

## Importance of Farm Certification

Apart from being one of the major requirements by Guyana's Regional trading partners to access their markets, the standards outlined in the Farm certification process, once met, will guarantee the farmer wholesome produce that are sure to satisfy the requirements on local and international markets.

### IMPORTANT

Please let it be known that farms using Monocrotophos will not be certified as this pesticide is prohibited internationally from use in the production of fruits and vegetables.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE  
(NAREI)

NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION  
ORGANISATION  
(NPPO)

## GUIDELINES FOR FARM CERTIFICATION



**NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANISATION**

Guyana School of Agriculture Compound  
Agriculture Road  
Mon Repos

**Tel: (592) 220 5879, 220 2456**

**Fax: (592) 220 5858**

**E-mail: [nppogy@gmail.com](mailto:nppogy@gmail.com)**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE 

## What is Farm Certification ?

Farm certification is the process of inspecting and auditing farms for the purpose of validating their suitability for production. This may be for the purpose of seed production, organic crop production or for the provision of produce for the export market. The procedure outlined focuses on certification for the export market.

## History

Discovery of the pink mealy bug (PMB), *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*, in Guyana in 1997, resulted in Guyana losing some of its trading partners for fresh agricultural produce. The onus was therefore with Guyana to convince her trading partners that its exports of fresh agricultural produce would not increase the risk of the PMB entering their countries.

It became necessary firstly to establish the distribution of the pest and subsequently demonstrate that there were large geographic areas within the country that were free of the pest, these areas were referred to as “Pest free areas of production” and farms located within these areas were “**certified farms**”

## Steps in Farm Certification

Complete application form at NPPO Head Office, Mon Repos, ECD.



Decision made by applicant and NPPO on suitable day for conducting first inspection



Inspection conducted and advice given where necessary.



Inspections continue until farmer has achieved required standard.



Report is submitted to NPPO Management committee recommending certification of farm.



Once approved, farm is certified for one year and subject to unannounced inspections.



If unapproved, procedures are repeated from the inspection phase.

## Criteria for in Farm Certification

All farms within “**Pest Free Areas**” may be considered for certification since they are located in geographic areas that are known to be free of a particular quarantine pest. Their ultimate certification, for whatever purpose, will be based on the presence of other pests, their level of severity, pesticide(s) use in controlling them and good agricultural practices (GAP).

## What officers look for;

- Participation in GAP training/workshops
- Crops (varieties) and area cultivated
- Agronomical practices: Record keeping  
Irrigation  
Drainage  
Field sanitation  
Harvesting methods  
Storage methods  
Waste disposal
- Pest management: IPM system employed  
Weed control  
Insect & disease control  
Application method  
Agro-chemical storage/use  
Container disposal  
Protective measures taken