NCS-TCP: Strengthening India's Tissue Culture Industry Through Quality and Trust



National Certification System for Tissue Culture Raised Plants (NCS-TCP) is playing a key role in creating a trusted ecosystem for quality planting material. Implemented by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), NCS-TCP provides a national framework for evaluating tissue culture production facilities (TCPFs), ensuring compliance with prescribed technical, infrastructural and quality standards, and certifying plants for genetic fidelity and freedom from major pathogens. The system is designed to make recognition and renewal of TCPFs more transparent, efficient and industry-friendly.

The growing participation of private enterprises demonstrates the increasing confidence of the industry in this quality-assurance mechanism. In 2025, 25 new TCPFs were registered under NCS-TCP, reflecting the continued expansion of the organized tissue culture sector. This momentum continued in 2026, with 11 new TCPFs recognized, further strengthening the national network of certified production facilities. This expansion is particularly significant not only from the perspective of the large-scale propagation of newer crops through tissue culture, but also in ensuring the increasing availability of certified and quality-assured planting material to farmers and growers.

The impact is visible not only in the number of facilities but also in production capacity. The NCS-TCP network has expanded to **135 recognized TCPFs**, with a combined annual production capacity exceeding **545 million plants**. The official NCS-TCP database lists recognized facilities across multiple states and includes both established industry leaders and newly emerging enterprises.

By providing a common national benchmark for production, testing, documentation and certification, NCS-TCP is helping tissue culture companies access government programmes, institutional procurement and quality-conscious markets. At the same time, it gives farmers and other users greater confidence that certified planting material is produced under defined quality standards. Thus, NCS-TCP is not merely a certification programme—it is becoming an important **enabler of industry growth, quality assurance, investment and farmer access to reliable planting material**.