

GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION COST ON
GAP

Table of Contents

Definitions	3
Background.....	4
About MAGNET	4
Components of the Project.....	4
Importance and Potential for GAP Certification	4
Beneficiaries	5
Selection Procedure.....	5
Process Flow	7
Eligibility for proposals	8
Eligible Components	8
Pattern of Assistance	8
APPENDIX I.....	10
APPENDIX II.....	14
APPENDIX III.....	17
ANNEXURE I.....	19
ANNEXURE II.....	20
ANNEXURE III.....	21

Definitions

Term	Definition
CMRC	Community Managed Resources Centers
FPO	Farmer Producer Organization
“Governing Council” (GC)	Governing Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Department of Cooperation and Marketing, Govt. of Maharashtra to monitor the project. Representative of the departments of Planning, Finance, Marketing, Agriculture, MAVIM are the members of the GC. Project Director, MAGNET is the Member Secretary of the GC.
“Grant”	The money paid to the Grant Recipients under the Grant Agreement relating to the Sub-project
“Grant Recipient”	The beneficiary FPO/SAU/KVK, submitting the proposal and signing the agreement for funding
“Objectives”	The objectives relating to the sub-project as set out in the sub-project Proposals
PAM	Project Administration Manual prepared under MAGNET Project
PIU	Project Implementation Unit of the MAGNET Society established in regions to support PMU
PMU	Project Management Unit of the MAGNET Society
“Project Implementation Support Consultant (PISC)”	PISC is a management and technical service provider appointed by MAGNET project to assist PMU. PISC will also strengthen technical and management capacities of the project implementation units and FPOs and ensure the project’s compliance with ADB’s environment and social safeguards policies and Financing Agreement and policies of the Government of Maharashtra.
“Technical Committee” (TC)	A Technical Committee will be chaired by Project Director, MAGNET Society to approve & appraise the project.
TRTA Consultant	Transaction Technical Assistance Consultant

Background

Maharashtra is one of the leading fruits and vegetables producing states in India. It has emerged as one of the country's largest exporters of fruits and vegetable crops. In terms of production, the State accounts for 11% of total fruits and 5% of total vegetables produced in the country. Despite ample opportunities for Maharashtra's horticulture growth that contributes to poverty reduction of farmers, they face challenges related to the agricultural sector's structural issues such as small and marginal land holding, lack of access to direct marketing and interference by middlemen. This leads to below par returns for the farmers in the state.

About MAGNET

The Government of Maharashtra in association with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is co-financing Maharashtra Agribusiness Network Project (MAGNET) to upscale the development of horticulture sector and agribusiness in Maharashtra. The project core objectives are to increase farmers' income, support value addition, reduce post-harvest losses, increase farm productivity, and mainstream opportunities for rural women lower caste to alleviate rural poverty. The project aims to focus on 15 targeted horticulture value chains which includes, Banana, Okra, Pomegranate, Guava, Orange, Sweet Lime, Sapota, Custard Apple, Strawberry, Green and Red Chillies, Flowers, Mangoes, Lemon, Cashew and Snake Gourd.

Components of the Project

The focus of the project is on 3 core outputs namely:

- a. **Output 1:** Institutional capacities of agribusiness institutions and farmer producer organizations strengthened.
- b. **Output 2:** Financial and agribusiness capacities of farmer producer organizations and value chain operators strengthened.
- c. **Output 3:** Agriculture value chain infrastructure improved and operational for the target horticulture crops.

Importance and Potential for GAP Certification

The agriculture and the agribusiness sector remain the backbone of economic activity, employment and improved livelihoods in the rural and urban areas of many countries around the world. Strengthening the sector and adding value to agricultural raw materials are instrumental in enhancing food and nutritional security, stimulating economic growth, and reducing poverty in a sustainable manner. This is also reflected in the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations. To encourage farmers to adopt safe and responsible practices and to connect them to regional and international markets has proven to be crucial for a successful food system transformation. GAP certification is beneficial:

- For producers, to improve farm management, raise the efficiency of farm operations, protect environmental resources, and enable access to international markets through compliance with a globally recognized standard.
- For supply chain stakeholders, sourcing from certified production helps to ensure food safety, mitigate reputational risks, protect product integrity, demonstrate commitment to responsible farming practices, and enable reliable and trusted supply that addresses all major consumer demands.

Beneficiaries

- Member farmers nominated by Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)¹ and Value Chain Operators (VCOs)² who are eligible for Matching Grant proposals scrutinized by PIU
- Member farmers nominated by Anchor FPOs identified under MAGNET project.
- Farmers nominated by Institutional Buyers who have signed MoU with MAGNET under Market Linkages.
- SAUs / KVKs / COEs identified under MAGNET project

Selection Procedure

A. Application

- The guidelines will be published on MAGNET website and proposals from eligible institutions/organizations will be received.
- The applicant will need to furnish the application form as per prescribed template along with necessary documents (Annexures, undertakings etc.)
- The proposals will be selected for financial assistance on a first come basis and proposals will be accepted until the project targets are met.

¹ FPOs: farmers organizations registered under The Companies Act or State Co-operative Society Act, or such Farmer Groups/ Cluster Level Federations (CLFs)/ Community Managed Resources Centers (CMRCs) registered with ATMA/MSRLM/MAVIM. This category may also include Cluster Level FPO Federations/Associations.

² VCOs may include aggregators/processors/ exporters/mid- and large-sized retail organizations/Ag-tech or Fintech organizations working actively with producers and their collectives of any horticultural commodities.

B. Evaluation

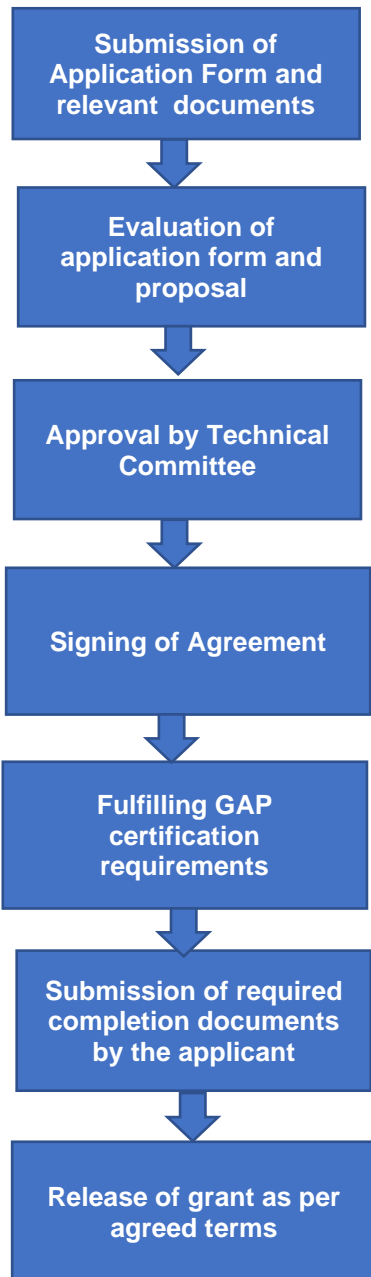
A single stage evaluation of the proposal will take place in the technical committee.

The Technical Committee will comprise of following members:

SN	Designation of Officer	Designation in Committee
1	Project Director, MAGNET	Chairman
2	General Manager, MAVIM	Member
3	Additional Project Director, MAGNET	Member Secretary
4	Deputy Project Director, Accounts & Finance, MAGNET	Member
5	Deputy Project Director, Financial Support, MAGNET	Member
6	All Regional Deputy Project Director, PIU, MAGNET	Member
7	Deputy Project Director, Capacity Building, MAGNET	Member

Post approval from the Technical Committee, the Project Director, MAGNET will issue administrative approval order to the proposal sanctioned by the Technical Committee

Process Flow



Eligibility for proposals

- a) Eligible Crops – Applicants/ nominee farmers who are involved in farming or cultivation of one or more of the following crops will be considered.
1. Custard Apple
 2. Guava
 3. Banana
 4. Strawberry
 5. Orange
 6. Pomegranate
 7. Sapota
 8. Sweet Lime
 9. Chilli (Green and Red)
 10. Okra
 11. Mangoes
 12. Cashews
 13. Lemon
 14. Snake Gourd
- b) The proposal must be covering an area of at least 10 hectares and at least 10 farmer members.
- c) Proposal should be for group certification and not for individual farmers

Eligible Components

- Group Certification Cost for one or multiple crops covered under MAGNET.
- Annual Registration Cost for one year only
- Certificate License fee for one year only
- Audit Fee & verification related costs for one year only

Pattern of Assistance

- The financial assistance available under the project is in the form of subsidy. The maximum admissible subsidy for each approved proposal will be up to 50% of the eligible cost, subject to maximum of Rs. 75,000/- per proposal.

- The disbursement of the subsidy proceeds to the sanctioned beneficiary organization will take place in single installment after producing the proof of Certification and invoices of expenditure made as proposed.

APPENDIX I

MAHARASHTRA AGRIBUSINESS NETWORK (MAGNET) PROJECT

APPLICATION FOR FPO/CMRC/FPO FEDERATION

To,

Hon. Project Director,

Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project

Pune.

Subject: Submission of proposal for support for Global GAP Certification under Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project

Dear Sir,

We,(Name of beneficiary) intend to seek Global GAP certification under financial assistance component of Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project. Our proposal is submitted herewith along with essential documents, attached with this form to support the information given below.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Information
1	Basic Information of the Organization	
1.1	Name of the Applicant Organization	
1.2	Category of Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> FPO <input type="checkbox"/> FPO Federation <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer Cooperative Society <input type="checkbox"/> CMRC

		<input type="checkbox"/> Anchor FPO				
1.3	Address as per organization registration certificate	Address				
		Village				
		Taluka				
		District				
		Pin code				
1.4	Contact Person (Full Name and Contact Details)					
1.5	Correspondence address	Address				
		Village				
		Taluka				
		District				
		Pin code				
1.6	Email-id					
1.7	PAN Number of the organization					
1.8	GST Number of the organization					
1.9	Details of the directors of the organization- Total Number - _____					
	Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Category	Gender
	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					

	(Category- SC, ST, OBC, PWD/Divyang etc.)																																																														
1.1 0	<p>Number of Members applying for Group GAP certification</p> <p>A) Total number of members at present - _____</p> <p>B) Number of Members applying for Group GAP certification - _____</p> <p>Attach the list of applicant farmers desirous of getting GAP certification (Annexure I)</p>																																																														
1.1 1	<p>Details of the members of the organization</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Sr. No.</th> <th rowspan="2">Member Category</th> <th colspan="3">Numbers</th> <th colspan="3">Percentage (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>General</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Scheduled Caste</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Scheduled Tribe</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>PWD/Divyang Member</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Others</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sr. No.	Member Category	Numbers			Percentage (%)			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	1	General							2	Scheduled Caste							3	Scheduled Tribe							4	PWD/Divyang Member							5	Others								Total						
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3	Scheduled Tribe																																																														
4	PWD/Divyang Member																																																														
5	Others																																																														
	Total																																																														
2	Proposed Location & Land Details for GAP certification																																																														
2.1	Crop(s) proposed for GAP Certification																																																														
2.2	Number of farmer members applying for GAP certification (Attach the list of applicant farmers desirous of getting GAP certification)																																																														
2.3	Name of Exporter /VCO with whom MOU made for exports/forward linkage (if any)																																																														
2.4	Area covered under GAP Certification (ha)																																																														
2.5	Agency for GAP Certification																																																														
3	Filled and signed ANNEXURE I																																																														
4	Filled and signed ANNEXURE II																																																														
5	Checklist of documents submitted (Refer Annexure III)																																																														

It is requested to shortlist our application to seek financial assistance under Certification Cost on GAP component of the Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project.

It is also undertaken that all the information furnished in the application as above is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Place:

Date:/...../202.....

Yours faithfully,

Name, Signature and Seal of the Applicant

(.....)

APPENDIX II

MAHARASHTRA AGRIBUSINESS NETWORK (MAGNET) PROJECT

APPLICATION FORM FOR VCOs/ INSTITUTIONAL BUYER HAVING MoU with MAGNET

To,

Hon. Project Director,

Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project

Pune.

Subject: Submission of proposal for support for Global GAP Certification under Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project

Dear Sir,

We, (Name of beneficiary) intend to seek Global GAP certification/ provide group Global GAP certification to our nominated backward-linked farmers under financial assistance component of Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project. Our proposal is submitted herewith along with essential documents, attached with this form to support the information given below.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Information	
1	Basic Information of the Organization		
1.1	Name of the Applicant Organization		
1.2	Type of Value Chain Organization		
1.3	Address as per organization registration certificate	Address	
		Village	

		Taluka				
		District				
		Pin code				
1.4	Contact Person (Full Name and Contact Details)					
1.5	Correspondence address	Address				
		Village				
		Taluka				
		District				
		Pin code				
1.6	Email-id					
1.7	PAN Number of the organization					
1.8	GST Number of the organization					
1.9	Details of the Promoter/Partner/Director of the organization- Total Number - _____					
	Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Category	Gender
	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					
(Category- SC, ST, OBC, PWD/ Divyang etc.)						

2	Details of Backward Linkage with nominated farmers				
2.1	Details of the transactions with the nominated farmers in last 3 years				
	Sr.no.	Name of the farmer	Agreement (Yes/ No)	Name of the crop	Purchase (MT.)
	1				
	2				
	3				
	4				
	5				
	6				
	7				
	8				
	9				
	10				
	11				
	12				
		Total			
3	Attach filled ANNEXURE I				
4	Attach filled and signed ANNEXURE II				
5	Checklist of documents submitted (Refer Annexure III)				

It is requested to shortlist our application to seek financial assistance under Certification Cost on GAP component of the Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project.

It is also undertaken that all the information furnished in the application as above is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Place:

Date:/...../202.....

Yours faithfully,

(.....)

Name, Signature and Seal of the Applicant

APPENDIX III

MAHARASHTRA AGRIBUSINESS NETWORK (MAGNET) PROJECT APPLICATION FORM FOR SAUs/KVKs/CoEs

To,

Hon. Project Director,

Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project
Pune.

**Subject: Submission of proposal for support for GAP certification cost under
Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project**

Dear Sir,

We,(Name of beneficiary) intend to financial assistance component on GAP certification cost under Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project. Our proposal is submitted herewith along with essential documents, attached with this form to support the information given below.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Information	
1	Basic Information of the Organization		
1.1	Name of the Applicant Organization		
1.2	Type of Organization		
1.3	Address as per organization registration certificate	Address	
		Village	
		Taluka	
		District	
		Pin code	
1.4	Contact Person (Full Name and Contact Details)		
1.5	Correspondence address	Address	

		Village	
		Taluka	
		District	
		Pin code	
1.6	Email-id		
1.7	PAN Number of the organization		
1.8	GST Number of the organization		
2	Attached filled and signed Annexure II		
3	Checklist of documents submitted (Refer Annexure III)		

It is requested to shortlist our application to seek financial assistance under Certification Cost on GAP component of the Maharashtra Agri Business Network (MAGNET) Project.

It is also undertaken that all the information furnished in the application as above is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Place:

Date:/...../202.....

Yours faithfully,

(.....)

Name, Signature and Seal of the Applicant

ANNEXURE I

Details of members opting for GAP Certification

(ON LETTER HEAD OF THE APPLICANT)

I am _____ (Name of the Authorized Signatory) of _____ (Applicant Name) having its Registration no. _____ and Registered Office at _____ do hereby solemnly declare that the following farmers are nominated as potential beneficiaries to avail the support on GAP certification cost:

Sr. No	Name of the farmer	Contact Number	Name of the Crop	Land holding under that crop (Hectares)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Place:

Date: / /202.....

Yours faithfully,

(.....)

Name, Signature and Seal of the Applicant

ANNEXURE II

Format for Declaration by GAP consultant

I have read and understood the MAGNET project operational guidelines and made the applicant understand the same.

In case the project is sanctioned to the applicant, I am willing to guide the growers of the proposed applicant in the catchment area for scientific crop husbandry and pre-harvest practices for food safety. In such instance, I will render my services.

Certified that the information/contents as above by me/us in the application is true to the best of my/our knowledge and belief and no information has been concealed.

Name of GAP Consultant	
Current/previous profession	
Education Qualifications and Name of University	
Registration number if any	
Permanent Address	
Contact Number	
Email ID	
Telephone Number	

Signature:

Place:

Date:

Designation & Seal:

ANNEXURE III

Checklist of Documents to be submitted

S.N.	Documents	Attached (Yes/No)
1	Incorporation Certificate of Applicant	
2	Self-attested copy of PAN card of the applicant company	
3	Self-attested KYC (PAN & Aadhar) of Applicant's Directors/ Partners	
4	Self-attested list of shareholders on applicant's letter head	
5	Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements of last 3 financial years (For FPOs at least of one year)	
6	Board Resolution for Authorized Signatory (if applicable)	