



CATALYSING PESTICIDE-FREE FOOD CHAINS - *Services offered*



Why?

The introduction of hazardous agri-chemicals, especially synthetic chemical pesticides, in agriculture has resulted in far-reaching negative impacts. Their widespread use has led to the emergence of pest resistance, secondary pests, and pest resurgence, which has in turn resulted in significant crop losses and an increase in the cost of production. There have been many reported cases of farmers and agricultural labourers who, after being exposed to pesticides, suffered from dizziness, nausea, vomiting, skin cancer, and sometimes even death. The use of pesticides has disastrous effects on a wide range of non-target organisms, including earthworms, natural enemies of pests, pollinators (as exemplified by wiping out bee populations on a large scale), fishes, amphibians, birds, and soil microorganisms. These in turn seriously affect ecological services like pollination, nutrient cycling, etc., on which farming depends. Pesticide traces were found even in human blood and mother's milk. The major health hazards of pesticide intake through food and water include cancer, skin diseases, cellular and DNA damage, suppression of immune systems, and other intergenerational effects. Children are more vulnerable to the effects of pesticides due to their smaller size and hence greater exposure, different metabolism, and still developing internal organs. Therefore, there is an urgent need to shift to pesticide-free agriculture and food chains.

Understanding the importance Nature-Positive Farming and Wholesome Foods Foundation (N+3F) has been undertaking comprehensive efforts to promote context-specific pesticide-free agriculture and food chains across India in collaboration with 25 partners and interested stakeholders. A schematic engagement of N+3F in pesticide-free food chains development besides its production and certification interventions is shown in Figure 1.

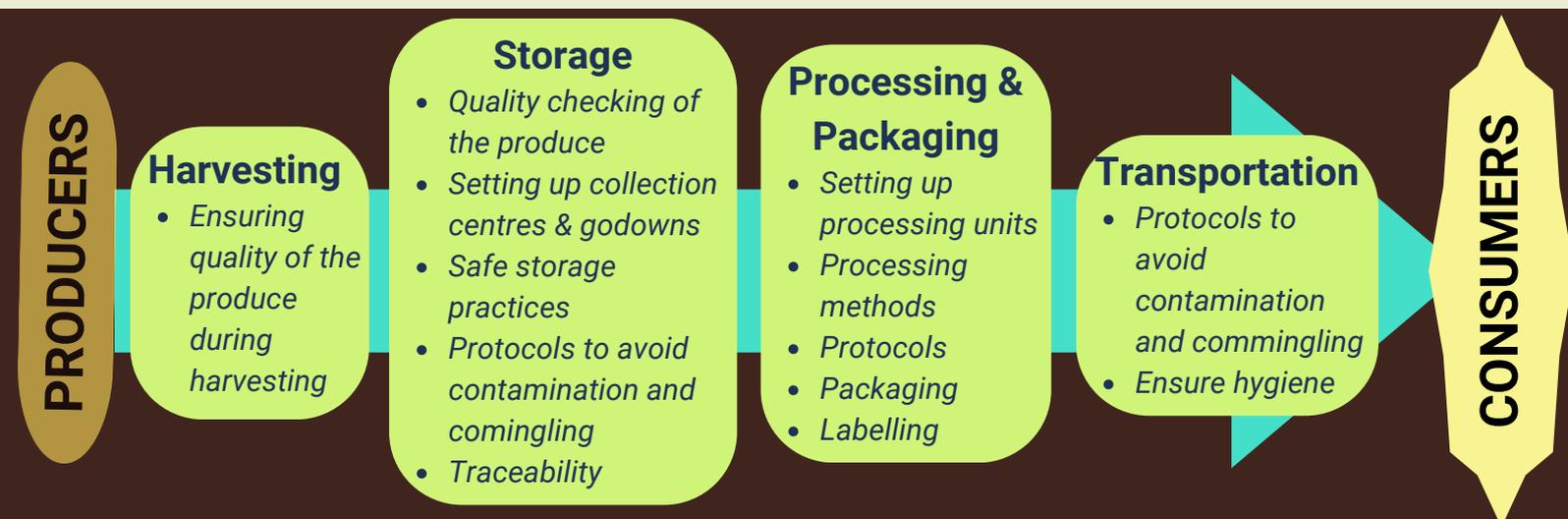


Figure 1: N+3F interventions related to pesticide-free food chains

What?

As an extension of this mandate, N+3F offers customised technical and handholding support to interested organisations/ enterprises/entities for establishing and strengthening pesticide-free food chains of non-perishable, semi-perishable and perishable produce.

Onsite/ Online training, technical support and hand holding given on:



I. Development of pesticide-free food chains

- Ensuring high quality produce on farm
- Sampling and testing of quality of produce
- Setting up and running of collection centres
- Setting up and running of warehouses
- Setting up primary processing and secondary processing units
- SOP preparation for enterprises/entities involved in pesticide-free food chains
- Packaging & Labelling
- Non-chemical storage technologies



II. Strengthening FPOs

- Formation of FPO
- Governance of FPO
- Managing an FPO
- Statutory compliances
- Business plan preparation
- Financial linkages

Who can avail?

- ✓ NGOs
- ✓ FPO and other Community Organisations
- ✓ Food business operators- Processors, Food product manufacturers, Traders & Warehouse operators
- ✓ Promoters and donors

Fees: Based on the customised services offered fees will be calculated

Interested agencies can contact:

Nature-Positive Farming & Wholesome Foods Foundation (N+3F)

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