ACCREDITATION:

- Accreditation means Registration by the National Accreditation Body for certifying organic farms, products and processes as per the National Standards for Organic Products and as per the guidelines of the National Accreditation Policy and Programme for organic products.
ACCREDITED PROGRAMME:

- Means programme of accrediting Inspection and Certification Agencies which have been accredited by the Accreditation Agency and which have agreed to comply with the Accreditation contract.
BUFFER ZONE:

- A clearly defined and identifiable boundary area bordering an organic production site that is established to limit application of, or contact with, prohibited substances from an adjacent area.
CERTIFICATION:

- Shall be the procedure by which a written assurance is given by the Certification Agency that a clearly identified production or processing system has been methodically assessed and conforms to the specified requirements.
CERTIFICATION MARK:

- Shall mean certification programme’s sign, symbol or logo which identifies the products as being certified according to the National Standards for Organic Products.
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME:

- Shall mean the system operated by an Inspection and Certification Agency in accordance with the criteria for carrying out certification of conformity as laid down herein.
CERTIFICATION TRANSFERRENCE:

- The formal recognition by an Inspection and Certification Agency of another Certification programme or Agency or projects or products certified by that programme or Agency, for the purpose of permitting its own certified operators to trade or process under the programme’s own certification mark, the products which are certified by the other programme.
CHAIN OF CUSTODY:

- All relevant steps in the production chain including growing, harvesting, processing, handling and related activities detailed in Section 4 of the accreditation criteria that have been inspected and certified, as appropriate.
CONVENTIONAL:

- Farming systems dependent on input of artificial fertilizers and/or chemicals and pesticides or which are not in conformity with the basic standards of organic production.
CONVERSION:

- The process of changing an agricultural farm from conventional to organic farm. This is also called transition.
CONVERSION PERIOD:

- The time between the start of organic management, and the certification of crops as organic.
GENETIC DIVERSITY:

- Genetic diversity means the variability among living organisms from agricultural, forest and aquatic ecosystem. This includes diversity within species and between species.
GROUP CERTIFICATION:

- Certification of an organized group of producers, processors and exporters with similar farming and production systems and which are in geographical proximity.
HAZARD ANALYSIS CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP):

- A systematic process that identifies food safety hazards, critical control points, critical limits, corrective actions and documentation and integrates monitoring procedures to ensure food safety.

OR

- The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system is a science based on systematic approach to producing safe food. Food safety management systems based on HACCP are internationally recognized as the most effective way to ensure food safety and minimize the risks of food poisoning.
INPUTS BANNED:

- Those items, the use of which is prohibited in organic farming.
INPUTS PERMITTED:

Those items that can be used in organic farming.
Those items that are allowed in organic farming, in a restricted manner, after a careful assessment of contamination risk, natural imbalance and other factors arising out of their use. Farmers should consult the certifying agency.
INSPECTION:

- Shall include the site visit to verify that the performance of an operation is in accordance with the production or processing standards.
Shall be the organization responsible for Inspection and Certification.
INSPECTION AGENCY:

- Shall mean the agency that performs inspection services as per the National Accreditation Policy and Programme.
INSPECTOR:

- Shall be the person appointed by the Inspection and Certification Agency to undertake the inspection of an operator.
INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM:

- A documented quality assurance system that allows the external certification body to delegate the inspection of individual group members to a body identified from within the operators of the group.
INTERNAL REVIEW:

- Shall mean an assessment of the objectives and performance of a programme by the Certification or the Accreditation Agency itself.
LABELLING:

- Means any written, printed or graphic matter that is present on the label, accompanies the food, or is displayed near the food, including that for the purpose of promoting its sale or disposal.
LICENCE:

- Shall be the Accreditation contract that grants a certifier the rights associated with its accredited status in line with the National Program for Organic Production.
OPERATOR:

- Shall mean an individual or a business enterprise practicing organic farming or organic processing.
ORGANIC:

- Refers to a particular farming system and not to the term used in chemistry.
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE:

- It is a system of farm design and management to create an eco system, which can achieve sustainable productivity without the use of artificial external inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
PARALLEL PRODUCTION:

- Shall mean any production where the same unit is growing, breeding, handling or processing the same products both in a certified organic and a non-certified organic system. Similarly a situation with “organic” and “in conversion” production of the same product is also parallel production.

Definitions
PART CONVERSION:

Shall be when part of a conventional farm or unit has already been converted to organic production or processing and a part is in the process of conversion.
QUALITY SYSTEM:

- Documented procedures, which are established, implemented, and periodically audited to ensure that production, processing, handling, management, certification, accreditation and other systems meet the specified requirements and outcomes by following standardized protocols.
SPLIT PRODUCTION:

- Where only part of the farm or processing unit is certified as organic. The remainder of the property can be (a) non-organic, (b) in conversion or (c) organic but not certified.
- Also see parallel production.
STANDARDS:

- Shall mean the standards for National Organic Products established by the Steering Committee for National Programme for Organic Production.
Thanks