

राष्ट्रीय बागवानी बोर्ड

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
85, इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, सैक्टर-18, गुड़गाँव-122015

National Horticulture Board

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India
85, Institutional Area, Sector - 18, Gurgaon - 122015

19th December, 2024

No. NHB/Delhi/BGAP/204-25/876

NOTICE

Subject - Inviting applications for Recognition / Authorization/ Notification of NABL accredited food testing laboratories for analysis and Residue management Plan under Bharat GAP Certification Scheme.

The National Horticulture Board an autonomous Board under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India being the secretariat of Bharat Good Agricultural Practices (Bharat GAP) certification programme invites applications for empanelment/ recognition of NABL accredited food testing laboratories for participation in Residue Management plan and testing of samples drawn by authorized person, including the part to be tested at the request of the Bharat GAP registered Operator for parameters as specified by the NHB from time to time.

The testing laboratories already recognized/ empaneled by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), APEDA, Spice Board or any other statutory authority for export promotion shall be preferred.

The testing laboratory(s) shall conduct tests as per requirement of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products and Standards) Regulations, 2011 and as per the requirement of Bharat GAP certification scheme, notified from time to time by NHB. The laboratory is also expected to have NABL accreditation for the test parameters.

Interested parties/laboratories can apply to NHB in the prescribed format for recognition under Bharat GAP certification scheme and are requested to supply the information (along with the valid documentary proof) to NHB in the prescribed format attached alongside.

The stated procedure of recognition/empanelment of Laboratories under Bharat GAP certification scheme is an open and continuous process to be pursued until any further amendment/orders by NHB.

Detailed information in this regard may be obtained from NHB's website
<https://www.nhb.gov.in/BharatGAP.aspx>

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उप निदेशक / Deputy Director
राष्ट्रीय बागवानी बोर्ड / National Horticulture Board
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय / Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली / Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110114

EMPANELMENT CRITERIA FOR LABORATORIES

For Recognition under Bharat GAP Certification Programme

1.0 INTRODUCTION

With the advent of green revolution, the usage of chemical fertilizer has significantly raised to increase crop production globally. Similarly, with the progress in science and technology, the usage of chemical pesticides for the control of disease, pest, and weed has increased. Large scale application of chemical fertilizer and pesticide in the crops has created concerns among consumers about the safety of produce. Increasing residue in fresh fruits and vegetable also resulted in rejections in international trade.

Further, excessive usage of fertilizers and pesticides harms the soil, environment, and impedes the trading of agri-products. The enforcement of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) has greater relevance in recent days as it ensures safe crop production, facilitate regional trade through the implementation of common GAP standards in the region and ensure acceptability of fruits and vegetables in the national and international markets. It helps to produce quality goods with high yield that comply with the standards of national and international regulations. Implementation of GAP ensures environment friendly agricultural production, considering human health and welfare, improving the profitability and productivity of the farm.

To initiate the implementation of GAP suitable to Indian farming situations, wide consultations were made at different levels, and it was decided to launch a country suitable GAP system under Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India under the name **“BHARAT GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (BHARAT GAP)”** with National Horticulture Board (NHB) as its secretariat. Initially the programme shall cover (a) fresh fruits and vegetables, (b) flowers and ornamentals and (c) combination crops grown in combination with (a) and (b) above. National Horticulture Board being secretariat shall be acting on behalf of the Bharat GAP National Accreditation Body which shall be the main accreditation and empanelment/ recognition body.

The proposed BHARAT GAP focusses on production process, produce quality, food safety and hygiene, workers & farmers safety, and traceability and has following unique features :

- a. The Bharat GAP shall be based on ISO-17065 and a third-party certification
- b. Simple, easy to operate and Indian farming system centric,
- c. Data management through on-line digital portal (minimum documentation)
- d. Testing through a mix of rapid testing kits and NABL accredited labs
- e. Specific provision for small farmer groups with individual certificates
- f. End-to-end traceability.

To comply with Bharat GAP Certification requirements and mandatory food safety requirements as per Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, analysis of residues of chemicals such as pesticides, heavy metals, aflatoxin levels, microbiological analysis etc., the testing laboratories recognized by NHB shall provide services to Accredited Certification Bodies and operators registered under Bharat GAP to facilitate the trade. A network of private and public sector commercial testing laboratories at different production regions of the country as well as overseas laboratories are being envisaged through these recognition criteria.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 The scope of these criteria shall be for the following analysis parameters:

- a) Chemical Analysis
 - i. Pesticide residues
 - ii. Heavy metals
 - iii. Soil testing
 - iv. Water testing
- b) Microbiological Analysis

2.2 The above parameters shall cover the following category of products for the purposes of sampling, analysis, residue monitoring, etc.:

- 1) Fresh fruits and vegetables
- 2) Flowers and Ornamentals
- 3) Combination crops (such as grains, pulses, oilseeds and other agricultural crops)

2.3 In case of existing laboratories recognized by National Horticulture Board, for any other scheme these criteria shall be complied with by the laboratories to be compliant under Bharat GAP Certification programme.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Objectives of the laboratory recognition by NHB is to create network of laboratories to cater to the needs of Accredited Certification Bodies, Traders and producers registered under Bharat GAP certification scheme for sampling, analysis, and residue monitoring plans implemented under Bharat GAP for scheduled category of products.
- 3.2 Laboratories recognized by NHB shall cater to NHB, Accredited Certification Bodies, Traders and producers registered under Bharat GAP certification scheme for sampling, analysis; residue monitoring plans for scheduled products as per the laid down procedures by NHB from time to time.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Initially the laboratories already empaneled by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Spices Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board or empaneled/ recognized by any other Statutory authority and having facilities for specified tests on specified commodities and are NABL accredited under ISO 17025 for specified tests/ scopes shall be considered. Such laboratories shall be empaneled / recognized under Bharat GAP scheme on submission of documentary evidence of empanelment with above agencies and detailed documentary evidence of having NABL accreditation for specified tests and specified commodities. At the discretion of NHB requirement of on-site assessment and witness audit by an assessment team duly constituted by NHB may be dispensed with in cases of laboratories already empaneled by statutory authorities.

Laboratories not empaneled or recognized by above statutory agencies but are having NABL accreditation for the specified tests and specified commodities can also apply for recognition under Bharat GAP certification scheme, but such agencies shall undergo thorough assessment and evaluation process, specified in para 5.0, 6.0,

5. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANT LABORATORY

- 5.1 The applicant laboratories shall have complete range of chemical (mainly pesticide residues, heavy metals, soil and water testing) and microbiological analysis before applying to NHB for recognition.
- 5.2 Applications for partial recognition shall not be entertained.

5.3 Incomplete applications, misleading information, etc. shall summarily be rejected by NHB.

5.4 The successful laboratories would be accorded recognition by Bharat GAP NAB on recommendations of NHB for:

- a) Chemical and microbiological analysis for the products specified under Bharat GAP certification scheme.
- b) Premises only where actual analysis is being carried out shall be recognized. In case analysis is carried out at more than one premise, recognition of all these facilities shall have to be obtained.

5.1 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR LABORATORY RECOGNITION

5.2 The laboratories shall comply with the following before applying to NHB:

- a) High precision GC-MS/MS, HPLC-MS/MS, ICP-MS, etc. with appropriate back-up, supporting equipment as well as accessories are available.
- b) ISO/IEC-17025 accreditation with scope of residual analysis for chemical, and microbiological, analysis along with validated methods.
- c) Technically qualified personnel with appropriate training and updating on methods of sampling and analysis as per national and international methods of sampling and analysis for fresh and processed food products.
- d) Sensitized personnel for sample drawl, preparation of samples for analysis as well as analysis.
- e) Control sample retention storage in controlled temperature of appropriate capacity
- f) Method validation for sampling and residual analysis, participation in Proficiency Testing (P.T.) programs, estimation of uncertainty, traceability, etc.

6.1 PROCEDURE FOR LABORATORY RECOGNITION AND

RENEWAL

- 6.2 The laboratory seeking recognition under Bharat GAP programme shall submit application completed in all respect along with application fee to NHB, Sector 18, Gurugram in **Form-I**.
- 6.3 The laboratory shall submit list of equipment in **Form-II**.
- 6.4 The laboratory shall submit list of professionally qualified personnel in **Form-III**.
- 6.5 A copy of the laboratory quality manual covering requirements of ISO/IEC-17025 shall be submitted by the applicant laboratory.
- 6.6 Copies of SOPs on methods of sampling and analysis as well as evidence to sensitized team for drawl of product samples retention facility in controlled temperature shall be submitted by the applicant laboratory.
- 6.7 Sampling and analysis charges for each product shall also be submitted together with application by the applicant laboratory.
- 6.8 Each application received in NHB shall be considered by NHB based on the requirements for having a laboratory recognized for scheduling an assessment of the laboratory.
- 6.9 Once the need for having a laboratory recognized has been established, an assessment team shall be nominated by NHB.
- 6.10 The assessment team shall carry out witness audit of the laboratory and submit assessment/surveillance report of the laboratory as per format given in **Annexure-I**.
- 6.11 Recognition to successful laboratories would be granted for analysis for the products based on the instrumentation and manpower availability for chemical and microbiological analysis.
- 6.12 The assessment team shall submit its report to NHB along with its recommendations. On the basis of the assessment report of the assessment team, NHB shall recommend for grant of recognition or otherwise to Bharat GAP NAB of its decision.
- 6.13 After assessment, if the laboratory does not qualify for recognition the laboratory shall be eligible to reapply only after six months after

establishing all corrective measures.

- 6.14 The recognized laboratories shall not sub-contract any part of sampling and analysis to the laboratories that are not recognized by NHB for the same scope of recognition. In case of sub-contracting, a written approval shall be obtained from NHB.
 - 6.15 Laboratory Recognition Certificate shall be issued as per **Form-IV** along with scope of recognition for sampling and analysis.
 - 6.16 The successful laboratory shall participate in P.T. programs organized by respective National Referral Laboratory (NRL) from time-to-time for the purposes of following harmonized methods of sampling and analysis.
 - 6.17 The successful laboratory shall be part of the traceability programs implemented by NHB or any other agencies nominated by NHB for the products specified by it from time-to-time and abide by the procedures to be complied therewith, such as uploading of data, chromatograms, etc. as announced by NHB or the NRL.
 - 6.18 The laboratory shall be audited for following harmonized methods of sampling, sample preparation and analysis purposes.
 - 6.19 In case the laboratory does not comply with the laid down procedures, NHB shall be at its liberty to recommend to the respective accreditation body or any other relevant organization to suspend accreditation of the laboratory.
- 7.1 **ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT TEAM**
- 7.2 The assessment team shall be nominated by NHB for on-site witness audit of the laboratory pertaining to verification of methods of sampling and analysis. The team so nominated shall conduct audit; follow up audits, if needed as well as surveillance of the laboratory. The assessment team shall submit report and their recommendations of each audit to NHB.
 - 7.3 The composition of assessment team would be from the NHB panel of assessment team for testing laboratories, the team shall be independent and impartial conforming to requirements of recognition.
 - 7.4 With regards to assessment and surveillance assessment, the expenditure of the assessment team on travel, stay, and incidental expenses shall be borne

by the applicant laboratory on actual basis. Nomination of assessment team shall be based on scope of recognition applied for.

8.1 VALIDITY OF RECOGNITION

8.2 Generally, the recognition shall be valid for a period of **three years**. Validity of the laboratory recognition shall be specified on the recognition certificate. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) shall be signed by the laboratory stating the terms and conditions of recognition as laid down in paras 5.1, 5.2, and 6.1 to 6.18. Specimen format of the MOU is given in **Annexure-II**.

8.3 Effective date of recognition shall be as mentioned in the recognition certificate.

8.4 NHB shall host list of recognized/derecognized laboratories in its website for circulation to accredited certification bodies and registered traders, exporters, producers and other concerned.

9.1 SURVEILLANCE AND REVALIDATION OF RECOGNITION

9.2 Bi-annual surveillance shall be carried out by the assessment team nominated by NHB. The assessment team shall submit a report as per format given in Annexure-I.

9.3 Onus of surveillance shall be of recognized laboratories failing which the recognition shall automatically get cancelled.

9.4 The renewal of recognition shall be based on the requirement of test facilities at that laboratory and the satisfactory performance reported as per the surveillance/ periodic inspection carried out during the validity period.

9.5 NHB at its discretion can dispense with surveillance assessment, if the testing laboratory is already subjected to surveillance assessment by the FSSAI during the surveillance window and the laboratory is able to provide verifiable documents of recent surveillance assessment.

10.1 APPLICATION, SURVEILLANCE AND REVALIDATION FEE

10.2 Initial empanelment fee Rs. 10,000/- for 3 years cycle for testing lab having NABL accreditation as per ISO 17025 for specified scopes and empaneled by FSSAI, APEDA, Tea Board, Spices Board or any other statutory body.

10.3 Initial empanelment fee Rs. 75,000/- for 3 years cycle for testing labs having NABL accreditation as per ISO 17025 but not empaneled by FSSAI or any other statutory bodies.

10.4 Biannual surveillance - Rs. 75,000/- for biannual surveillances. Agencies subjected to surveillance by FSSAI, and statutory bodies may be exempted provided they submit necessary proof of surveillance during that cycle.

11.1 ISSUE OF RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

11.2 NHB on being satisfied that the laboratory conforms to the requirements, it will recommend to Bharat GAP NAB for recognition of the laboratory.

11.3 Any change in the layout, design or capacity of the laboratory shall be intimated to NHB.

11.4 The recognition once issued shall continue to be in force till the date specified in the certificate unless derecognized by NHB. NHB may institute surprise checks through its officers to ensure that the laboratory has maintained the standard as required.

12.1 REFUSAL/CANCELLATION OF LABORATORY RECOGNITION

12.2 Issue of recognition may be refused or, if issued, may be cancelled or suspended:

- a) If the laboratory does not conform or fail to perform as per requirements.
- b) If there are adverse reports from the financial institutions/banks against any of the owner/directors/partners/trustees.
- c) If skilled/semi-skilled personnel are not available to manage the laboratory.

d) If there are adverse reports from the exporters, importers, etc.

e) Any other complaints made to NHB by any other entity.

f) On expiry of the recognition date specified in the Recognition Certificate.

12.3 In case the laboratory does not comply with the laid down procedures, NHB shall be at liberty to recommend to the respective accreditation body or any other relevant organization to suspend accreditation of the laboratory.

13.1 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL/CANCELLATION OF RECOGNITION

13.2 In case of cancellation of recognition, appeal shall accompany original certificate.

13.3 Chairman, National Accreditation Body for Bharat GAP shall be the appellate authority and shall consider the application on merit and, in case, found necessary, order re-assessment of the laboratory during which time the non-compliances pointed out by assessment team should be rectified by the laboratory.

Place:

Date:

Managing Director NHB

Form - I
APPLICATION

FORM FOR RECOGNITION, SURVEILLANCE & RENEWAL

1.	Laboratory Name & Address Phone/Fax/E-Mail contact person	
2.	Applying fresh or Applying for surveillance or Renewal of recognition, (please give recognition validity with due date of surveillance/ renewal)	
3.	Date of incorporation (please enclose proof) of legal status	
4.	Is the laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC-17025 for Bharat GAP scheduled products as per internationally accepted methods of sampling and analysis for: a) Residues of pesticides and other chemicals b) Residues of heavy metals and other contaminants c) Microbiological analysis (Please enclose copies of ISO/IEC-17025 certificate and scope conforming to above)	
5.	Is the laboratory empaneled/ recognized by the FSSAI/ APEDA/ Spice Board/ Tea Board/ Coffee Board or any other statutory authority (if yes) then attach relevant empanelment/ recognition documents	
6.	List of products presently being analyzed by laboratory, please tick 1) Fresh fruits and vegetables 2) Processed fruits and vegetables 3) Flowers/ ornamentals 4) Cereals (rice, wheat, maize) and products 5) Any other agricultural commodities (Pl specify)	
6.	List of equipment	Please attach Form-I
7.	Manpower details	Please attach Form-II
8.	Has the laboratory sampled and analyzed produces for	

	residues of pesticides, heavy metals, and microbiological analysis during the recent past?	
9.	Total number of samples analyzed during the last three years pertaining to products at Sr. No. 6	
10.	Details of control sample retention storage in controlled Temperature	
11.	Products interested in for sampling and analysis, please tick: 1) Fresh fruits and vegetables 2) Flowers and ornamentals 3) Other raw agricultural commodities such as grains, seeds, herbs (pl specify)	
12.	Details of application fee in favour of NHB, Gurugram a) Bankers' cheque/demand draft No. Dated Rs b) Remittance advise or bankers' cheque	

DECLARATION

- (a) I/we, _____ declare that I/we have read and understood the recognition criteria for laboratories with NHB and have complied with the same in respect of my/our laboratory.
- (b) I/we, _____ declare that I/we have read and understood application recognition criteria for laboratories with NHB and have complied with the same in respect of my/our laboratory located at _____.
- (c) I/we, agree to the publication of the name of my/our laboratory in the list of NHB recognized laboratories.

UNDERTAKING

I, _____ also agree to follow the conditions of recognition stated in this scheme and also agree to abide by any instructions that may be issued by NHB in this respect from time to time and get my above laboratory inspected whenever called on to do so by the Authority. I also understand that non-compliance will entail cancellation of Recognition Certificate issued to my/our laboratory.

VERIFICATION

I, _____ do hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above information is complete and correct and that I agree to abide by the conditions laid down in this behalf.

DATE:
PLACE:

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
NAME & DESIGNATION

(Affix Common Seal of the Laboratory)

Form - II

ANALYSIS EQUIPMENT DETAILS

Sr. No.	Name of equipment along-with detectors & date of purchase	Model Year of make	Range & accuracy	Date of last calibration	Due date of next calibration

Form - III

DETAILS OF PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED STAFF

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Academic & professional qualification	Experience

**Format for laboratory assessment and surveillance
(To be filled by all recognized laboratories)**

1	Date of Application/ assessment	
2	Name of the laboratory	
3	Address	
4	Contact details and contact person	
5	Legal identify/ establishment date	
6	Accreditation and validity	
7	Products and tests for which accreditation is obtained	
8	Adequacy of equipment and reference standards	
9	Equipment is in working order ?	
10	equipment repair and maintenance system ?	
11	Sub-contracting	
12	Sample collection facility	
13	Adequacy of technical/ trained personnel ?	
14	Work instructions and procedures	
15	Technical capability and Competence	
16	General environment	

	cleanliness and hygiene	
17	Analysis methods standard	
18	Whether methods of analysis validated	
19	Library facilities	
20.	Control sample retention facility in controlled temperature	
21	Sample receipt & disposal system	
22	P.T. programs	
23	Complaint re-address system	
24	Remarks recommendations and conclusion:	

Signature Name of Team member

Signature Name of Team member

Signature Name of Team member

Date:

Place:

**SPECIMEN FORMAT FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
NATIONAL HORTICULTURE BOARD AND THE LABORATORY**

(On stamp paper of appropriate value duly notarized)

(To be submitted in hard copy only after the grant of empanelment letter by NHB)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), nullifying all previous MoUs is executed at Gurugram on _____, between National Horticulture Board, through its Managing Director Shri _____, Sector 18, Gurugram, Haryana (hereinafter referred to as NHB) of one part and _____ (laboratory) who has been duly authorized by means of _____ dated _____ to sign and execute this MoU, _____ (laboratory).

With importance being given world over to food safety and quality, NHB is implementing Bharat Good Agricultural Practices (Bharat GAP) certification scheme providing third party assurance support to the Bharat GAP accredited certification bodies, traders, consumers and food export industry through its Bharat GAP certification scheme of recognition of laboratories. The laboratory, in addition, to providing analysis reports/certificates, would also focus on R&D activities, providing training needs and other such activities leading to further improvement of Good Agricultural Practices and its standards.

M/s _____ (name of laboratory) is an organization/laboratory, legally identifiable, registered by an appropriate Registration Authority and/or commercial testing laboratory having quality systems as per international standards, with an objective to undertake sampling and analysis.

1. RECOGNITION

1.1 NHB and _____, have arrived at an understanding and arrangement whereby NHB recognizes _____ for carrying out the following :

- a) The laboratories shall have to carry out analysis of food products as required by NHB / its accredited certification bodies, producers, traders and exporters for the purpose of monitoring pre shipment analysis at a cost mutually agreed with the respective organizations.
- b) Conducting sampling, analysis and issue of analysis certificates with regard to following agriculture and food products, meant for the purposes of exports:
 - 1) Fresh fruits and vegetables
 - 2) Flowers and ornamentals and
 - 3) Combination crops grown in combination with 1) and 2) above

2. BOTH PARTIES FURTHER MUTUALLY AGREE THAT

2.1 The recognition granted by virtue of this MoU by NHB to _____, shall

- remain valid for a period of Three year subject to periodic review/surveillance as felt necessary by NHB.
- 2.2 NHB shall have full power and authority to maintain, suspend or withdraw recognition and increase or reduce the scope of recognition or required pre-assessment in the event of changes effecting the laboratories activities and operations such as changes in personnel or equipment or if analysis of complaints or any other information indicates that the laboratory no longer compiles with the requirements of NHB.
- 2.3 NHB shall not be liable for any legal or financial liabilities for any item/product, product analysis involving/resulting in accident/damage to personnel/equipment/products at any time and that the same shall be the sole liability and responsibility of _____.

3. CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE LABORATORY

- 3.1 The laboratory shall offer to its clients, services consistent with the criteria for which it has been recognized by NHB. The laboratory shall not at its discretion refuse to sampling and analysis to any Bharat GAP accredited certification agency or registered operators under Bharat GAP for the purpose of Bharat GAP certification.
- 3.2 The laboratory shall issue analysis reports to the party within a maximum period of 5 days (excluding the period of analysis).
- 3.3 The laboratory shall issue analysis reports / certificates in line with the standard format or as desired by the client.
- 3.4 The analysis charges for each product/group of products for Bharat GAP accredited certification body or its operators shall be fixed in consultation with NHB and shall be valid during the currency of the recognition of the laboratory.
- 3.5 The sampling and analysis charges for a product shall be the same for each operator. However, when additional parameters are reported, the charges may differ.
- 3.6 The laboratory shall inform NHB immediately about any major changes / break down of equipment affecting analysis of any relevant products for which recognition has been granted.
- 3.7 The laboratory shall agree to participate in proficiency testing/inter laboratory testing organized by NHB / NHB nominated organization for assessing the technical competence of the laboratory. The charges for this shall be paid by the laboratory in question.
- 3.8 The laboratory shall offer full cooperation and facilities to NHB personnel/NHB nominated personnel for:
- a) Periodic review/surveillance activities
 - b) Undertaking any checking to verify analysis
 - c) Offering access to relevant areas of the analysis for witnessing.

- d) Participation in any appropriate programme of proficiency testing and inter-laboratory comparisons of various NHB recognized laboratories.
 - e) Activities relating to training
 - f) Activities relating to Research & Development
- 3.9 The laboratory shall not use or publicize the recognition in such a manner as to cause any disrepute to NHB and shall not make any statement relevant to its recognition which NHB may reasonably consider to be misleading.
- 3.10 The laboratory shall not use or publicize recognition after its validity period is over and in case of de-recognition.
- 3.11 Recognition does not qualify the laboratory to approve a particular product but to give an analysis report/certificate on the basis of the analysis conducted. In case of sub-contracting of analysis, the laboratory shall do so with the prior approval of NHB obtained in writing. However, the sub-contracting shall have to be from NHB recognized laboratory for the similar scope of recognition.
- 3.12 The laboratory shall send periodic monthly information to NHB about all samples analyzed for Bharat GAP certification as related to items listed in para 1.1 (b) of the MoU.
- 3.13 The laboratory shall initiate surveillance and revalidation of recognition failing which the recognition shall automatically get cancelled.
- 3.14 NHB shall have access to all data relating to analysis and the same shall be provided by the laboratory as and when required by NHB.
- 3.15 The laboratory shall agree to host NHB sponsored programs as may be informed from time-to-time by NHB.
- 3.16 The laboratory shall not undertake partial analysis.
- 3.17 The laboratory shall not sub-contract any part of sampling and analysis to the laboratories that are not recognised by NHB for the same scope of recognition. In case of sub-contracting, a written approval shall be obtained from NHB.
- 3.18 The laboratory shall participate in P.T. programs organized by respective National Referral Laboratory nominated by NHB from time-to-time for the purposes of following harmonized methods of sampling and analysis.
- 3.19 The laboratory shall be part of the traceability programs implemented by NHB or any other agencies nominated by NHB for the products specified by it from time-to-time and abide by the procedures to be complied therewith such as uploading of data, chromatograms, etc. as announced by NHB or the NRL.
- 3.20 The laboratory shall be audited periodically as per criteria by NHB. The laboratory shall be

audited by the NRL for following harmonized methods of sampling, sample preparation and analysis purposes. The laboratory shall also be audited by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection for the purposes of authorization for issue of Agmark Grading Certificate.

- 3.21 In case the laboratory does not comply with the laid down procedures, NHB shall be at liberty to recommend to the respective accreditation body or any other relevant organization to suspend accreditation of the laboratory and take legal action.

4. POWERS OF NHB

NHB may de-recognize the laboratories at any time during the recognition period for either of the following reasons:

- a) If the laboratory is not co-operating with the NHB registered operators for carrying sampling and analysis.
- b) The laboratory does not carry out analysis appropriately and take corrective steps as required by NHB.
- c) If the laboratory is found divulging information to other parties and not maintaining adequate confidentiality pertaining to the samples under analysis and analysis results.
- d) The laboratory and its personnel are found to be not free from any commercial, financial or other pressures, which might influence the analysis results.
- e) If the laboratory works directly or indirectly against the interests of NHB in any form of manner.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- 5.1 In case of dispute or difference arising out of or in connection with this MoU, the same be settled through mutual discussions between NHB and _____.
- 5.2 The MoU can be terminated by either side by giving one month notice in writing to the other party.
- 5.3 Only the Courts of Delhi shall have the jurisdiction to entertain any suits / petitions etc. in the event of the same being filed by either party.
- 5.4 This MoU signed as hereunder shall be effective for a period of Three year from the date of signing and can be extended for another Three years by executing a fresh MoU after the expiry of this period.
- 5.5 The laboratory shall initiate process of revalidation before expiry of the original recognition at least 15 days in advance.

Signed for and on behalf of
APEDA

Signed for and on behalf
of the laboratory

Date:

Place:

Witnesses:

- 1.
- 2.

NATIONAL HORTICULTURE BOARD
(MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARNERS WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

RECOGNITION OF LABORATORY FOR ANALYSIS

This is to certify that the laboratory described below has been recognized by NHB and considered to be competent to meet the required levels of analysis.

1. Recognition No. :
2. Recognition date :
3. Name & address of laboratory :
4. Recognition validity upto :
5. Surveillance due date :
6. Recognition Status
b) Chemical Analysis :
- b) Microbiological Analysis :
7. Scope of recognition is enclosed

For and on behalf of NHB

Place: New Delhi

Date:

Dy MD

National Horticulture Board
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Government of India
85, Institutional Area, Sector – 18, Gurugram - 122015 (Haryana)
Telephone 0124-2342992, 2347441, 2342989-90FAX : 2342991
Web: <http://www.nhb.gov.in>
Email: md@nhb.gov.in
helpdesk@nhb.gov.in
helpdesk No. 0124-2343414

Enclosure to Form - IV

SCOPE OF RECOGNITION

(as applicable)

- 1) Fresh fruits and vegetables
- 2) Flowers and ornamentals
- 3) Combination crops (to be specified)

For and on behalf of NHB

Place: New Delhi

Date:

Dy MD

**National Horticulture Board
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Government of India**

**85, Institutional Area, Sector – 18, Gurugram - 122015 (Haryana)
Telephone 0124-2342992, 2347441, 2342989-90 FAX : 2342991**

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helpdesk No. 0124-2343414