EUREPGAP
The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture

“EUREPGAP Global Report 2005”
Grown with care by the fruit farmers of Chile

As leader in the exports of fresh fruit from the Southern Hemisphere, Chile has always been committed to developing those concepts related to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

ChileGAP was developed in order to fully comply with today’s market requirements, and has already become one of the world’s most advanced GAP schemes, thanks to the fact that it harmonizes Good Agricultural Practices plus Food Safety.

ChileGAP is a voluntary program, and was the first of its kind to be implemented on a nation-wide level, as well as receive recognition as fully equivalent to EurepGAP.

Through the implementation of ChileGAP, both growers and exporters have shown their commitment to food safety, corporate social responsibility and the care for the environment.

Hence, now more than ever, retailers and importers in Europe can be confident about receiving fresh fruit from Chile.

More on ChileGAP at: www.chilegap.com
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## EUREPGAP Teamwork


Introduction

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of our conception. Even now after several years of asking I have never quite found out where and when this event actually occurred! That may remain a mystery but what happened after, as they say, is history. Of course in comparison to many organisations we are still only very young and for sure we are still learning every day thanks to the growing family around us.

I remember the early meetings (although obviously not the first one!). They were attended mostly by retailers who shared the vision of an organisation that responded to consumer questions about how their food was produced. There was total agreement that the most effective way to answer these questions was to develop harmonised standards for agricultural production rather than to proliferate a plethora of individual retailer production requirements as well the means to verify them.

Paris in 1999 has special memories for me, as that was where we held our first Global Conference. Seventeen retailers all lined up on the stage and delivered the same message. Many people who were there that day have told me that they recognised something that was going to be more than a passing fashion.

The next two years were spent developing the standards and this became a very exciting process as we had more participation from producers and other experts. The intention was to recognise as much as possible of the best practice from around the world and not to reinvent the wheel! And so that was how our benchmarking system was born.

However a more difficult and pressing question was arising. How do you operate a robust farm certification system on a global level? There wasn’t a model we could take off the shelf for this and we had to learn as we went along. What was clear though was that this was going to take more time than we had thought at the beginning!

In Barcelona in 2000 we laid the foundations for a verification system that would be in the long term credible with all our stakeholders. I have been looking back over the brochure we produced for this event and re-assuringly In-
tegrity and Transparency of the process shout out from the pages!

Then came the Bologna meeting in 2001. We formalised the partnership between retailers and producers which EurepGAP had become by reflecting this in the Governance and Committee structure of EurepGAP.

The Vision is the same today but shared much more widely. More than 31 retailer members now use EurepGAP in their supply chains. We have developed a professional, closely associated network, of more than 80 Certification bodies that are accredited using International Norms. The building of this certification capacity has helped the spread of certified producers in more than 60 countries worldwide, including small-scale farmers in developing countries. We have also developed some strong relations with stakeholders outside the immediate sphere of the industry including NGOs, Government Organisations and Intergovernmental Organisations.

The last few years have seen the acceleration of the development of EurepGAP standards in other agricultural product sectors based on the same philosophy of a holistic (safe and sustainable) approach, which reflects consumer requirements. In Paris in 2005 we come together to share views on what “sustainable” actually means for each of us, perhaps we may arrive at a more commonly agreed definition!

And so to the Future. The rationale for EurepGAP is becoming even more compelling with the fast pace of globalisation of both food production and retailing. EurepGAP has many exciting developments such as improving the way we use Information Technology. These developments will help considerably in consolidating the progress we have made to date, by increasing transparency along the whole chain, as well as making easier the whole process of demonstrating compliance with regulatory and market requirements.

All this in our short history is a considerable achievement for everyone concerned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals and organisations involved as well as warmly welcoming those joining EurepGAP for the first time.
Introduction

EUREPGAP Conference History

- **Paris 1999**
  17 retailers decided to introduce independent verification as base for supplier compliance.

- **Barcelona 2000**
  EurepGAP established the partnership principle between retailers and producers and presented results of trials with the Fruit and Vegetables protocol.

- **Bologna 2001**
  EurepGAP received first ISO 65 accreditation for Fruit and Vegetables, and first grower certificates were granted.

- **Cape Town 2002**
  First Regional EurepGAP conference outside of Europe combined with the first Train-the-Trainer seminar in Africa. First certificates issued in South Africa against the Fruit and Vegetables Standard were recognized.

- **Madrid 2002**
  A two-day stakeholder workshop opened the worldwide consultation process for the first revision of the Fruit and Vegetables Protocol.

- **Madrid 2003**
  EurepGAP presented Version 2 of the Fruit and Vegetables Protocol as the result of the revision process, proclaimed the start for Flower and Ornamentals, and opened the new transparent Benchmarking procedure.

- **Kuala Lumpur 2004**
  The first EUREPGAP Asia Conference was sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industries of Malaysia and triggered the first EurepGAP certification of an Oil Palm Plantation.

- **Amsterdam 2004**
  The EurepGAP Standards for (Green) Coffee and Aquaculture were launched in October 2004, and first accredited certificates were issued to farms based on the Integrated Farm Assurance Standard.

- **Paris 2005**
  The 1st EurepGAP Feed Reference Standard was published and the Version 2005 of Integrated Farm Assurance was launched. The first national livestock schemes entered their checklist into the EurepGAP Benchmarking tool.
We’ve been there...

Since the start of Integrated Chain Control (IKB) in 1992 the system has developed into a quality assurance system for the whole production chain. Since then, independent inspectors have visited thousands of Dutch farms each year to ensure that IKB requirements are met.

IKB regulations include strict requirements for traceability, feed, hygiene, food safety, use of medicines, transport and animal welfare.

All Dutch quality assurance systems are dynamic. They constantly undergo further development based on latest knowledge, experience and perceptions. They are continually being adapted to take into account the requirements of buyers of Dutch meat. IKB supports EurepGAP in its goal for harmonisation of European QA-systems. Our vast experience can be useful in the process: because we’ve been there.

Current participation in the IKB schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IKB</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veal Calf</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IKB stands for extra quality assurance and independent control and sanctions (EN 45011). IKB is a scheme from farm to fork.

Dutch Product Boards for Livestock Meat and Eggs, www.pve.nl
**Statements**

**Dr. Ulrich Hoffmann, UNCTAD**

“UNCTAD, in the context of its Consultative Task Force on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries, has recently launched activities in several East African, South-East Asian and South American countries that review the potential and the effectiveness of the EurepGAP benchmarking approach for the development of safe and sustainable farm assurance programs that contribute to facilitating market access for agricultural producers in the developing world.”

**Ronald Bown, ASOEX**

“The true partnership between Producers and Retailers is the right model to bring about the imperative need for international harmonization. In this respect EurepGAP and ChileGAP have achieved a significant milestone”

**Guido Siebenmorgen, Rewe**

“The owner of national schemes like Q&S, IKB, ds, Certus etc. must meet on a platform like EurepGAP and agree on terms for harmonisation and mutual recognition. This would dramatically lower duplication and different requirements on the farm level.”

**Dr. Horst Lang, Globus**

“EurepGAP currently is the only platform worldwide, that has developed standards in cooperation with the agricultural sphere. Those standards are highly appreciated by customers and especially by retailers in the food industry. In my opinion, the exclusive future positioning of EurepGAP should be in the harmonization of the different agricultural standards on the European and on the global level as well as in benchmarking them against the EurepGAP standard on the basis of its excellent competence.”

**Hasit Shah, FPEAK**

“The process of benchmarking Kenya-GAP to EurepGAP is the unique opportunity for our smallholders to demonstrate that they are world class producers.”
Jose Mª Planells, Anecoop

“EurepGAP has helped us a lot in rationalising the many different retailer requirements that we have had to face.”

Dr. Bernd Eisenblätter, GTZ

“Public Private Partnerships have become a very important means to work on sustainable supply chains between the developed and the developing world. EurepGAP, Coop and GTZ are now implementing a pilot project on social standards in agriculture. The collaboration between GTZ and EurepGAP has already proven to be fruitful during the elaboration of a Smallholder Manual for farmers' group certification.”

Hansueli Loosli, Coop Switzerland

“EurepGAP provides us with a unique opportunity to raise awareness of good social practices in agriculture on a significant and global scale. Being the worlds' leading retailer of certified fair traded products, our consumers expect from Coop that we take our responsibility also in mainstream production. That’s why we strongly support the “GRASP” project, which will contribute to better conditions for workers in agriculture.”

Sven Ake Nordqvist, ICA Sourcing and Services B.V.  Willem Hofmans, Albert Heijn

“We were one of the first members of EurepGAP, and the vision we had in 1996 to develop a global support to our sourcing of fruit and vegetables has become a reality for the business of our European markets. We have largely benefited from that success and are committed to repeat that story for other product sectors like meat and fish.”

Ignacio Pina, European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)

“The European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) has entered into a formal agreement with EurepGAP to have a closer cooperation between the two organisations to enhance harmonisation in the accreditation practices performed by EA members in the EurepGAP owned schemes and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the schemes with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the accredited certification bodies acting in EurepGAP schemes. This agreement was also discussed in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) executive and the General Assembly, where the proposal for cooperation was well received and an action plan initiated with the objective to arrive at a similar agreement on IAF level.”
The Supporting Pillars of EurepGAP

So what are these and why are they so important?

Our Vision, simply put, is to ensure consumers have continuing confidence in agricultural products and “The Supporting Pillars of EurepGAP” help us achieve that.

They guide the long term and short-term decision making of EurepGAP.

**Partnership**

- Retailers and producers are equally represented in the decision making committees of EurepGAP.

**Integrity**

- We help to develop confidence in global farm certification by working to establish systems of certification which meet international norms as well as being credible with all our stakeholders.

**Benchmarking**

- Benchmarking helps us all recognise best practice and encourages local adoption of farm certification. It means that there is a great deal of transparency as well as a significant degree of harmonisation between participating schemes.

**Stakeholder Participation**

- We listen to the views of stakeholders both in the industry and outside it and strive to incorporate what we learn from them.

**Efficiency and Effectiveness**

- We develop easy to use cost effective solutions for our members to avoid multiplication of standards, systems and audits.

**Did you know?**

EurepGAP is governed by the Industry through its Steering Committee.

FoodPLUS GmbH is a German limited company set up to act as the Secretariat for EurepGAP. FoodPLUS ensures Independence in the operation of the EurepGAP Standards and is a not-for-profit company.
Visit the Spanish fresh fruit and vegetable growers website

www.fepex.es

To:
Grow with quality
Sell with efficacy
Follow the agriculture policies accurately

Fepex supports EUREP-GAP®

Project subsidized by FEDER and Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade
The Fruit and Vegetables Standard, the first EurepGAP Standard to be implemented on a global scale, has reached the 30 000 certificate mark during 2005, covering more than 830 000 ha in more than 60 countries.

In September 2003, the second version of the EurepGAP Fruit and Vegetables Standard was released. The Standard was embraced by retailers and producers as it is perceived as more user-friendly than the 2001 version and many suppliers were certified against the new version even before the cut-off date of certification against the 2001 version of 31 December 2004. The second version was the result of many hours of work and consultation of the Technical and Standards Committee (TSC) for Fruit and Vegetables and experts outside of the TSC. One of the main changes was the inclusion of Section 10, Produce Handling on farm.

In October 2004 fast changing Crop Protection Product legislation urged the TSC to amend the standard and develop guidance notes to help growers to become more fully aware of the Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) in operation in the markets where their product will be sold. It is important for growers to be able to demonstrate that their produce meets the country of destination requirements, particularly if these requirements are stricter than those in the country of production. A six month time period was allowed for growers to show compliance with the new requirements.

As part of continual improvement of EurepGAP standards, guidelines have been developed for clearer and harmonised interpretation of the Fruit and Vegetables General Regulations and Control Points and Compliance Criteria. These include the guidelines for: Inspection Timing and Interpretation for CPCC Version 2.1-Oct04 (Excerpt MRLs). A useful guide with information sources on Traceability, Water Quality, Crop Protection Products and MRLs have also been published. All these are available on-line. (www.eurep.org/fruit/Languages/English/documents.html)

The National Technical Workgroups from France, Italy and the Netherlands have presented Interpretation Guidelines to the TSC and these have been approved as normative for the respective countries. National Technical Work-
First FV Certificate in New Zealand 2002

Balle Bros, well-known onion grower from Pukekohe was the first certified vegetable grower in New Zealand. They received certification through AgriQuality in 2002 under Option 1 and have received certification every year since then. According to Eamon Balle, Technical Manager (Balle Bros), EurepGAP certification has ensured them the market access that they need and helped them to keep abreast of changes in EU legislation.

Nursery Standard

Currently EurepGAP is developing a Nursery Module as a result of multiple requests from plant propagators world wide that supply propagation material to growers that have EurepGAP certification. This is not a complete new standard on its own, rather an extract of the FV Standard covering the Control Points and Compliance Criteria that are relevant to the nursery situation.

All accredited Certification Bodies with scope Fruit and Vegetables or Flower and Ornamentals will be able to do the certification.

This approach follows the tendency within the EurepGAP revision process of a modular system, as it is used in the Integrated Farm Assurance Standard, where redundancies are avoided.
Interest from leading European flower producers and buying retailers lead to the establishment of the current Flower and Ornamentals Standard. The working group, formed after the EurepGAP Barcelona conference in 1999, took the already existing EurepGAP Fresh Produce Standard to ensure some continuity of format and scope but tailored the content. Not only content, but also context and in some cases the strength of the compliance point has been changed to recognise the relevance to the ornamentals industry. The group formed the Technical and Standards Committee and in this capacity, developed and tested the normative documents for the EurepGAP Standard. All the implementation experience from the Fruit and Vegetables Standard was utilised. Technical input from leading schemes and other relevant grower members provided a good base for a high acceptance of the EurepGAP Flower and Ornamentals Standard in the industry.

As explained by Steve Homer, Chairman of the Flower and Ornamentals TSC: “The challenge for the Flower and Ornamentals Standard was to set the compliance entry point without having an existing food safety benchmark to refer to. The entry point has to be low enough to be within the sight of the underdeveloped growers while high enough to have credibility in the marketplace.”

The first Certification Body received accreditation for the Flower and Ornamentals scope in August 2004. Since then several other CBs have received accreditation and more have applied to extend their scope and are provisionally approved. The names of the accredited and provisionally approved CBs are available on the EurepGAP website. (www.eurep.org/flower/Languages/English/cbs.html)

Since 2004, three CB Workshops have been held of which one was combined with a Train-the-Trainer Seminar.

EurepGAP has started to provide a forum for discussion with all the diverse groups in the Ornamentals industry with their own standards and Codes of Practice, because the EurepGAP standard covers the essential elements of Good Agricultural Practices that are common to all. Scheme owners have already applied for benchmarking and MPS-GAP was the first flower certification system to be successfully benchmarked in May 2004. Kenya Flower Council was the first National Growers Association to achieve benchmark status with the EurepGAP Ornamentals Scheme in June of 2005 and other standards such as the British Ornamental Plant Producers and SwissGAP for Flowers and Ornamentals are in the process of benchmarking.
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Integrated Aquaculture Assurance

The Integrated Aquaculture Assurance Standard (IAA) is based on the EurepGAP Integrated Farm Assurance Standard (for agriculture) and has the modular composition which enables farmers to combine multiple products into one single audit.

This Standard as an initiative of retailers and producers in 2003. The current version of the EurepGAP document and procedures has been agreed among partners from the entire food chain for aquaculture. A Technical and Standards Committee, consisting of producer and retail members, is responsible for the correct and efficient implementation and continuous improvement of EurepGAP.

EurepGAP has also made a species specific standard for salmon which focuses on the same subjects: food safety, occupational health and safety and environmental safety. The standard covers the value chain for salmon with smolt production in freshwater, on-growing in seawater, harvesting and transport. The benefits from this work will be enhanced food safety, reduced compliance costs and increased integrity of farm assurance schemes globally by:

- clear risk assessed HACCP based reference standard
- commitment to continuous improvement and transparency across the entire food chain
- avoiding multiple product audits on mixed farming enterprises by a single one-stop-shop
- avoiding the proliferation of buyer requirements
- avoid excess regulatory burden by pro-active adoption by industry
- achieving global harmonisation leading to a more level playing field
- farmers choose from certification bodies strictly regulated by EurepGAP
- defining and enforcing a common level of auditor competence and of verification status report
- defining and enforcing a common level of action on non-compliances

This standard follows the format of other EurepGAP codes, covering the critical areas from record keeping, chemicals/medicines management, worker health and safety and environmental and social issues. It also enables Aquaculture Farms to ensure that their product meets the demands of the retail and food service market. To retailers this means that besides fresh fruits and vegetables, cereal and livestock farming and coffee, farmed fish is the next food product available according to EurepGAP Standards. The standard covers all production stages up to slaughter.

The EurepGAP Aquaculture Assurance Standard was developed in cooperation with Ahold NL and Fjord Seafood Pieters jointly with SGS at a first stage, and now also with participation of Stolt Sea Farm (now Marine Harvest), Nutreco, Panfish and Scottish Quality Salmon.

In June 2005, Chain of Custody is included for all companies in the supply chain who obtain legal ownership over IAA certified aquaculture products, and sell the product with the EurepGAP claim and must comply with the Chain of Custody requirements.

The objective of these requirements is to ensure that any product sold as EurepGAP certified is produced from material that originates from certified EurepGAP IAA farms.

Chain of custody controls must therefore be implemented at all critical control points in the process under assessment. Critical control points are those where a significant risk of certified materials becoming mixed with uncertified materials exists.

Further modules for specific species are actually under process of elaboration and will be included in the standard as soon as final revision and approval by EurepGAP Technical and Standard Committee has been confirmed. Elaboration of further modules is based on market demand of retailers/suppliers.
The Integrated Farm Assurance Standard (IFA) has come a long way since it was first published in Madrid (September 2003).

Since that date an extensive “public” revision lasting 18 months until March 2005 has taken place, involving some 55 experts and committee members for over 320 man days in meetings held around the world. Part of the revision process involved receiving comments from all stakeholders and a conference held in Amsterdam in November 2004, in which 250 persons participated and were able to hear the industry support which the standard commands, as well as put forward proposals to the final draft of the standard.

When the IFA Standard was first published, it introduced a novel “modular” approach, with the main objective of reducing audit duplication for farms with multiple enterprises. This has endured throughout the revision and indeed has become the frame around which EurepGAP standards are being built, i.e. “Base” modules that cover points that can be applied to the whole farm, plus more specific modules for the different species or product types. During the revision process one of the main structur-
EurepGAP Products

Work has continued apace in our Technical and Standards Committee and the priorities set for this year include the development of a Feed Reference Module, which stipulates the measures that must be in place in a compound feed manufacturer’s quality control system or scheme for a EurepGAP farmer to be able to source feed from. This is considered a priority due to the historically highlighted risk of food safety lapses and toughened EU Feed legislation to be introduced next year. Other priorities for development include finalising a livestock transport module (also updated according to latest legislative requirements) and exploring of other production modules, such as eggs for human consumption, veal production, etc. The day to day running of the Technical and Standards Committee also evaluates different forms of compliance worldwide and sets out further guidelines or interpretation criteria where appropriate.

As a result of all the efforts from everyone involved, there is now a solid backing behind the IFA Standard, with 10 retailers and food service members strongly promoting and demanding EurepGAP, as well as 14 producer members. Two National Technical Workgroups have been created, one in Brazil and one in Argentina. We predict according to feedback from CBs we have had that in this first year to March 2006 there will be a large boost in certificate numbers, starting from approximately 100 certificates as of August 2005. 410,000 animals are already covered by EurepGAP in just 6 months since operation of the new version, over 230,000 of them are certified.

(Green) Coffee

In September 2004 EurepGAP introduced the EurepGAP Reference Code for Coffee. This code has been developed for several years in co-operation with the Utz Kapeh Foundation. With this new code, EurepGAP covers a growing need for a common baseline for agricultural practices in coffee.

EurepGAP and Utz Kapeh started a comprehensive revision of that code to create the current EurepGAP Coffee Reference Code. In June 2003, consultation was held with

- coffee producers, certifying bodies and agronomists in the Utz Kapeh network
- EurepGAP members
- experts from the coffee industry and NGOs

The EurepGAP Coffee Reference Code follows the recognizable format of other EurepGAP codes, covering the critical areas from record keeping and pesticide management, through worker health and safety and environmental and social issues. Particular emphasis has been placed on developing meaningful, implementable guidelines that work for both large estates and smaller farms. The reference code covers from propagation material to green sacked coffee, including post harvest treatment (both wet and dry processing of the cherries). As they are essentially identical, the Utz Kapeh code is the first code to be benchmarked against.
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Certification is the key tool to provide credibility, transparency and integrity of quality assurance systems for the food industry. Certification Bodies (CBs) wanting to perform this activity shall demonstrate the compliance of these characteristics. The EurepGAP General Regulations, in its annex 5, guarantees this by setting CBs requirements for EurepGAP licence and certification approval and at the same time prepare them to achieve EN45011 / ISO Guide 65 accreditation. These requirements are assessed through a standardized approval process which verifies that the operational documents include not only the EurepGAP General Regulations, but also a well organized communication system with the EurepGAP Secretariat and their clients, based on independency, impartiality, confidentiality and integrity principles. Moreover, all the CB staff involved in EurepGAP certification are listed and evaluated against the EurepGAP auditor or inspector qualifications.

After EurepGAP approval is granted, CBs need to demonstrate they have applied for EN 45011/ISO Guide 65 accreditation to an Accreditation Body (AB) who is part of a Multilateral Agreement (MLA) for certification of products either within the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Therefore, the EurepGAP Approval is an open process for all independent CBs operating worldwide who are seeking to extend their services to the different EurepGAP scopes of certification. Once these CBs have the confidence that they comply with the requirements mentioned above they will be ready to apply for approval.

As a first step CBs have to register in the EurepGAP CB Extranet (http://cb.eurep.org) by submitting their information details of their companies, selecting the scope of certification and by nominating a “EurepGAP Scheme Manager”. This will become the contact person who will administrate the communication between the EurepGAP Secretariat and the CB. After registration is completed CBs would have access to the application document package for downloading from the CB extranet. This package includes among other documents an Application Form for the respective scope as well as auditor and inspector checklists which have to be fulfilled with supporting evidence and then posted to the EurepGAP Secretariat. During
the third step the Secretariat will confirm the reception of the documents which will be then assessed by an independent expert. As a result of this evaluation a report will be uploaded in the CB Extranet which could indicate either a positive result or an additional request for missing information. In any case, after completing successfully the information required, CBs are ready to enter into the fourth step of their application. During this stage, CBs will be able to download the Licence and Certification Agreement from the CB Extranet in order to sign it and formalize the relations and commitments with EurepGAP. At the same time, they will be requested to forward the receipt of confirmation of their application to EN 45011/ISO Guide 65 accreditation from their AB within 4 weeks after signing the agreement.

At step five the CBs are promoted to provisional approval and published in the EurepGAP website together with the date of application for accreditation. They will have a period of 6 months to achieve accreditation, and during this time they shall build up a history of certification activities before the final assessment of their Accreditation Body can take place. Throughout this period provisional approved CBs are allowed to issue a limited number of non accredited certificates. Once the accreditation is granted, CBs shall forward a copy of their accreditation certificates to the EurepGAP secretariat in order to become fully approved. CBs will then receive the official EurepGAP logo and issue unlimited number of accredited certificates. From this point on future accreditation status should be maintained according to AB’s procedures.

Thus, the CB extranet has become an efficient tool of communication which facilitates the approval process of CBs around the globe. Here CBs can, not only track their application step by step, but they have also access to a platform of information regarding the development and updates of the EurepGAP normative documents. This is achieved through a “Document Centre” where all documents and official communications are uploaded. Besides, a “Task Centre” is also available to remind CBs of their obligations such as the annual participation to a CB workshop, or confirmation of official communications.

Benchmarking Procedure

The EurepGAP Benchmarking has been the first and most important initiative for harmonisation of pre-farm gate standards worldwide. The EurepGAP Benchmarking process is one of EurepGAP’s core objectives since it contributes to support the food industry in strengthen the integrity of certification of products. It reduces multiplication of audits, generates transparency between buyers and sellers and provides reassurance that equivalent standards are being maintained where ever the product may be produced. Moreover, achieving the benchmarking against the EurepGAP standards leads national schemes to improve credibility of local agricultural sectors among global retailers and even generate new opportunities for marketing their products for international trade.

The benchmarking process consists of a one-to-one comparison principle where private or public schemes existing in different regions or countries are contrasted with EurepGAP. These schemes usually address certain requirements identified for the particular geographical locations and marketplace. They also reflect the local regulations, needs and cultures and often have brand image attached to them. During the process of benchmarking an applicant scheme is compared to both EurepGAP normative documents: a) the Control Points and Compliance Criteria and b) the General Regulations of the particular product scope chosen for equivalence. While the evaluation of the Control Points tests the conformity of compliance with acknowledged consumers’ requirements such as food safety, social welfare, environment protection and animal welfare; the evaluation of the schemes owners certification procedures are reviewed against the General Regulations to verify an equivalent audit outcome as well as to control critical integrity issues like auditor competencies, audit frequencies, non conformity classifications and sanctioning rules. Applicant scheme owners can also opt for applying the EurepGAP General Regulations directly.

This document assessment is carried out by an independent organization which has technical expertise and qualifications in accreditation systems (ISO Guide 65) in the agricultural field and which has been accepted by the EUREP-GAP Steering Committee. Currently two accreditation bodies have fulfilled these requirements. The Joint Accreditation System of Australia and
New Zealand (JAS ANZ), which has been working since the first applications, and recently the Deutsches Akkreditierungssystem Prüfwesen (DAP) has join the process to attend the high demand of applicant schemes worldwide.

The benchmarking process is documented in the EurepGAP benchmarking procedure which can be downloaded from the EurepGAP website. Here the applicant scheme owners are requested to register in the Benchmarking Extranet at http://benchmarking.eurep.org where the process starts with entering their information, choosing the scope seeking equivalence and selecting one of the independent organizations mentioned above. Once entered in the system the scheme owners shall enter into contract with both the Independent Organisation and EurepGAP. These application contracts outline the responsibilities, costs and process of benchmarking and can be downloaded from the Benchmarking Extranet.

Application then progress through a preliminary review, peer review and technical review before the approval of the standard can be confirmed. The preliminary and technical review is carried out by the Independent organisation and during the peer review EurepGAP members participate by submitting their comments in the “Discussion Tool” available at the Benchmarking Extranet. In addition, an on-site audit carried out by an accredited certification body will need to be observed by benchmarking auditors, to ensure that the outcomes achieved by the benchmarked scheme are the same as an audit undertaken against the EurepGAP protocol requirements. This process is referred as the “witness assessment”, here the independent organizations either provide or contract auditors trained in the benchmarking process who meet witness auditor requirements (lead auditor qualifications, regional and product scope experience, impartiality and independency).

At the end of this technical assessment period the independent organisation will submit a recommendation to accept or reject the application of the scheme. When accepted, the application passes through a review by the EurepGAP Technical and Standards Committee in order to be approved. Finally, to enforce transparency to the process a short notice period for equivalence is placed to consultees who responded to the consultation process in the peer review. Then when no incidences arise automatic equivalence is granted.

Through all the process scheme owners have the possibility to response to any incidence occurred during the benchmarking evaluation. The whole process will last between five months and one year depending on the intensity of the revision and how fast scheme owners react to the observations.

A final contract is signed between the equivalent certification scheme owner and EurepGAP which lays out the duties and liabilities to assure the maintenance of the achieved transparency and integrity.

### Accreditation Options for EUREPGAP Benchmarking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normative Documents</th>
<th>EUREPGAP Accreditation</th>
<th>Option EUREPGAP Plus Accreditation</th>
<th>Option Applicant Scheme Own Accreditation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>CPCC</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Applicant Scheme CPCC Benchmarked against EurepGAP</td>
<td>Applicant CPCC Benchmarked against EurepGAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>GR</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Applicant Scheme Operates with EurepGAP GR</td>
<td>Applicant GR Benchmarked against EurepGAP</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Fresh fruit and vegetables
EurepGAP Impact

Producers
The first certificate was issued in 2001. The number of EurepGAP approved farms have nearly doubled every year during the past 3 years. The 35,000 producers certified in 2005 do not yet include those large national farm assurance schemes that have nearly completed the EurepGAP Benchmarking process.

Countries
EurepGAP certificates have been issued in more than 60 countries, on all continents. This global coverage with a unique farm assurance standard is the key for world-wide harmonisation in practice and assuring market access for export-countries of agricultural produce.

Certification Bodies
Today, 89 accredited national and international certification bodies provide a wide choice to farmers wherever they are. A high integrity service for an affordable price is offered.

Countries with EurepGAP Certificate:

ALBANIA | ARGENTINA | AUSTRALIA | AUSTRIA | BELGIUM | BELIZE | BRAZIL | CANADA | CHILE | CHINA | COLOMBIA | COSTA RICA | CUBA | CYPRUS | DENMARK | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | ECUADOR | EGYPT | ETHIOPIA | FRANCE | GAMBIA | GERMANY | GHANA | GREECE | GUATEMALA | HONDURAS | HUNGARY | INDIA | IRELAND | ISRAEL | ITALY | JAMAICA | KENYA | LITHUANIA | MALTA |
Membership Benefits

- display of company logo and link on eurep.org (more than 10,000 visitors per month)
- receive printed version of the latest newsletter for your scope of interest
- display of your logo whenever EurepGAP is represented with a stand on an Exhibition
- participate and comment in the benchmarking peer review
- display of logo or company name in EurepGAP publications
- voting of Committee members (for supplier & retail/foodservice members)
- right to be elected into Committees (for supplier & retail/foodservice members)
- reduced fees for workshops and conferences
- access to the members-only section with standard presentations of EurepGAP & other documents
- taking part in the revision process of EurepGAP documents
- become co-exhibitor, sponsor
- become and maintain the status as trainer organisation
- participate in the National Technical Workgroups

DEVELOPMENT OF EUREPGAP MEMBERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* all members all scopes  
Source: EurepGAP October 2005

EUREPGAP MEMBER-STRUCTURE

- **Farmer Group**: 32%
- **Exporter**: 2%
- **Retailer/ Food Service Member**: 11%
- **Single Producer**: 15%
- **Associate Member**: 40%

Source: EurepGAP October 2005

APPROVED MEMBERS PER SCOPE

- **Green Coffee**: 88
- **Integrated Aquaculture Assurance**: 97
- **Flower & Ornamentals**: 110
- **Integrated Farm Assurance**: 119
- **Fruit & Vegetables**: 238

* incl. members signed up for more than one scope  
Source: EurepGAP October 2005
Think Global Act Local – EUREP GAP National Technical Workgroups

As the Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture, EurepGAP seeks to link its global implementation activities closely to the grower. At the same time EurepGAP wants to gain qualified input from national experts in their own language with respect to specific legal and structural conditions within the frame of different areas covered by EurepGAP. This goal was achieved by the establishment of EurepGAP Technical Workgroups. The aim is to work in close cooperation with the EurepGAP Secretariat and the Technical Committees and support as well as facilitate the EurepGAP implementation and continuous improvement based on the specific interest area needs.

Scope and Objective

The sole scope of the Workgroups are the harmonisation of the EurepGAP Control Points and Compliance Criteria and development of implementation guidelines as a preparatory input to the EurepGAP Technical and Standards Committees. In addition, the Workgroup can assist the EUREP Secretariat in coordinating and promoting the EurepGAP Protocols in its assigned area, communicating in the native language.

The objective of EurepGAP Technical Workgroups will be:

- assisting in the implementation process
- facilitating the harmonisation process as input to the TSC
- preparing proposals to the respective TSC on specific interest area interpretation in relation to the implementation process (e.g. legal and structural issues special to a country).
- interpretation and translation of EurepGAP documents

The translation of the official EurepGAP documents into languages used by the EurepGAP Technical Working Groups can be legitimised and become an official EurepGAP document if the Group proposes it to the EurepGAP TSC, enabling it to be used as a working document for certification and accreditation. Once a final version has been approved by EUREP, the necessary steps will be taken by FoodPLUS GmbH to make the Group’s document official.

Membership Requirement

Contributors of any EurepGAP National Technical Workgroup must be members of EurepGAP, or are invited as guests representing scientific and Governmental Organisations. Any local EurepGAP member willing to participate in this workgroup shall contact and must be accepted by the host.
Host and Chairperson

- A EurepGAP Technical Workgroup can be hosted by one of its members, based on the consensus of all members.
- The host facilitates the meetings and communicates to EurepGAP in English and within the group in their native language.
- The group elects a chairperson that chairs meetings. This chairperson or someone else elected by the group represents the group before the TSC.
Brazil

Instituto Genesis coordinates two workgroups in Brazil: IFA and (Green) Coffee.

When the two groups were established, their first task was to have the normative documents translated into Portuguese by people who knew what they were talking about. Now that both sets of documents have been officially published, the workgroups have been discussing the recommendations to be made for the “Brazilian Interpretation Guidelines”.

Discussions within the groups are very productive, as their members come from very different backgrounds: farmers, researchers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, and export brokers. Representatives from the certification bodies, the Brazilian accreditation body (INMETRO) and from the Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA) also give their contribution.

The (Green) Coffee group has a total of 80 members, of which about 15 take part in most of the meetings. The IFA group has about 170 members now, and at each meeting some 30 to 40 members are present.

The meetings are carried out monthly, but those members who cannot come may give their suggestions or learn what has been discussed through the extranets that Instituto Genesis created solely for this purpose.

France

The workgroup was initiated in October 2003 by the CNIPT (National French Potato Interprofessional Committee), “Prince de Bretagne” (Vegetables of Brittany) and the Section Nationale Pomme (French Apple producers association). Later the AGPM (General association of Corn Producers) and Arvalis-Institut du Végétal (National technical institute for combinable crops) also joined the group. The group is hosted by CNIPT and Aymard de Montigny (CNIPT Quality Manager and member of the Fruit and Vegetables TSC). It is composed of 6 experts who meet about once per month and when it is necessary, invite French certification bodies and other experts.

Each of these organisations has their own set of good agricultural practice standards and was therefore very interested in creating a EurepGAP Technical Workgroup.

The main goals of this group are:

- To translate the EurepGAP standard, draw up a French Interpretation Guideline and to link EurepGAP to specific French legislation. The bulk of the French Interpretation Guideline was approved in August 2004.
- To take into account the French producers’ and industry needs.
- To find connections between EurepGAP and the existing French standards in order to achieve eventually the benchmarked status.
- To communicate with EurepGAP staff and to participate actively in EurepGAP standard setting through proposals to the TSC.

Now all certification bodies in France work with the same Interpretation Guideline which conforms to EurepGAP. Producers and industry welcome this harmonisation which is leading to a growing number of EurepGAP certificates issued in France.

Italy

The Italian Technical Workgroup for Fruit and Vegetables is coordinated by the Centro Servizi Ortofrutticoli (CSO). CSO is a company supply-
AgriQuality is the most accredited provider of independent auditing, inspection and testing services to the food and agricultural sectors in the Southern Hemisphere.

Products certified by AgriQuality to a wide array of standards meet food safety and quality requirements of retailers and regulators world-wide, and make their way onto supermarket shelves all around the globe.

Holding an unmatched internationally recognised certification portfolio, AgriQuality is accredited to certify food products to meet British Retail Consortium (BRC), National Food Processors' Association (NFPA), EUREP, Tesco's Nature's Choice and a large number of other internationally recognised standards and codes of practice.

AgriQuality's accreditations include:
- Biosecurity New Zealand Accredited Independent Verification Agency
- NZFSA Recognised Agency
- IFOAM
- ISO/IEC 17020
- ISO/IEC 17025
- ISO/IEC Guide 62
- ISO/IEC Guide 65
- ISO/IEC Guide 66

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For more information on AgriQuality's full range of services visit www.agriquality.com
EUREP GAP Impact

In quality as coordinator for the National Workgroup for Fruit and Vegetables, CSO facilitates the implementation of EurepGAP, makes proofreading of Italian translations of the official documents, and assists the interpretation.

In May 2005, the EurepGAP TSC has approved the Italian Interpretation Guideline proposed by the Workgroup. The mandatory document is applicable to all CBs that operate in Italy. So the implementation and the application of the points of the protocol, now, is more simple.

Netherlands

The Dutch Technical Workgroup is hosted since 2005 by SCV [Foundation for Certification of Food Safety (systems)]. SCV forms the juridical and organisational structure in the Netherlands for all harmonisation activities regarding food. Such as HACCP, BRC, EurepGAP and most probably in future ISO 22000 and IFS. SCV is the scheme owner of the Dutch HACCP-certification scheme.

The group members are expert representatives of all stakeholders and all in Holland operating CB’s. Meetings are planned depending on the work load.

The Dutch Workgroup works for a proper interpretation/harmonisation of EurepGAP requirements for the Dutch region. Efforts are taken to harmonise inspection practices and inspection cases in the Netherlands. At the same time the group presents a discussion platform for integrity checks on CB/IB behaviour in the marketplace.

The Dutch model is used for that and interpretations are always unanimously decided on. Cases which are met in the inspection practice and are not clear are brought in by the IB’s/ CB’s (Inspection/Certification Bodies) or other stakeholders for discussion and harmonisation.

If questionable CB behaviour is registered this is discussed as well and dealt with between CB’s concerned. Sometimes sub-work groups are formed to deal with specific subjects.

The Dutch Polder model works very well. All participants have a very positive attitude and participate actively. The principle is voluntary participation without financial compensation with the exception of the secretariat. The costs for the secretariat are carried via SCV by the participating CB’s.

In the Dutch situation the Technical Workgroup is a very effective instrument, cost-reducing for CB’s and other stakeholders (who participate in only one harmonisation structure and not in four CB’s) and so for the market of certification. Moreover it is acknowledged by and under surveillance of the Dutch Council for Accreditation (RvA). It promotes also the credibility of the CB’s performances and for the EurepGAP-scheme in general. We understand that it is a unique structure and other countries (e.g. India) are considering to copy it.

New Zealand

The EurepGAP New Zealand Technical Workgroup represents the major product groups currently involved with EurepGAP. The Workgroup is hosted by Zespri and further members are: Pipfruit NZ Inc., Zespri International, VegFed, FreshCo Ltd, SGS, AgriQuality NZ Ltd.

They meet on an informal basis when the need arises but usually twice a year. The Workgroup tries to ensure that application of EurepGAP to NZ growing systems meets the technical, social and environmental demands of NZ law, is pragmatic for the NZ situation and ensure consistency of interpretation of requirements by CBs through careful liaison with the EurepGAP Secretariat.

The interpretation of ‘inspector’ education recognition was harmonised and the interpretation of section 10 was resolved as it pertains to growers with no packing facility and therefore
no control over operation of the packing facility. All interested parties are welcome to participate in the NZ NTWG.

The working atmosphere is cordial, cooperative and responsive within NZ. The structure of an NTWG works out well for the NZ situation.

**Turkey**

The NTWG Turkey is still working to form the infrastructure of the group. Thereby the Group is cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture, Universities, Exporters Unions, Farmer Organisations, NGO’s and other private sector companies in Turkey related with the sector and with supermarkets.

At the moment they are getting a lot of positive support. Mr. Belit Balci from Alara Tarım Ürünleri San.Tic. Ltd strongly believes that as soon as they form and start working on the national action plan with all their stakeholders, a very good synergy will be formed.

There is a very positive approach for EurepGAP to make it widespread around all production systems in fresh production in Turkey. There is also a big support from the Turkish government, who have started some initiatives for EurepGAP certification. The Bank of Agriculture is giving long term and low rate credits for EurepGAP certified production projects. It became important for the exporters to develop implementation projects at the grower base under Option 2. It became also important for the local market and they began to demand for EurepGAP certified product for their stands.

**Thailand**

A pro-term Workgroup was set up in April 2004 to develop a set of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Protocols for oil palm plantations. The members of this group included Agronomists, Technical experts, Plantations Managers, Plantation executives and Quality Control Personnel from the Guthrie Group and was spearheaded by qa plus asia-pacific sdn. bhd. to provide inputs in the development of this protocol.

[Advertisement]
The goal of this Workgroup was to develop a EurepGAP Protocol specific for the oil palm plantations, based on the EurepGAP Protocol: Fruit & Vegetables V. 2.0-Jan 04.

The Technical Workgroup through a series of discussions and meetings successfully developed a Protocol for oil palm plantations. This Protocol was used as the guide to prepare the 3 oil palm estates belonging to SOU I Southern Region. SOU I achieved EurepGAP Certification in December 2004.

It is the intention that the present Pro-term Technical Workgroup shall be expanded to include experts from research bodies and producer associations in the agriculture sector from Malaysia and also from neighbouring Indonesia and Thailand. They plan to call for a meeting, at the end of 2005, after their Workshops/Conference in Thailand and Philippines which are planned for November 2005.

Germany

In May 25th 2005 the German NTWG was founded. The members of this group consist of representatives of growers, wholesalers, retailer, CB’s and consultants. The main objective of this group is to achieve a mutual understanding in how to apply the Fruit and Vegetable Protocol in Germany. To this end an Interpretation Guideline will be developed. Several Institutions have already published such guidelines including forms and templates. The task is now to combine all this different approaches into one document. After only two meetings a lot of material has been gathered and will undergo further discussion. At the end of 2005 the German Interpretation Guideline will be completed.
We want to thank all those who have contributed during the last few years in the EurepGAP Steering and Technical and Standards Committees:

EUREPGAP Supplier Members
RUCQUOY FRERES
EUREPGAP Impact

GRASP – Towards Revision 2007

Project Structure and Activities

In the context of a Public Private Partnership Project between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), EurepGAP and Coop (Switzerland) a set of Good Risk-based Agricultural Social Practices (GRASP) will be elaborated. The project runs from 06/2005 to 02/2007.

During the ongoing standard review process (until 2007) the EurepGAP Steering Committee has endorsed to apply a holistic approach to the improvement and further development including environmental and social aspects into the standard on a practical consensus basis.

In the project course, a set of pragmatic social practices will be tested in pilot projects, discussed in National Workgroups (multi-stakeholder-approach) and adopted to regional needs. First priority is the applicability and verifiability of the requirements to be proposed for the 2007 version of the EurepGAP standards. Findings of the PPP-Project will be publicly available and open for discussions. Links to other standard setting organisations and NGOs will be made to enable the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

The GRASP project will reach credibility on a technical feasible basis without replacing or competing full range multistakeholder audits. Continuous improvement of social performance in the course of EurepGAP audits would be guaranteed through continuous controls and a transparent data-base.

Pilots

To test the developed approach and to initiate and support National Workgroups, pilot activities will be run in different countries. First Pilot experiences were made in Spain in 2004 and in Kenya in September 2005. (see below)

Retailers and other stakeholders are very welcome to join the project and to conduct pilots with suppliers in socially sensitive regions and commodities. Further pilots will profit from experiences already made within the project, enrich the experiences so far made and will help in pushing the GRASP towards its integration in EurepGAP version 2007.

An integration of risk-based technically feasible requirements into existing GAP audits would lower the costs of social compliance certification. This would broaden the implementation of social standards by choosing a bottom-up approach and have a direct impact on the farms.

First GRASP Stakeholder Workshop in Kenya

On September 16th the first GRASP stakeholder Workshop was held in Nairobi/Kenya. In the week before the workshop the GRASP Control Points and Compliance Criteria was pretested on the field and discussed with farmers. Whereby the special situation of small farmers was focussed. The tests were conducted with Africert (CB) and shadowed by AfricaNow (NGO).

More than 40 representatives of the Kenyan Government, Farmers, Exporters of Agricultural Produce, International Organisations, Development Partners, Initiatives involved in Social Standards, Certification Bodies, Research Institutions and NGO’s and Unions as representatives of the Civil Society attended the meeting. The task for all representatives was to actively contribute to the improvement of Workers Health, Safety and Welfare Chapter within the EurepGAP Standard.
After the opening speech of Tom Bonjo (Head of Ministry of Horticulture) the GRASP project was presented. Francis Akivaga (Africert) presented the results from the field test of the GRASP Checklist. Later there were four workgroups working on different subjects regarding the implementation and adaptation of the Control Points and Compliance Criteria. Those workgroups delivered a very valuable output for the project. Basically there were three important points lined out by all participants.

N°1 is of cause the cost issue. All workshop participants agreed that there should be as less additional costs for certification as possible.
N°2 was to address specially the situation of small scale farmers. And to develop specific intelligent solutions for their needs.
N°3 was the imperative link to other standard setting organisations and company standards to assure harmonisation and to avoid duplication.

The GRASP project was designed to assess specially the social environment on farms and to realistically propose Control Points and Compliance Criteria that can be introduced into the EurepGAP standard in 2007.

The GRASP Project was very pleased about the active involvement of EurepGAP’s Kenyan stakeholders. And we think we’ve done a major step towards the Revision 2007.

Discussing the GRASP - Checklist after the field test with representatives of Homegrown Ltd., GTZ, AfricaNow and AfriCert
The EUREPGAP Smallholder Manual -
Building up an Internal Control System for Certification to EUREPGAP
Option 2 in the Horticultural Sector

An Internal Control System as a prerequisite for group certification

A key element in group certification is a documented quality management system that allows the external Certification Body to certify the entire group rather than each individual group member. Qualified staff within the farmer group can replace annual external inspections. As a consequence, the main task of the Certification Body is the “system check” and the external inspection of a random sample of farmers in order to confirm the proper working of the group’s Internal Control System.

EurepGAP has developed detailed requirements regarding the functioning of the groups’ Internal Control Systems, which are outlined in the General Regulations. The group certification process is complex and requires the group management to elaborate a quality manual and operation procedures. Presently, there is no single source of information which supports groups in this work.

GTZ and EUREPGAP providing guidance through the Smallholder Manual

A draft “Smallholder Manual” has been produced jointly by GTZ and EurepGAP. It provides practical guidance on how to establish and document such an Internal Control System. It includes operational procedures and recording forms for a fictional farmer group and can be taken by producer associations as a starting point to create their own documents, adapting contents according to the situation of their farmers and the specific circumstances within their groups. This is a very effective training-on-the job exercise and will result in improved managerial and administrative skills of group managers that are necessary to successfully run the EurepGAP scheme. The manual does not provide guidance on how to implement the EurepGAP standard at farm level.

Produced by GTZ in collaboration with Eurep-GAP the manual is directed to the management of smallholder farmer groups wishing to obtain group certification. Basically it explains the essential elements of group certification. The most interesting section of the document is the template for a “Quality Manual” that describes the Internal Control System of a fictional smallholder farmer group. Several model forms, such as a producer contract and a farmer register are included in the document, too. Readers are invited to create their own Internal Control System, adapting its contents according to the situation of their farmers and the specific circumstances of their group.

Testing the manual with pilot groups in developing countries

Pilot projects in developing countries will be started through which a number of selected small-holder groups will be taken through the process of establishing a quality management system, training their members in its use and finally achieving EurepGAP certification. On the basis of the lessons learned in this trial phase, a completed and improved final version of the Smallholder Manual will be made available to the public. “How to manuals” may be created in the pilot countries which will enable other groups to replicate this process.

Kenya is the first pilot country

It has been identified that in Kenya opportunities exist for a joint undertaking between DFID and GTZ. Three partners will join efforts to make nine smallholder farmer groups in Kenya fit for certification: The “Business Service Market Development Project (BSMDP)”, funded by the UK Department of International Development (DFID) and managed by DFID Kenya has the leadership. GTZ Kenya through their project “Promotion of Private Sector Development in Agriculture (GTZ-PSDA)” and the “Agricultural Trade” project, based in GTZ’s headquarter are BSMDP’s partners in this undertaking. First results are expected in February 2006.
You can’t buy trust. Build it.

PRODUCE VALUE WITH EUREPGAP
Consumers are growing increasingly sensitive to environmental, safety and social implications of the food they purchase. They want to know that what they put on their table is grown under safe conditions.

EurepGAP is the Good Agricultural Practices certification scheme created to meet the needs of sustainable agriculture. It includes topics such as Integrated Crop Management (ICM), Integrated Pest Control (IPC), Quality Management System (QMS), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), worker health, safety, welfare and environmental pollution and conservation management.

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Contact us at
certification@dnv.com

MANAGING RISK
EUREP GAP On-line Training for Inspectors

“Maintaining the Integrity of the system” is one of EurepGAP’s objectives. As part of the strategy to obtain this goal an on-line training programme has been developed for all inspectors and auditors contracted by accredited and EurepGAP approved Certification Bodies. The on-line training is meant to:

- Ensure inspector competence
- Harmonise interpretation of the standard
- Serve as a management tool for CBs

The on-line training must be successfully completed by all inspectors and auditors annually and the first version will become obligatory from 1 January 2006.

Certification Bodies must register all their inspectors and pay a nominal fee per inspector to receive a log-in and password for each user. Users can enter the training material as many times as needed, but the exam can only be taken twice. Scheme managers will have the responsibility to see that all inspectors have gone through the training and passed the exam.

The initial phase of the on-line training programme has started with the Fruit and Vegetables scope and training programmes for the other scopes will follow in 2006/2007. The training covers aspects of the General Regulations and Control Points and Compliance criteria and makes use of case studies and real life scenarios to explain interpretation.

The on-line training will not replace the traditional CB workshops where group discussions of interpretation proved to be very valuable for all involved. However, this type of long-distance, on-line training brings the information to all inspectors.

Global Web-Based Communication

The EurepGAP Secretariat has created several Extranets to improve the communication with its different User Groups on a world-wide scale.

Organisations interested in joining the EurepGAP Partnership as Member, Certification Body, Trainer or Standard Owner can register in tailor-made Extranets – and enter a two-way process with a step-by-step system tracking. Extranets are available directly on the www.eurep.org website. A registration process will open the door and guide you through.

The following Extranets are currently available:

Infomail:

free Infomail service open for everybody interested in receiving information about EurepGAP standards. Individuals can sign up for various Infomails to stay up-to-date on EurepGAP Developments.

CB Extranet and AB View of CB Extranet:

for applicant and approved EurepGAP Certification Bodies and EurepGAP approved Accreditation Bodies.

Certification Bodies interested in receiving approval from EurepGAP can download for free, without any obligation, the application package to become a EurepGAP approved Certification Body (CB) for the scopes they are interested in and track their application process. Once approved, the CB Extranet is the communication tool between approved CBs and FoodPLUS. All important communication on standard interpretation or standard revisions is uploaded in the CB Document Center of the CB Extranet. In the Task Center of the CB Extranet CBs have an overview about their open tasks.

Since May 2005 we worked out an AB View of the CB Extranet in order to improve the communication between EurepGAP and Accredita-
tion Bodies. The AB Extranet makes relevant information accessible to ABs regarding the CBs they are assessing e.g. communication of CB status prior to achieving accredited status, suspension/cancellation of the EurepGAP approval of a CB, etc.

**Member Extranet:**

for applicant and approved EurepGAP Members. Organisations interested in joining the EurepGAP Partnership can download for free, without any obligation, the membership application form to become a EurepGAP member for the relevant scopes and track their Member application process.

Via the Member Extranet EurepGAP members are invited to participate in member Peer Reviews for applicant benchmarked schemes and to forward comments to standard revision processes.

**Benchmarking Extranet:**

for applicant and approved EurepGAP Certification system Owners (Benchmarked Schemes). Standard Scheme Owner can download for free, without any obligation, the application package to become a EurepGAP approved Certification System Owner (CSO) and proceed online the EurepGAP Benchmarking for their Standard.

Enter into online discussion with EurepGAP members that comment during the Member Peer Review and with the independent assessor organisation and TSC Members.

**Training Extranet:**

for applicant and approved EurepGAP Train-the-Public Trainers and those that are interested in attending a Workshop organized by the EurepGAP Secretariat. Interested can sign up for a Train-the-Trainer Workshop including an exam, which is available and compulsory only if wanting to become an approved EurepGAP Train-the-Public Trainer and track their Trainer application process to become an official EurepGAP Train-the-Public Trainer. After approval official EurepGAP Train-the-Public Trainer (passed examination, proof of trainer qualifications, EurepGAP membership etc.), can download training material and presentations as available on the section only accessible to Trainers.
EurepGAP has completed the introduction phase of an internal verification system this year, with the objective of reinforcing the integrity of the Standard.

Called “SPICE”, it consists of a framework which allows EurepGAP to initiate discretionary investigations “in the field” wherever integrity of the system is perceived to be at risk, as well as serving as a tool for ensuring continued harmonised application of criteria globally within a greatly expanded Certification Body (CB) and certified farmer contingent, with many recent entrants. Another very positive aspect of SPICE is that it enables a more direct contact between EurepGAP and in-field activities.

Using a combination of database checking and on-the-spot fact finding visits, SPICE will serve as a “belt and braces” system of checks and balances that complements other existing methods of supervision such as the EurepGAP CB Approval Process, CB supervision by Accreditation Bodies, compulsory annual CB Harmonisation Workshops, and other tools in development such as Training of individual Auditors/Inspectors, Standard Interpretation Guidelines, Area Identification and Batch Traceability, etc.

This initiative has been warmly welcomed by the majority of participants in EurepGAP, as a measure that enables all involved to further justify their high levels of commitment to the Good Agricultural Practices enshrined in EurepGAP. SPICE activities so far have concentrated on fine-tuning the procedures during 7 different visits, and have already resulted in useful feedback that help wider implementation anticipated for 2006.

It is worth noting that in order to ensure continued compliance with EurepGAP requirements, it is not simply good data presentation and “checklist ticking” at inspection that is required, rather a philosophical attitude change by farmers and Certification Bodies which leads to continuous search for improvement. This brings about a virtuous circle ensuring food safety assurance and efficient management practices within a sustainable farming business.
Since January 2005, EurepGAP has been operating a new database, operated by T-Systems International, one of the leading IT Service providers worldwide. As a daughter company of German Telekom, T-Systems applies the latest technology, highest data protection rules and a 24-hour, 7 days a week operational guarantee. By changing the database provider, EurepGAP has entered into a new era of integrity and transparency, a step which was necessary to protect the fast growing number of producer claims to be EurepGAP certified or approved.

This higher level of integrity to support the global EurepGAP Certification activities can now be achieved via the database, since it

- Helps to oversee the actual and historic status of certificates and follows all steps according to the strict sanctioning procedures, controlled by the EurepGAP Secretariat,
- Manages the registration of all audits and auditors with reference to the respective set of qualifications per product scope,
- Allows instant reporting via online checklist web application or via electronic interface of audit reports transmitted to the central database,
- Helps phasing in of farmer registration by using own online checklists without need for full EurepGAP compliance
- Has implemented “guided” procedures guiding to complete records of farmers,
- Enables instant and systematic validity checks of farmer certificates,
- May report the entire checklist for true feedback and cross-country and cross-sector statistics,
- Supports the management of aligning different national and regional code interpretation approaches via multi-vector comment tools and customised displays, and
- Combines all these features with highest possible data security and storage safety.

The main reason to choose an IT provider that can offer such a wide range of services on a large scale has been to be able and reduce costs for EurepGAP certified farmers. The main cost reducing factors are that

- EurepGAP negotiated an acceptable rate for the registration and storage of compulsory data in the certification process,
- Farmers and farmer groups can manage their own registration data (The CB is no longer required to act as administrator to enter information. This can be done by each individual as long as there is an access to the internet.),
- Synergies with other services can be explored without any duplication and upfront programming investment costs, since the optional services are made available against a pure cost base,
- T-Systems will develop automatic inter-
faces with company IT infrastructures for large companies using software packages like SAP and

On the other hand does not require any IT investment for small companies and farms other than personal computer and internet access.

Not only company IT systems will be able to be connected to the EurepGAP Database, but also other assurance systems and schemes, which

- Operate on the farm level like EurepGAP benchmarked schemes and other Government or public standards where full benchmarking with EurepGAP is not feasible (any standard checklist can be entered into the system and mapped with any other checklist in order to generate comparison reports or simply enter online combi-audit results which may result in two or more parallel certificates in a one-stop-shop physical audit visit), or
- Belong to post-farm gate systems like the International Food Standard (IFS), where an interface has been programmed to their database.

A large competent and powerful IT partner with local offices in many EurepGAP countries can assure a global service level based on multi-lingual web applications (English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Hungarian, Turkish to start with)

- High data speed for many parallel users (backbone technology).

Beneficial to EurepGAP members will be the opportunity to participate in optional and voluntary add-on services offered by T-Systems, which are interlinked with the core features of the EurepGAP Database and can facilitate the 4fresh Strategy of freshfel Europe:

- Unique and global field identification (UAID = Unique Area IDentification) and Geographic Information System GIS/Map services
- Field Passport system to save field records and share them optionally with partners
- Online database with up-to-date Crop Protection Product registration information and import MRL information of many countries and crops
- Traceability of batches (traceback) in a centralised and secured system (linking EurepGAP Certificate information with the product lot number; in line with international standards like GS1 (formally EAN-UCC)
- Laboratory registration and sharing residue test results for risk assessment

...AND WHAT OUR MEMBERS THINK

Hans-Juergen Matern, Metro:

“We support the trial of the UAID and traceability system, which gives us the certainty that the efforts of growers to achieve the EurepGAP Certificate are not misused by other participants of the chain, where traceability gets lost.”

Johann Zueblin, Migros:

“Our expectation of the EurepGAP database is high since we expect that it will reduce the participation costs of suppliers. If not, every retailer will set up their own traceability system.”

Richard Yudin, Fyffes:

“I see the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) as an important step in enhancing the authenticity of certification, and in allowing certifiers to make random audits as allowed by the regulations.”
The EurepGAP database service mix can be called “Customer Focus at its best”, and in addition the **industry ownership** of the EurepGAP Partnership applies a governance structure that can assure EurepGAP core principles also to the IT services, such as

- Industry solution driven
- Efficiency and Effectiveness by strict cost controls
- Independence of the IT Service provider
- Strict enforcement and control of user privacy policies

Overall, the IT partnership with T-Systems has brought EurepGAP into a position where we can now complete the design of a scaleable infrastructure for a global network that is necessary for successfully solving one of the largest challenges for global trade: **Bringing about a level playing field for the farming population world-wide.** Only a network that is robust, affordable and built upon trusted and honest partnerships – private as well as public-private – will be able to exploit the benefits of global trade and hereby have a significant impact towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

**EUREPGAP Database: Retailer View**

**EUREPGAP Database: Supplier View**
Unique identification of farms and production sites become increasingly important on a global scale. Not only as traceability information for products, but also for optimising logistics and reporting as well as linking EurepGAP certificates to physical locations over time. EurepGAP is now offering a link to a wide set of services based on geographic information systems by introducing the concept of Unique Area Identification “UAID”. The expectation is, that EurepGAP member organisations can largely benefit when applying this voluntary add-on service to their day-to-day business activities.

UAID technology makes it possible for every object – e.g. field, lake, forest, house, town – to be given its own unique 22-character alphanumerical identification. This code can be linked to products and logistics information in order to have a reference to the origin.

Why is it not possible just to use latitude and longitude specifications? It is possible to represent individual points using normal latitude and longitude specifications but not areas. In addition, there are 186 different coordinate systems worldwide, and five in Germany alone. Furthermore, since the earth has four partitions, North West, North East, South West and South East, each coordinate is represented four times. The normal, commonly used coordinates only differ from one another through a minus or plus sign. The UAID uses a concise, publicly accessible alphanumerical 22-character code based on the internationally used WGS84 satellite navigation system (GPS).

EurepGAP auditors will be able to enter the
For you and your customers, we make four important promises.

Consumers around the world demand, and deserve, safe and nutritious food.

Elanco understands these needs, and works each day to discover and develop promising new products while diligently working to ensure the availability of our current products. We’re committed to helping the poultry industry provide wholesome and affordable high-quality food.

Our promise: to serve everyone in the food chain according to four important values.

**Food safety** which starts on the farm with healthy animals. **Respect** for animals and the environment. **Precision therapies** through targeted, animal-focused medicines. **Economics** to keep food affordable to produce and to enjoy. You—and your customers—deserve nothing less.

For you and your customers
T-Systems offers a central database for traceability. This database provides a central approach vs. the “one step up - one step down” approach. The central data base system is used for documentation and communication and provides notification about batch deliveries in the central database system. The system is compliant to the EU 178/2002 and EU 1830/2003 legislation. The system enables quick reactions in case of crisis and is fully GS1 compliant, supporting the Electronic Product Code (EPC).

Voluntary Add-on Service: Central Traceability

The T-Systems’ approach is based on a central database system. Since information on all production stages is stored in a highly available database, information about batches can be retrieved immediately. This approach imposes serious technical requirements on the underlying system. In a realm of 600 000 different products, a production chain with an average of five stages and weekly delivery notifications will result in 3 million notifications a week, i.e. 156 million notifications a year. Thus, a professional data processing centre with the appropriate hardware is indispensable for this approach.

UAID of fields or farms into a navigation system, which will guide them directly to the site to be inspected. The UAID of the production site may be entered into the central database and can serve – when linked to batch traceability information – as identification for the origin of a product. The Metro Group is undertaking a trial with apples for their Future Store Initiative. Consumers will be offered full traceback information at the point of sale.

Furthermore, a large number of farm software packages are applied on farms world-wide. The herewith captured on-field production process and product information can only be linked into the food supply chain when re-entering the relevant data into customer IT environments or programming and maintaining a growing number of different electronic database interfaces. By offering a safe and single storage infrastructure for field and livestock holding data, T-Systems has created a unique exchange platform and interface which facilitates food supply chain cooperation and reduces costs deriving from duplication – and equally important do not replace rather compliment any farm software where local management objectives need to be met at the same time.

Ingredients: Take the field shape, its geographic position and the size

Process Step 1: Take the North-West and South-East corners of a rectangular that touches the field on four sides

Process Step 2: Add the field size and calculate the UAID
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What is the EUREPGAP Equivalent NZ Fresh Produce Approved Supplier Programme?
The EUREPGAP Equivalent NZ Fresh Produce Approved Supplier Programme (ASP) is a traceable, accountable system from crop to customer for the production of fruit and vegetables. Developed to ensure New Zealand produce meets food safety and quality assurance standards, the programme identifies Approved Suppliers as being committed to producing food, in a safe and sustainable way.

How does it compare with international quality assurance programmes?
The EUREPGAP Equivalent NZ Fresh Produce Approved Supplier Programme has been successfully benchmarked against EUREPGAP (Version 2.0 January 2004, and Version 2.1 October 2004). Equivalency was achieved after a comparison was made with our NZ domestic market ASP. Only minor enhancements were required to gain equivalency.

What does it cover?
The EUREPGAP Equivalent ASP covers the requirements of the NZ domestic market & the European market. As a documented, independently audited and monitored quality assurance programme, ASP identifies and manages relevant production, packaging and distribution risks from crop to customer. EUREPGAP Equivalent ASP is based on Good Agricultural Practice and the seven principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis at Critical Control Points) as well as elements of ISO 9002. It feeds into exporters, retailers, manufacturers and food service providers’ food safety assurance programmes, and has been approved by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.

On-going independent audits against EUREPGAP Equivalent ASP requirements, on-going self assessments and random audits ensure Approved Suppliers remain committed to the programme and continue to qualify for Approved Supplier status. EUREPGAP Equivalent ASP also includes independent, random monitoring of agrichemical residues to ensure they are within Maximum Residue Levels set by New Zealand & importing countries regulatory bodies.

Who supports it?
ASP is supported by all major fresh produce retailers and wholesalers in New Zealand, with the majority making accreditation as an Approved Supplier a condition of market access. EUREPGAP Equivalency is supported by European retailers. The programme is also supported by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority. Developed by New Zealand growers the programme was launched by Vegfed (NZ Vegetable and Potato Growers Federation) in 1999, and in 2000 the NZ Fruitgrowers Federation joined.

What does buying from an Approved Supplier mean for you?
By applying the Approved Supplier Programme to processes and systems, fresh produce suppliers can ensure a quality end product for their customers. Customers can also be confident that produce has been grown and produced in a safe and sustainable way. Information for consumers can be found at www.growerswhocare.co.nz

How do you know who is an Approved Supplier?
Look out for the NZ Fresh Produce Approved Supplier logo on packaging and promotional material or visit the Approved Supplier website: www.approvedsupplier.com or www.approvedsupplier.co.nz for a regularly updated list of accredited Approved Suppliers. (See List of Approved Suppliers.)

For further information visit:
www.approvedsupplier.com | www.approvedsupplier.co.nz | www.vegfed.co.nz
Field2Fork | crop protection products and the food on your plate: one link in the chain

Residues: fact and fiction

- Rationalising risks, minimising residues

- Crop protection products are only approved for sale if the residue levels they may leave are safe for all consumers, whatever their age or gender - including unborn babies, infants and children.

- Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) are primarily trading standards that allow crops to be traded between countries, and are always set at levels which ensure human health.

- The European Commission and annual EU monitoring have repeatedly confirmed that the low levels of residues found in food are safe for consumers.

- The crop protection industry works hard to minimise residues as far as possible and wishes to deepen and strengthen collaboration with its partners in the food chain to raise standards of agricultural production.

Find out more about the Field2Fork Campaign, which aims to engage the food chain in an open dialogue about residues.

www.ecpa.be/Field2Fork

ECPA is an associate member of EurepGAP and supports partnerships for safe and sustainable agriculture.

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