



Importance of Farm Certification

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



# GUIDELINES FOR FARM CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION

ORGANISATION

(NPPO)

AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE

(NAREI)

#### **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.



lacksquare

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

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE 🕢

## What is Farm Certification ?

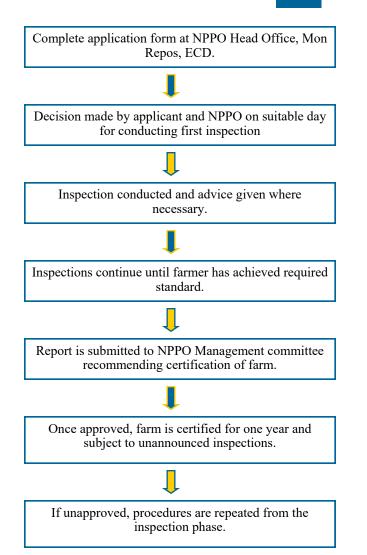
Farm certification is the process of inspecting and auditing farms for the purpose of validating their suitability for production. This may be for the purpose of seed production, organic crop production or for the provision of produce for the export market. The procedure outlined focuses on certification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

### History

Discovery of the pink mealy bug (PMB), *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*, in Guyana in 1997, resulted in Guyana loosing some of it's 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**



## **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
  - IPM system employed Weed control Insect & disease control Application method Agro-chemical storage/use Container disposal Protective measures taken