

## **Format & guidelines for Fast Tracking**

The Programme Director  
National Centre for Organic Agriculture  
Yusipang, Thimphu

**Subject: Recommendation for LOAS certification of land under fast tracking provision**

Sir,

This is to certify that the land (details given in the registration form) located at ..... (village and chiwog) under .....(Gewog), .....Dzongkhag, cultivated by Mr./Ms/Group ..... is a virgin land/fallow land/cultivated land (tick appropriate type) with no known history of any synthetic chemical use as mentioned in the BOS for last 12 months from the date of feasibility study.

Therefore, the concerned authority may consider certifying the land as organic upon fulfilling other necessary requirements and compliance of BOS.

**Inspected and verified by:**

**Gewog RNR Official**

**Dzongkhag Organic Focal**

**Recommended by:**

**Dzongkhag RNR sector Head/Divisional Forest Officer**

**NOTE: This recommendation letter should be submitted along with field inspection report for the purpose of certification.**

## **Guideline for fast tracking.**

### **Introduction**

With organic farming gaining momentum, there is an increasing number of farmers venturing officially into organic farming aimed towards having the organic certificate to authenticate the claim of their commodity(ies) as organic via Local Organic Assurance System (LOAS) provided by the National Centre for Organic Agriculture (NCOA-Yusipang). There are instances where an interested applicant has no history of chemical use on his/her farm or the applicant is farming on a virgin land which warrants exception and consideration in comparison to farms under conversion from conventional to organic way of farming. Fast tracking for LOAS certification in organic farming would address this need and enable interested organic operator(s) to certify his/her commodities without having to undergo the mandatory 1-year period provided the farms are managed in accordance with the requirements prescribed in the BOS. However, the farms are subjected to inspection and monitoring by relevant officials/authority for the purpose of registration and certification for fast-tracking.

There are certain criteria to be met to have access to the LOAS Certificate via fast tracking. The criteria are:

1. The farm should have been registered with NCOA and practicing organic farming principles for a minimum of one crop season.
2. The land to be certified under fast tracking should not have any history of synthetic chemical use for the last 12 months from the date of registration, provided all other conditions for certification are met.
3. Synthetic agro chemical products like fertilizers, pesticides, growth hormones etc that may endanger human health or environment have not been used.

\*\*\*Above cited criteria should be verified by competent personnel.

### **Guideline for Gewog staff/field inspector**

1. The gewog extension staff should have good knowledge of the farming practices of the area.
2. He/she should be well aware of the area and the activities undertaken in his/her geog.
3. He/ She should cross check the record of production input supply in area for at least past 12 months.
4. He/ She should consult with local government leaders/community while verifying and recommending the proposal for fast tracking as per the prescribed format.

**The LOAS fast tracking will not speed up third party certification. The operator opting for third party certification will have to fulfil the requirements of the concerned certification body.**