



Sahyadri Farms: Ensuring food safety matches global standards



LRQA's auditors helped Sahyadri Farms to dramatically improve their approach towards Food Safety Management Systems, begin operating on a global scale, and secure long-term growth potential with FSSC 22000 standards.

01. Client:

Sahyadri Farmers Producer Co. Ltd,
India

02. Key facts:

In India, there's a subset of farmers who grow fruits and vegetables on less than 1 ha. of land. They are known as 'marginal farmers', and while they grow their produce on a small scale, they collectively make up around 83% of the country's farming industry.

Sahyadri Farms is a farming collective that aims to bring these farmers together and provide them with export access to global food supply chains.

03. Result:

Since the completion of their audit and certification FSSC 22000, Sahyadri Farms has reported a 90% reduction in customer complaints, a major improvement in Product Safety and an increase in performance efficiency of 25%.

10550+ farmers are currently registered as a producer with Sahyadri Farms.

The challenge was, as Sahyadri Farms grew in strength, the business matured so did the need to certify to Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognised standards and schemes that potential clients would expect.

LRQA speaks with Shrikant Kulkarni, General Manager – Operations at Sahyadri Farmers Producer Co. Ltd, to discuss the FSSC 22000 certification process and how it has helped the team manage food safety risks against a global backdrop.



There was a total culture change.

Every employee now takes ownership of food safety and quality. Many customers who earlier rejected the products and were not happy, are now happy to associate with us. We now have sustainable processes and systems for long term growth.

Shrikant Kulkarni | General Manager – Operations



LRQA's auditors are always transparent and technically very sound. They always encourage improvement and go well beyond the requirements of standards. The best part was that they involved the entire team and worked with a partnership approach for continuous improvement.

A strategic priority

The food safety management system (FSMS), FSSC 22000, enables Sahyadri Farms to operate on a global scale and also continue to make farming sustainable and profitable for its farmer members.

Managing international standards with homegrown produce and small farmers

Shrikant and the team at Sahyadri were confident in their food safety and quality but as the company grew and geared up for global customers, they realised it was very important for them to implement an international standard like FSSC 22000.

The audit process involved a single location in Nashik, Maharashtra, and 350 people were involved, including Sahyadri employees and expert auditors from LRQA. Following certification to FSSC 22000, Sahyadri has reported a complete shift towards a more quality-driven mindset where all employees started following continual improvement practices for their systems and processes.

In just five years, Sahyadri Farms has scaled from revenue figures of 0.5 billion INR to 5 billion INR. Since the completion of their audit and certification FSSC 22000, Sahyadri Farms has reported a 90% reduction in customer complaints, a major improvement in Product Safety and an increase in performance efficiency of 25%.

Sahyadri Farms and LRQA

LRQA has worked with Sahyadri Farms previously when they successfully implemented ISO 22000 certification.

When exporters demanded that the collective be certified by a GFSI recognised scheme and with LRQA's global reputation, it was an obvious choice.

Praising the LRQA team for their approach and customer care, the Sahyadri Farms team is confident that they are delivering industry-leading food safety performance ready for every eventuality.

Find out more about our certification and training for FSSC 22000.



As Sahyadri Farms gears up to serve more global customers, our commitment to quality and food safety is stronger than ever.

LRQA has been a trusted partner throughout our journey, and we are excited for this association to continue.

Shrikant Kulkarni
General Manager – Operations

Get in touch

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