline the role and responsibilities of an inspector in the process
- ▶ Code of Ethics for an Inspector
- ▶ Code of Conducts

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION: **the players**



Organic Certification- A third Party Verification Approach

CAN CONSUMERS TRUST ORGANICS?

- ▶ Organic inspectors travel throughout the world to do on site audits where the crops are originally produced.
- ▶ All the food chain is under audit:
- ▶ from production to processing to
- ▶ handling.



Certification Characteristics

- ▶ Approach and Communication between
- ▶ Procedures of Application
- ▶ Completing Administrative Procedures
- ▶ Inspection
- ▶ Review of Inspection Report
- ▶ Clarification over the Report
- ▶ Additional Information
- ▶ Issuing Certificates with Conditions

Out of Scope of Organic Regulation

- ▶ Occupational Safety, Security and Health
- ▶ Workers benefit and Social Justice
- ▶ Bioterrorism
- ▶ Environmental Legislation
- ▶ Phyto-sanitary
- ▶ Food Safety- GAP, GMP, HACCP
- ▶ Other FSMS -ISO

Certification is

Ensuring formally as

- ▶ True
- ▶ Genuine
- ▶ Meeting the compliance requirement to the relevant standard

Why Certification

From Consumer perspective

- ▶ Safe, Affordable and Nutritious
- ▶ Variety and Taste
- ▶ Promote Health
- ▶ Convenient
- ▶ Living Well
- ▶ Status
- ▶ Contribution to Environment and Society

Why Certification *from Farmer Perspective*

- ▶ Income
- ▶ Increasing Food Safety Concern
- ▶ Market
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Soil and Ecology
- ▶ Future (generation, resources)

Challenges

- ▶ Knowledge System
- ▶ Information Flow
- ▶ False labelling
- ▶ Regulation
- ▶ Consumer Education
- ▶ Inter-linkage –Culture, Tourism and Education

Looking for Equivalency Agreement

- ▶ Full Implementation of present standard gives the guidelines
- ▶ We will learn more about where improvement required (Theory and Practice)
- ▶ Reason for Equivalency (export to third countries- Standard of respective Importing Authority applicable)
- ▶ Other opportunities- North Indian Market for Fresh Vegetables (West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) Either NPOP need to apply or get the equivalency of our Standard with NPOP with Indian Authority like Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- ▶ China- Chinese Organic Standard Equivalency with other Regime is not so easy.

Some Equivalency Agreement Example

- ▶ **USA-Canada**
- ▶ **USA-EU**
- ▶ **USA-Japan**
- ▶ **USA-Taiwan**
- ▶ **Canada-Costa Rica**
- ▶ **Canada-EU**
- ▶ **Canada-Japan**
- ▶ **Canada-Switzerland**
- ▶ **US-South Korea**

Import and Export Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS Code) is provided to facilitate the equivalency agreement (Introduced by US)

Prerequisite for Implementation of Existing Standard

- ▶ Strong Organic Agriculture wing within Ministry
- ▶ Collection of Organic Agriculture Information
- ▶ Circulating all organic norms/standard/guidelines and policy to Provincial Government
- ▶ Effective Monitoring
- ▶ Developing other RoP in collaboration with Non Governmental Sectors
- ▶ This may help to think about the future roadmap for equivalency.

Major Contents for Organic Inspection

- ▶ Inspection for Third Party Verification
- ▶ Structure of Standard
- ▶ Crops
- ▶ Livestock
- ▶ Processing
- ▶ Handling/Export/Market
- ▶ Inputs

Organic Inspection and Certification Flow

- ▶ Ready for Certification –Market, Volume e.t.c
- ▶ Look for CBs
- ▶ Cost-Information and Market Access
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Get Application Package
- ▶ Complete Documentation
- ▶ Inspection Takes Place
- ▶ Inspection Report Review
- ▶ Certification Decision

Organic Inspection/Inspectors

- ▶ Role Responsibilities
- ▶ Communication System-Opening –Documents Review (OMP/OSP/OHP)
- ▶ Inspection
- ▶ Evaluation
- ▶ Sharing Finding/Clarification
- ▶ Closing Meeting (VCEI)

Organic Inspector Professionalism

- ▶ Qualification –Formal, Experience & Training –Periodic
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Familiarity with relevant Standard
- ▶ Skill-Observation, Communication
- ▶ No Col
- ▶ Confidentiality
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Commitment
- ▶ Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Inspector Training

- ▶ Training Requirement
- ▶ Opportunities
- ▶ Code of Ethics/Conducts
- ▶ Inspection Protocols
- ▶ Scope of Inspection
- ▶ Inspection Methods
- ▶ Preparing for Inspection
- ▶ OCP/HACCP/FSMS

Others

- ▶ Determine Fraud and irregularities
- ▶ Audit Trail/In out
- ▶ Sampling
- ▶ GMO Issue
- ▶ Inspection Report
- ▶ OMP/OSP/OHP
- ▶ Traceability
- ▶ Risk Assessment
- ▶ Reporting

Thank you
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