



Organic Sheep Production for Meat purpose



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Introduction:

As conventional livestock production practices are frequently criticized in the context of food safety concerns and animal disease outbreaks, there is growing consumer demand to move away from the widespread use of antibiotics and feed additives and to strengthen animal welfare standards. This has led to the concept of organic meat and milk consumption by the public. With increasing concern for animal welfare and environmental preservation world over, different countries are now looking for alternative livestock production systems, which follow natural process of animal production with utmost regards for food safety and food security. Organic animal production system is emerging as an effective alternative to address all these issues. Many health-conscious consumers are now looking for organic meat and milk as an alternative to traditionally produced meat and milk. Owing to this, the demand and scope for organic livestock products is increasing both in developed as well as developing countries. In India, there are bright prospects for tapping this opportunity to develop it into a business model in Animal Husbandry sector.

Though organic crop production and certification system is reasonably well established in India, the organic livestock sector is in its budding stage. Organizations such as APEDA and BIS along with research establishments like ICAR are taking efforts to establish the protocols and promote organic livestock production in India and to explore the possibilities of exporting organic livestock products.

In India, guidelines for organic livestock rearing have been finalized very recently and very few organic certifying agencies have been accredited by APEDA to take up organic livestock certification as per NPOP guidelines.

Description of Technology

Production of organic meat from sheep involves a three stage systematic certification process right from production of fodder under organic conditions, rearing of sheep as per organic livestock guidelines and production of meat from organically reared animals.

ICAR- National Meat Research Institute has been a part of the committee for finalization of guidelines for organic livestock production in India and the centre in collaboration with ICAR-CRIDA has taken initiative to produce and demonstrate a model for organic fodder as well as sheep production to help the prospective farmers to see and follow the processes involved in organic livestock certification.

As an initial requirement, organic fodder has been produced and certified. Organic fodder required for rearing organic sheep has undergone three years of conversion period and the certificate has been issued by Aditi organic certification Agency. In the second stage, the certification protocols for organic sheep production have been finalized in association with APEDA accredited livestock certifying agency 'OneCert Asia' and the organic scope certificate has been obtained for the first time in India as

per the NPOP guidelines. The third stage process for organic certification of slaughter facility for meat production is in progress.

The broad areas of guidelines for organic livestock certification under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) guidelines of India are as under:

- i. Organic management plan
- ii. Breed /Strain selection:
- iii. Source / Origin
- iv. Housing and management:
- v. Conversion period:
- vi. Feeding:
- vii. Healthcare:
- viii. Breeding and Management:
- ix. Manure and urine management:
- x. Transport:
- xi. Slaughter
- xii. Record keeping

Deliverables to farmers:

ICAR- NMRI has the knowhow to handhold and guide the prospective farmersthrough all the processes involved in taking up organic sheep farming and certification.



For further details contact

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