

GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Government Policy on Organic Agriculture

Thrust Areas to be addressed

OVERALL POLICY

- Perform in depth assessment of general agricultural policies, programmes and plans to understand how they affect the competitiveness and conditions of the organic sector
- Any organic policy or action plan should link to the overarching objectives of the countries agricultural policy in order to make them mutually supportive
- Organic agriculture to be integrated to the curriculum for primary & secondary education

STANDARDS

- Development of national standards for organic agriculture
- Facilitate access for certification through promotion of adequate certification agencies (local & international)
- Promotion of group certification

PRODUCTION

- Establish direct supportive measures to producers –commercial farmers & small producers
- Maintenance of soil fertility by encouraging and enhancing the biological cycle within farming systems
- Identification of areas & crops suitable for organic farming
- Breeding & testing of seeds for organic production- policies for GMOs
- Adoption of Biological methods to control pest & diseases
- Adoption of biological & mechanical methods for weed control
- Promote organic fertilizer production
- Harnessing of traditional and indigenous knowledge relating to organic farming
- Creation of awareness among farmers towards organic agriculture
- Simplification of certifications
- Strengthen organic agriculture extension service and disseminate know how

- Bio Diversity-maintain a diversity of plant and animal species as a basis for ecological balance & economic stability

MARKETING

- Generation of Information system-Organic crop production manuals, input production & utilization, certification ,legal aspects, supply, demand etc.
- Market development and promotion
Purchase of organic products in the domestic market should be encouraged – consumer education /common market
Promotion of certified organic products in the international market
- Initiate and encourage research for organic agriculture – should be participatory and build on integrated traditional knowledge where relevant

REGULATION

- Development of a regulatory mechanism-Formulation of standards, accreditation, inspection , regulation, quality control and monitoring

Organic Agriculture Regulations

- Establish rules for organic farmers & processors through standards
- Give credibility to certification bodies through approval & supervision
- Protect consumers against mislabeling and fraud through conformity & surveillance
- Facilitate trade through equivalence agreements with export countries
- Keep provisions to promote organic agriculture such as support to research, production and marketing

European Union Legislation on organic production

Aims





- Sustainable cultivation systems
- A variety of high quality products
- Greater emphasis on envt protection
- More attention to biodiversity
- Higher standards on animal protection
- Consumer confidence
- Protecting consumer interests

National Organic Control Unit (NOCU)

- Regulations published in Gazette -11th July, 2014
- Approval of the Parliament - 20th October 2014.
- National body to monitor & regulate the organic sector to safeguard the **credibility** of organic products produced, exported and imported to Sri Lanka.
- EDB is deemed as the Organic Control Body of Sri Lanka in terms of section 29 of the Export Development Act. No 40.
- Logo for Organic products
- Logo has been registered at NIPO under 3 classes.

ORGANIC MARK



	Green	:	#008601
	Ocean Blue	:	#1c9cc9
	Yellowish Brown	:	#c29134
	White	:	#ffffff

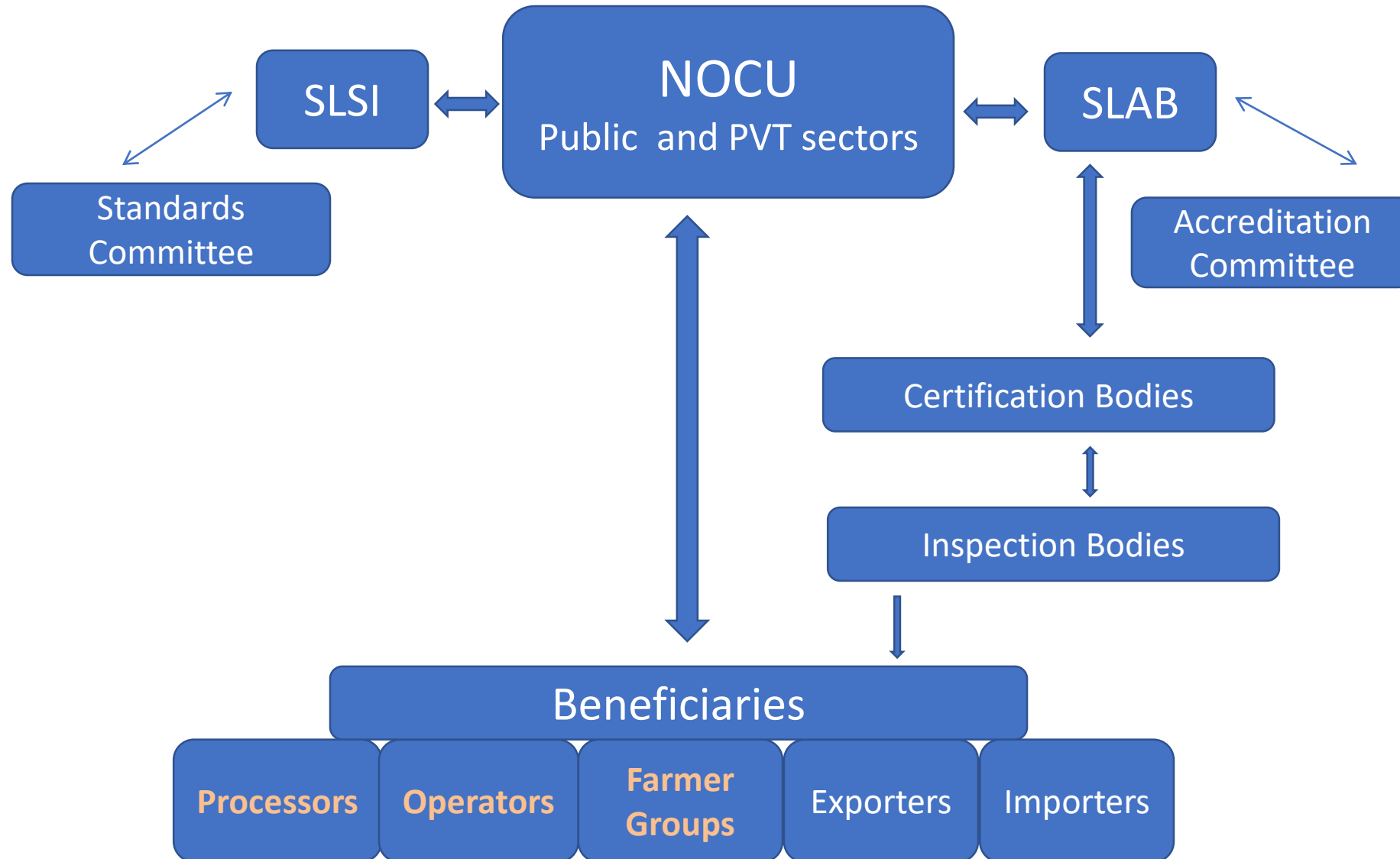
MANDATE OF NOCU

- Ensure the credibility & safeguard the image of Sri Lankan organic produce by ensuring that the term “Organic” is used only for those products that are produced according to the National Standards for organic production and processing.

FUNCTIONS OF NOCU

- Establish and maintain a regulatory systems for organic produce to ensure quality/safety of products for export/ domestic markets.
- Register and recognize organic exporters, importers, certification bodies /Laboratories
- Ensure the usage of term “organic”
- Facilitating 3rd country registration.

PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF NOCU



BENEFITS OF SETTING UP NOCU FOR PRODUCERS / EXPORTES

- Maintain National Organic Standards through guaranteed monitoring and evaluation system accepted internationally
- Act as the national contact point for notifications related to organic products
- Maintain a registry of growers , processors /manufacturers, exporters of organic agriculture products
- Register all conformity assessment bodies, testing laboratories, input suppliers etc. related to organic certification
- Maintain national data related to organic agriculture
- Promote a national logo for organic products
- Ability to lodge the application for 3rd country registration.
- Ascertain the export value and quantity of organic products at the point customs in the absence of a separate HS code.
- Reduce cost of certification by facilitating local certification bodies..
- Enable small farmer clusters to obtain certifications at an affordable cost
- Motivate growers to fetch a premium price at the export market by producing certified organic agriculture products.
- Contribute to a safe environment and human well being.



THANK YOU