

ORGANIC LABELLING SCHEME

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

(Also available in Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu and Hindi)

Photo by Gauthan Sarang



Organic Labelling Scheme (OLS)

(Participatory Guarantee System)

Version 1.0

**The Organic Farming Association of India
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About OFAI

What is PGS?

OFAI is happy to publish this booklet containing the basic documents and procedures required for those of its members who wish to adopt the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic certification of their farms and farm produce.

The PGS, as it is known, is fairly recent in its adoption and recognition all over the world. It is in active use in Brazil, USA and New Zealand and is now poised to become a major certification mode for India's organic farmers who will finally be able to rid themselves of the entirely unnecessary burden of expensive third party audits.

Under the PGS, organic farmers regain control over the certification process and are able to produce a far more credible and effective system of quality assurance compared to third party certification systems several of which are known to be cursory, superficial, incompetent and at times corrupt. (OFAI also offers its members third party certification. However, OFAI TPS is based on external farm certifiers who are themselves organic farmers. OFAI does not accept non-organic farmers as farm certifiers in its system.)

The PGS has several important advantages over third party systems which is why organic farmers have taken to it enthusiastically wherever it has been introduced:

1. The procedures are simple. The documents are basic. All the documents are in the language of the farmers concerned.

2. Where farm inspectors are not literate, PGS offers the option of conducting the inspection on video, with oral recording of answers, written to CD.
3. The farm visits are conducted by people who have a day-to-day knowledge or acquaintance of the farm since it is within the village and the farm inspectors reside in the same area.
4. The PGS is ideally suited for small and marginal farmers who are otherwise out of the certification process.
5. Farm certification is back in the hands of the farmers themselves and not in the hands of certifiers (mostly non-farmers) based in cities and who demand huge fees for their services.
6. The PGS is based on personal trust and knowledge. Hence paper work – which is required when the certifier does not have personal knowledge of the farm family or farm – is greatly reduced in PGS.

For all these reasons and more, PGS is the preferred system of organic farm certification emerging out of the experience of the organic farming moment worldwide. PGS is now recognized by IFOAM and FAO. Its recognition by the Indian government is under process.

With the introduction of PGS, organic farmers need not complain any more that they have difficulties in certification of their farm produce.

Claude Alvares
Director
Central Secretariat (OFAI)

Certification procedure for being permitted to use PGS organic label under OFAI umbrella

This certification procedure is only for farmers or tribals or local communities that can organize and perform as a group within the village or in a group of villages. Individual farmers unable to join groups will choose option of 'third-party' appraisal by OFAI farm appraisers.

I. Responsibilities of individual farm family:

- 1) Join the Local Group (LG) and become an OFAI ordinary member.
- 2) Fill in the OFAI/FAO form (if possible)
- 3) Read (or have read to them) the OFAI Basic Standards document (All PGS documents are available in Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Tamil, Marathi and Telugu from OFAI central secretariat).
- 4) Read and sign the pledge and hand it over to the LC convenor for placing in the LG file.

II. Responsibilities of the Local Group

- 1) Fill in or complete OFAI/FAO form of each LG member
- 2) Confirm farmer family understands Basic Standards document
- 3) LG forms "peer appraisal group" for farm visits (minimum of 3 members per visit +). Peer appraisal group will use simplified format for the visit or is permitted to do a video-interview, where possible or necessary. (Inspection of farms of their colleagues or co-farmers of the Local Group is called "peer group appraisal".)

- 4) Appraisal statement is signed by the peer appraisal group and circulated within the LG for study and discussion.
- 5) Decision is taken by the LG to recognize farmer family as organic or in case of rejection, farmer is given guidance how he/she can improve practice and become organic.
- 6) LG convenor collates application, pledge and sends summary of statement on farm to the state or central secretariat for placing before the Regional Council, which in the case of OFAI is the Standing Committee of the National Steering Committee.
- 7) The LG holds regular meetings to share knowledge and to educate new members and to promote extension of organic farming. Simple record of meetings to be maintained in a small notebook.

III. Responsibilities of the Regional Council (OFAI NSC)

- 1) Checks the summary statement for completeness and offers comments, if necessary.
- 2) Recognises LGs.
- 3) Derecognises LG, if LG is found, on investigation, to be violating standards.

IV. PGS India Council (14 members, including OFAI)

- 1) Maintains all records of LGs.
- 2) Provides ID for each LG.
- 3) SMS/Internet facility for referencing all recognised organic farms.
- 4) Maintains website data base of PGS Organic India.

Farmer's Pledge

I, _____, resident of village _____ located in the state of _____, desire to register myself as an organic farmer with OFAI under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). I am a member/intend to become a member of Local Group No. _____

I PLEDGE THAT I WILL FOLLOW THE ORGANIC STANDARDS IN MY FARMING, TO SERVE SOIL HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT, MY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

1. Therefore, I will not use synthetic pesticides such as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, chemical fertilizers, chemically treated or genetically modified seeds.
2. I will work to build a living soil through farming practices that respect the local ecology and biodiversity.
3. I will encourage biodiversity in my farming system and strive to conserve existing natural areas.
4. I will work to prevent contamination of my farm by suitable buffers and other means.
5. I will ensure that on the farm during storage, processing, transport and sale there is no contamination or mixing of organically grown with non-organically grown.
6. I will care for my livestock in ways that ensures their well-being.

7. I will check with the Local Group before using any product that I am unsure of.
8. I will work with our fellow farmers and attend meetings to expand and share my knowledge of the standards and organic production techniques.
9. I will participate in appraisals of other farms as per group norms.
10. I will sell products as 'organic' only when they are grown on certified land, and have been grown in accordance with organic standards and practices.
11. I will only use bags and containers that are clean and clearly labelled 'organic only' to harvest, transport and sell our organic products.
12. I will report even minor/unintentional violations of the organic standard on my farm to the Local Group.
13. I accept the decision of the Local Group in regards to my certification status as final.

I hereby declare that my last application of chemicals on my farm or plot either for purposes of fertilizer or pesticide use was on _____ after which I have completely halted such applications.

All the information that I have provided in the application and during my farm appraisal is correct and accurate, and I will keep my information up to date with any changes.

Printed Farmer Name(s) _____

Signature(s)/Thumb Impression _____

Date _____

Local Group ID# _____

Printed Name of Witness(es) _____

Witness Signature/Thumb Impression _____

Date _____

Contact information _____

Basic Organic Standards

These basic organic standards have been distilled by OFAI from its own detailed Organic Farming Guidelines (<http://www.ofai.org/>). They are in harmony with the IFOAM 2005 standards and the NSOP. Though a complete knowledge of – and compliance with – these basic standards will enable an organic farmer to join OFAI's Participatory Guarantee Scheme for marketing his/her produce as organic, he/she is still advised to read the detailed OFAI Guidelines at the earlier opportunity.

1. OFAI's organic farmers perceive the soil as a living medium. Hence they focus on feeding the soil and its vast living community of organisms rather than on feeding the plant. OFAI's organic farmers therefore will never use synthetic chemical fertilizers for plant nutrition. Neither will they rely on synthetic poisons to deal with problem insects or disease. All GMOs are prohibited on OFAI member farms.
2. Only organic fertilizers may be used. Farms are encouraged to utilize animal wastes, plant residues, green crops and approved mineral inputs or preparations like *panchagavya*, *amrut pani*, EM, which supply beneficial microorganisms, etc.
3. For managing insects that are causing a problem to farm cultivation, the use of botanical insect repellants, neem extracts, trap crops, mixed cropping, crop rotation is supported. No chemicals may be used for fungus and weeds.
4. For seed treatment, it is preferable to use traditional methods like organic manure, ash, cow-urine, *beejamrut*, etc. Seeds may not be treated with synthetic chemicals.
5. As far as possible, the seeds, seedlings/saplings should be of local variety. Seed material that is self-grown or from other organic farms is best.

6. Organic fields or plots should be clearly demarcated from non-organic fields. The farmer will also ensure that chemicals sprayed/used on the neighbouring farm do not enter into his/her farm. An effective buffer-zone with local plants should be maintained for the purpose.
7. Water used for organic farming should be pollution-free. For this, wells, rivers, tributaries, canals should be protected from all forms of pollution. Farmer will block chemically contaminated water from higher, adjoining fields.
8. Farm planning should include measures to prevent soil erosion.
9. All domestic animals and birds on the farm should be protected and treated with respect and in a humane way. Their diet/feed should be organic and treatment should be by indigenous methods.
10. Burning of crop residues is prohibited except where demonstrated to be absolutely necessary for disease control.
11. Farming equipment used for conventional farming must be cleaned before use on the organic farm.
12. Bags and containers used to harvest and transport organic produce must be clean and clearly labelled 'organic only' and should not have been earlier used to store non-organic crops.
13. Natural and traditional ways and means for storing organic produce including leaf of neem, ash, etc., are recommended. Ensure that organic is kept organic in storage and transportation.
14. The farmer will try and maintain a diary to note down activities relating to the farm. The farmer should also try and keep bills and receipts of purchases and sales made.
15. The conversion period to full organic production is 36 months from the last documented use of a prohibited input. Till that period is over, the farm will be classed as 'transitional' and its produce 'in conversion'.

How to make a Local Group under the OFAI PGS

1. Any farmer can take the initiative to form a 'local group' of organic farmers. PGS permits existing groups like village level organizations, farmer associations, Self-Help Groups, NGOs, etc., to also take the initiative to either form local groups or volunteer themselves as the Local Group in their area.
2. The local group can never be less than FIVE members. It must also be 'local'. Members must know each other and each others' farms. The group can be expanded to include members of NGOs, consumer organizations, etc, which may be able to assist the local group in terms of writing up appraisal reports, maintaining records, organizing inspection schedules, corresponding with Regional Councils, storing records, etc.
3. Once a local group is formed or a recognized group is already willing and available, it must have a correspondence address and telephone number. Name and addresses of all the members must be clearly written down in the LG box file.
4. It is next important (as far as OFAI PGS is concerned) that the information given is 'verified'. This is best done if one or more members of the Local Group personally know persons of OFAI's Managing Committee, National Steering Committee, State Steering Committee or state secretariats, OFAI's advisors or technical resource centres and OFAI-approved consultants.

5. The Local Group will ensure that all members doing organic farming take the organic farmer's pledge and read and study the documents provided. These must be made available in the language of the state, a responsibility to be taken up by state secretariats or volunteers. Already these PGS basic documents are available in Marathi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi.
6. The next stage is individual farm appraisal, at which it is mandatory that a minimum of three members of the LG attend. This 'peer appraisal' will be done using the OFAI 'peer appraisal form'. They may write in these formats or if they have access to a laptop, fill in the details directly into the laptop. The form can be downloaded from the OFAI website or will be sent as an email attachment from the central secretariat upon request. An appraisal report must be filed and signed by all three members at the conclusion of the visit. If there is difficulty in writing, OFAI PGS permits a video interview of the farmer to be taken as a record, after it is written on a CD.
7. The LG will next submit a short summary of each of the appraisal reports, together with its decision to certify organic farmer members as 'organic' and their names and addresses, to the Regional Council. (Within OFAI, these reports will be placed before the Standing Committee of the National Steering Committee of the Organisation.)

Functioning of the LG

8. PGS allows LGs to evolve and enforce their own norms and procedures in the conduct of the business of the LG. These procedures can be discussed by members in advance at their very first meeting and then written in a book for the assistance of new members, as and when they join the LG. LGs can also follow procedures adopted and working well with other PGS

groups. OFAI central and state secretariats will be glad to assist in locating successful PGS groups within the same region or state for this purpose, if requested.

9. It is always recommended that every meeting be conducted formally, and that a minutes notebook is also maintained. OFAI central secretariat staff will often ask for physical examination of these documents to assure themselves that they are being maintained as required.

Peer Appraisal Form

(This inspection report will be filled in by a group of not less than three members of the Local Group.)

Applicant details (use block letters wherever possible)

1	Farmer names (include all family members who are actively involved (as decision-makers) in the farm's operation.		
2	Is the farm owner/manager(s) present during the inspection? (If not, the inspection cannot proceed and should be re-scheduled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3	Contact address:		
4	Local Group name/Number		
5	Regional Council name/Number		
6	Inspection type	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Con- version
7	What is the farmers' relationship with the land	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Share- crop/tenant

Background information

8	Is the farmer sure that prohibited chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides or fungicides have not been used on the land 36 months before the next harvest? (Check N/A for farms under conversion).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
9	Can the farmer tell you how he checks to see if an input is approved or not for organic practices?		

10	Where did the farmer learn about organic farming?		
11	What are the main reasons the farmer wants to grow organically?		
12	Can the farmer show you a copy of the OFAI basic organic standards document?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Crop production details

13	What is the total number of plots that are being farmed?		
14	What is the area of each plot?		
15	What is the total area being farmed?		
16	How large is the area the farmer wants to certify as organic?		
17	How large is the area the farmer wants to certify as "in conversion" to organic		
18	How large is the area that will still be farmed conventionally (parallel production)?		
19	For parallel production properties, has the farmer provided you with a map of the farm clearly showing which areas are in organic production, which areas are still being farmed conventionally	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

20	List the primary crops grown for market and home use. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.				
	<i>Name of Crop</i>	<i>Area (or number of plants)</i>	<i>Home/Market/Mixed use</i>	<i>Estimated yield</i>	<i>Management (organic/conventional/NPM)</i>

Seeds and transplants

21	Does the farmer use organic seeds when available?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
22	Is the farmer sure that the seeds they grow are NOT Genetically Modified?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
23	Is the farmer sure that the seeds they plant are NOT treated with a prohibited substance	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
24	<i><u>This question is applicable to annual crops only</u></i> If the farmer buys transplants/planting stock, do they make sure they are organically grown -- or -- do they have permission to use non-organically grown transplants from their Regional Council?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

General soil health

25	How many instances of soil erosion do you see as you walk around the farm? Give approximate number.		
26	Can the farmer describe what they will do to minimize soil erosion next year?		
27	Does the farmer understand the importance of crop rotations and do they use them?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
28	Do the crops look healthy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

29	List the main rotations system and indicate which ones can be seen right now. Include intercropping systems

Natural resources

30	Is the farmer aware of the importance of biological diversity in farming?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
31	Do you see examples where the farmer is encouraging biological diversity and wildlife habitat where practical (for example leaving hedge areas between fields and planting strips of beneficial plants?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
32	<i>Through observation and discussion with the farmer, please list ways the farmer is encouraging biological diversity in the farm and cropping systems.</i>		
33	Does the farmer have a clear understanding of the importance of conserving water resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
34	If crop residues are burned, is the burning used only when absolutely necessary (<i>for example, to suppress disease</i>)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Animals on the farm

35	List species and numbers of each:		
36	Are the animals well maintained and in good health?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
37	Is the cattle-shed clean?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

38	Does the farmer know that using artificial stimulants especially pytocin is banned?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
39	Are local, indigenous medicines used for the animals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
40	Are the farm animals integrated with the farm operations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Nutrient management and inputs relating to soil fertility

41	Check the items below which the farmer lists as important components of their nutrient and fertility management				
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Green manures</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Crop rotation</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cover crops</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Intercropping</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>On-farm manure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Foliar applications</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Compost</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Soil amendments</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Off-farm manure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bio-dynamic preparations</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Vermiculture</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Incorporation of plant residues</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mulching</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Purchase prepared organic compounds</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Microbial Preparations including panchagavya, amirthakaraisal, amrut pani, beejaamrut, jeevamrut, etc. (underline appropriate preparation)</i>					
42	Have the farmer list the external fertility inputs used. <i>If you don't know whether or not the input is approved for organic use, put a ? in the space provided and list the input and label/ingredient information on the last page of this inspection worksheet so that it can be easily reviewed later.</i>				
<i>Input name and description</i>		<i>Crops on which it's used</i>	<i>Application Rate (amt +times applied)</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Organically Approved?</i>
43	If raw animal manure is used on crops for human consumption, is it incorporated into the soil at least 90 or 120 days prior to harvest, as applicable?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Managing weeds

44	Working with the farmer, list the primary weed problems on the farm:
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45	<i>Check the items below that the farmer uses for weed control</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>crop rotation</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>mulching</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>stale seed-bedding</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>hand pulling</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>weeding tool</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other (please describe below)</i>

Managing insect attacks and disease

46	Working with the farmer, list the primary insect and disease problems on the farm.				
47	What <i>preventative</i> insect and disease control practices does the farmer use				
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Crop rotation</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Intercropping</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Timing of ploughing</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Spacing</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Planting resistant varieties</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other (please describe below)</i>				
48	Have the farmer list the amendments used for problem insects attacks and disease control <i>If you don't know whether or not the input is approved for organic use, put a ? in the space provided and list the input and label/ingredient information on the last page of this inspection worksheet so that it can be easily reviewed later.</i>				
	<i>Input name and what pest/disease problem it's used for</i>	<i>Crops on which it's used</i>	<i>Application Rate (amt +times applied)</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Organically Approved?</i>
49	Is the farmer careful to use pest or disease control inputs only after trying preventive practices?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Buffers and split farm practices

50	Is the farmer aware of GMO and GM seed contamination concerns?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
51	Have they checked/do they know if GM seeds are planted in nearby fields?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
52	If neighboring farms are applying chemical sprays or using GM seeds, do buffers appear sufficient to avoid contamination of organic production areas and crops from chemical spray drift or GMO cross pollination?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
53	If buffer crops are harvested, does the farmer store and sell them separately from certified organic crops?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
54	If this is a split operation and prohibited chemicals are stored on the farm, have you checked to see that they are stored in a separate lockable cupboard from organic inputs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
55	If there are employees working on the farm, has the farmer explained the differences between prohibited and allowable materials and made it clear where each can be used?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
56	From your observations of equipment and talking to the farmer, do cleaning methods appear sufficient to prevent contamination by prohibited substances (for example wash water of spray equipment is not draining into organic fields)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Post harvest and crop storage

57	Does the farmer know that they have to use clean packaging to pack their products? <i>(For example they can not use fertilizer bags to pack their onions)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
58	Does the farmer have a system to prevent the mixing of organic and non-organic crops?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
59	Does the farmer keep sales records?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No
60	Do storage areas appear to be clean, and free of insect, rodent, bird, or other pest infestation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Marketing Details

61	<i>Get a quick summary-idea of how the farmer markets his main crops</i>			
	Name of Product/Crop	% Direct Sales	Resellers	Distributors

Inspection summary

The peer inspection worksheet is designed so that a "No" answer is a point for concern. Please be sure to explain "no" answers in the space provided below.

Please list here the inputs and materials used by the farmer that you are unsure whether or not they are acceptable in organic practices.
Product and label/ingredient information:

Does the peer review team have recommendations for the farmer about things that could be improved, even if they do not keep him/her from being Certified Organic this year?

The peer review team does not make the final decision on certification but now that the inspection is over, what would you recommend?

- Full certification
- In conversion certification
- Farmer should make listed improvements and apply for certification next year.

Date of inspection _____

How long did the inspection take _____

Who was responsible for filling in the inspection worksheet _____

Names, signatures of all peer-inspectors present at this inspection:

Date of inspection: _____

Local Group Records

Every Local Group will maintain the following documents in a box file for the inspection of OFAI teams. The box file will always contain:

1. CODE NUMBER AND ADDRESS/CONTACT DETAILS OF LOCAL GROUP INCLUDING THE PRINCIPAL CONTACT PERSON (CONVENOR) WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINANCE OF THIS FILE.

THE PAGE WILL ALSO CONTAIN A PARA ON THE BACKGROUND OF THIS PARTICULAR LG: WHEN IT WAS FORMED, ETC.

2. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF LG MEMBERS CLEARLY WRITTEN AND IN SERIAL ORDER.
3. SIGNED PLEDGES OF ORGANIC FARMER MEMBERS (ORIGINALS).
4. RECORD OF SIGNATURES OF LG MEMBERS INDICATING RECEIPT OF OFAI BASIC STANDARDS DOCUMENT.
5. RECORD INDICATING DATES ON WHICH LG MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD.
6. RECORD INDICATING DETAILS OF PEER APPRAISAL VISITS AND DATES.
7. INDIVIDUAL PEER APPRAISAL FORMS (ALREADY FILLED).
8. SUMMARIES OF PEER APPRAISAL REPORTS (for dispatch to the Regional Council to which the LG is affiliated).
9. LIST OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMERS OR FARMS APPROVED BY THE LG.
10. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

PGS India National Council as of April 15, 2007

At the last PGS Meeting in Goa in September 2006, the following organizations have been nominated to form the PGS Organic India Council and have agreed to facilitate the implementation of PGS in their respective regions:

<p>Shri. Mathew John Keystone Foundation Groves Hill Road, PB 35 Kotagiri 643 217 Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu India mathew@keystone-foundation.org www.keystone-foundation.org</p>	<p>Smt. Sonali Bisht INHERE Masi Bazar, Masi 263658 Uttaranchal 011 22713469, 05966 257374, 257217, 246342 inhere@rediffmail.com, inhereMasi@rediffmail.com</p>
<p>Dr. Claude Alvares OFAI G-8, St.Britto's Apartments, Feira Alta, Mapusa PIN 403507 Goa 0832 2255913 admin@ofai.org</p>	<p>Ms. Niranjana Maru Alternative Agriculture Resource Centre Chetna Vikas P.O.Gopuri Wardha PIN 442 001 Maharashtra India 07152- 241931, 240806, 240004 chetana_wda@sancharnet.in</p>
<p>Shri. Joy Daniel Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD) Nakshatrawadi, Aurangabad PIN 431 002 Maharashtra India 0240 2376336, 2376828 jdaniel@iird.org.in , www.iird.org.in</p>	<p>Ms. Mary Vattamattam Timbaktu Collective C.K.Pally Village Ananthapur PIN 515 101 Andhra Pradesh India 08559-240335,240339,240149,240337 9441417444 mary@timbaktu.org</p>

For further information on the PGS Organic India Council, please see their website: www.pgsorganic.in

OFAI's Third Party System

In addition to the PGS, OFAI also offers its members the alternative option of getting their farms certified as organic using the "Third Party System" of farm evaluation in which a person from outside the area visits the farm and files a report.

Unlike other organic farm certification systems, however, OFAI farm certification is done through the agency of trained organic farmers themselves. OFAI does not accept farm inspectors who do not themselves practise organic agriculture. This is in fact the most attractive feature of the OFAI "Third Party System".

Generally this system of certification is only useful for those farms that cannot – because of circumstance or distance – participate in a local group, as required under PGS.

OFAI has recently published its own manual for organic certification based on a "third party system" of evaluation. The manual can be ordered from the central secretariat or from state secretariats. All the relevant documents can also be downloaded from the www.ofai.org website free of cost.

About the Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI)

The Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI) is the country's only organization of grassroots organic farmers.

Since Indian agriculture continues to remain a source of livelihood for mostly small farmers and peasants, OFAI membership reflects this ground reality as well.

OFAI is also committed to active involvement of women farmers in the decision-making structures of the association. Such involvement is mandatory and reflected in the organisation's bye-laws.

The association – which is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 – was formed almost five years ago. Its memorandum of association was written and approved after a wide consultation with organic farmers. In that respect, OFAI is truly a unique institution for organic farming and its promotion in India.

The primary objective of the association is to promote organic farming within the country and to take all such means that are available to achieve this purpose.

OFAI's labelling scheme is meant to provide an assurance of guarantee of organically grown produce exclusively for domestic consumers. The organisation has opted, at the outset, not to be preoccupied with organic farm exports.

OFAI brings out a newsletter on organic farming called *The Living Field*. The Hindi edition is called *Shashya Shamala*.

OFAI website: www.ofai.org Email: admin@ofai.org

Membership form of the Association

**The Organic Farming Association of
India**

(A society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)

Registered address:

G-8, St Britto's Apartments, Feira Alta, Mapusa 403 507 Goa, India

Tel: 91-832-2255913. Tel./fax: 91-832-2263305

Email: admin@ofai.org Web: www.ofai.org

I, _____ aged _____, male/female, desire to become a member of the Organic Farming Association of India. My membership fee is enclosed herewith.

My complete and correct address (with phone and email data, if available) is provided below:

I would qualify to be a member of the Association under one of the following categories (please underline the chosen category):

- a) Organic Farmer
- b) Company/Society/Trust involved in organic food production
- c) Green Shop (applicable only to shops marketing organic produce)
- d) Green Trader (also includes suppliers of organic farming inputs)
- e) Organic Farming Promoter
- f) Organic Consumer

I am willing to assist the Association in the furtherance of its objectives as and when I have the time or when called upon to do so. I can assist in the following ways:

Name and signature of applicant

Details for applicants:

Membership fees as per bye-laws of the association:

Individuals: Rs.100 per year

Non-profit organizations: Rs.1,000 per year

Companies and partnerships: Rs.5,000 per year

All members are entitled in the first year of membership to four free issues of *The Living Field* newsletter.

Membership is valid for one year from date of receipt issued. Membership fees can be paid for more than one year at a time in advance.

Membership can be paid direct at the following OFAI secretariats:

- **Andhra Pradesh: Deccan Development Society**, 101, Kishan Residency, Road no. 5, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Tel.: 040 27764577, 27764744. Email: hyd1_ddshyd@sancharnet.in
- **Maharashtra: Maharashtra Organic Farming Federation**, 103A/11, Balaji Niwas, Flat.No.5, Cosmos Bank Lane, Beep Bungalow Chowk, Model Colony, Pune 411016 Maharashtra 400 016 Tel.: 020 25659090 Mob.: 9422035230 / 9822060606 Email: vbfoundation@yahoo.com
- **Gujarat: Jatan**, Vinoba Ashram, Gotri, Vadodara Gujarat 390 021 Mob: 09427054132 Tel.: 0265 2371429, Email: jatantrust@sify.com
- **Tamil Nadu: Mahanadi**, 79, Elancheran Nagar, Nambiar Nagar Road, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu 611 001 Tel.: 0944334336(M), 04365 247007 09443764197(Thiruvankataswami) Email: revathi7359@yahoo.co.in
- **Karnataka: ICRA**, No. 22, 'Samskruthi', Michael Palya, NTP, Bangalore 560 075, Karnataka Tel.: 080-25283370; 25213104 Email: icra@vsnl.net
- **Kerala: INFAC**T, Kizhathadiyoor PO, Palai, Kottayam District Kerala 686 574 Tel.: 09447285525(M); 04822 211997 / 211689 Email: ktm_infact@sancharnet.in
- **Orissa: Living Farms**, Plot No.1181/2146, Ratnakarbag – 2, Tankapani Road, Bhubaneswar 751018 Orissa. Phones: 09938582616/0674-2430176. Email: ofaiorissa@gmail.com
- **West Bengal: C/o DRCSC – SAN**, 58 A Dharmatola Road, Bosepukur, Kasba, Kolkata, West Bengal 700 042. Tel.: 033– 26834685 (R); 24427322(O); Email: drcsc@vsnl.com / enre_sc@vsnl.net
- **Uttar Pradesh: Kisan Vigyan Kendra**, Tintwari, Banda, UP 210 128, Tel.: 05192–233928; 233936. Email: vsk_73@sancharnet.in
- **Goa & rest of India: OFAI**, G-8, St. Britto's Apartments, Feira Alta, Mapusa, Goa 403507 Tel.: 0832 2256479 Mob: 09326115907 Email: ofaigoa@gmail.com, admin@ofai.org

(Please note: Since OFAI state secretariats are managed by NGOs, membership may be required to be paid in the name of the NGO concerned and not OFAI. Receipt may also be given by the concerned organization. However, the applicant will get a membership certificate from OFAI, after the fee is transmitted to the central secretariat of the organization by the state secretariat concerned.)