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## **Email**

## Certification of collection of non-cultivated material of plant origin/ forest produces under NPOP -reg

From: Dr. Saswati Bose <saswatibose@apeda.gov.in>

**Subject :** Certification of collection of non-cultivated material of plant origin/ forest produces under NPOP -reg

Pertification of collection of non-cultivated material of

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To

All Certification Bodies,

12/16/24, 3:49 PM Email

This is with reference to the certification of forest produce under NPOP. In this regard serious non-compliances were observed during investigation of a complaint alleging forgery of Forest Department documents and misrepresentation of the product.

It was alleged that the product organic moringa leaves are not known to be naturally available in the specified region of Rajasthan. However, documents retrieved from the operator premises included a permission letter of the forest department. The Evaluation Committee had also visited the concerned Forest range Office to gather more information. The concerned forest range office could not provide any confirmation on the issued permission letter for wild collection.

In order to verify the veracity of the letter, the matter was taken up with the Rajasthan Forest Department. It was informed by the Head of the Forest Department that the permission was contrary to the laws and regulations and appropriate action is being considered.

Further it has been informed that "directions have been issued that all such permissions stand revoked. It has also been directed that any such matter will be referred to headquarters for clarification first."

In view of the above, all Certification Bodies are hereby informed that certification of wild collection should be carried out with proper verification of documentation, permission letters etc. If required and as an additional safeguard for cases with perceived risks, the permission letter granted by the forest field office may be verified from the Head Office of the Forest department.

In respect of Rajasthan, as it has been intimated that the permissions have been revoked, necessary clarification may be taken from the Headquarters of Forest Department at Aranya Bhawan, Jaipur.

Please note that more such complaints have been received and investigation is in process. We will be scheduling a meeting shortly on this issue.

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