

Assistance for Quality Certification

The rapid growth in global coconut trade and the increasing demand for coconut products makes it all the more crucial to establish a quality system of production. The importance of standards in trade is fast becoming critical for the domestic as well as international trade. Adherence to specific standards increases the market value of the product. Quality of coconut products and packaging assumes a strong role in promoting market development of the product. The selection decision of the buyers and consumers is very much influenced by the quality certifications possessed by the product.

There are many types of quality certifications in place for the processing of quality products which include systems on quality, environment management, occupational health and safety management, food safety management, energy management etc. The scheme is proposed to encourage entrepreneurs and processors to undertake quality certification of the process/product to facilitate better market development. These include ISO 9001 (Quality Management System), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System), OHSAS (Operational Health safety), ISO 22000 and FSSC 22000 (Food safety), HACCP (Hazard Analysis at Critical Control Points), ISO 27001 (Information Security Management), ISO 28000 (Supply Chain Management) etc and other certifications like Fair Trade, Good Manufacturing Practices, Good Hygienic Practices etc.

Government of India is also actively promoting quality certification and Quality Council of India had launched two new schemes for Indian food chain related industry namely IndiaGHP and IndiaHACCP certification schemes based on globally accepted Codex standards. These schemes will also help India food chain related industry to demonstrate compliance to global standards without having to go for costly and time consuming foreign certifications as many countries have mandated HACCP for high risk sectors and most developed countries have mandated Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) across all food sectors. FSSAI is also encouraging the food industry to aim for India HACCP standard though it mandated hygienic and sanitary practices through its licensing regulations.

Proposed scheme:

The scheme is proposed to promote quality certification and implementation of food safety management systems in harmonization with international standards.

- Interested entrepreneurs or manufacturer exporters have to submit proposal for quality certification.
- The proposal should include detailed component wise fee structure for implementation of quality systems and in house quality control lab equipments.
- The certification should be undertaken through recognized agencies accredited by National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies
- The applications will be scrutinized by an in-house Screening Committee headed by CCDO.
- Financial assistance proposed is reimbursement of 50% of the costs for certification and in-house quality control equipments subject to a maximum of Rs.5 lakhs.
- The eligible assistance shall be reimbursed in two phases – 50% on submission of claim and 50% on completion of first periodic surveillance.
- Assistance will be given for expenses related to the certification process, implementation of the quality system, application fee, product testing fee to the relevant standards, inspection charges, advance licence fee, surveillance charges, installation of in-house quality control lab equipment etc.
- Applicants should submit certificate from Government empanelled agencies in respect of proof of expenditure incurred for acquiring the certification along with the claim.
- Assistance for Kosher, Halal or any other religious certification is not eligible.
- Civil work, AC, refrigerator, computer, glass ware, chemicals, consumables etc are not eligible for assistance.
- One applicant will receive assistance for only one system.

Quality assurance is a crucial factor that has to be ensured for coconut products in order to develop and sustain the domestic and export market demand. With a surge in the coconut industry world-wide, it is high time that our processors /exporters are equipped to come up with high quality products using state of the Art Technology.