

EUREPGAP

The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture

May 2005

www.eurep.org



Minister Blanca Villerello from Mexico



Yang Zhigang
Certification and Administration
Authority of PRC



Sicilly Kariuki
Chief Executive of Fresh Produce
Exporters of Kenya

HARMONISATION EUREPGAP SHRINKS THE WORLD

China, Kenya and Mexico are the latest countries to enter into close co-operation with EurepGAP to moderate their own existing standards and to seek formal equivalence.

In a major step forward these three important agricultural producers have agreed to enter into formal arrangements with EurepGAP so their National GAP Standards will have recognition in the international marketplace.

Equivalence is granted only after rigorous peer review by EurepGAP members and an Independent assessment including an in country witness audit.

"Once a scheme is benchmarked with EurepGAP buyers know exactly what they can expect. That is the key issue for them," says Nigel Garbutt.

This can only be achieved through a transparent comparison of standards and then agreement to adhere to

them through contractual obligations agreed between the standard owners and EurepGAP.

"Harmonisation continues to be a priority for EurepGAP," says Nigel Garbutt, Chairman and President.

"We have come a long way in a short time."

"Currently 32 retailers actively support EurepGAP. You can easily imagine the chaos now if each and everyone had adopted their own very different standards and certification requirements!"

Retailers working together with their producers is an important part of the EurepGAP success story as is providing cost effective certification and open access for farmers anywhere in the world.

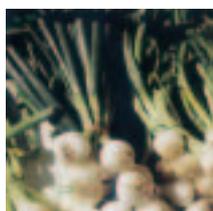
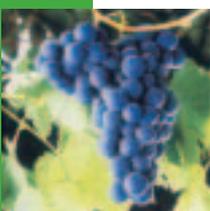
As our article on page 4 and 5 shows this includes those small scale farmers wherever they may be located.

EurepGAP has approved more than

80 certification bodies to International standards and these are being carried out in more than 60 countries worldwide.

"However the job is not yet done, and we need everyone to act as team players if we are to see the process through. Everyone has a role to play to help develop equivalence, which will bring down costs and improve credibility with our range of stakeholders," he stresses.

"EurepGAP will continue to work to bring national schemes and retailers together to discuss the ways to improve the simplicity and effectiveness of farm certification." This will be a major theme at the EurepGAP 2005 Conference in Paris. For further details please see back page.



TECHNICA

NEW DATABASE LAUNCHED INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY TO PROTECT THE CLAIM "EUROPEAN CERTIFIED"

Since January 2005, EurepGAP has been operating a new database.

"This step was necessary to improve the integrity and transparency of EurepGAP and protect the claim of our growers to be EurepGAP certified", says Secretary General Kristian Moeller.

"We teamed up with one of the best and largest IT Service providers worldwide, T-Systems International, a daughter company of German Telekom, which applies the latest technology, highest data protection rules and a 24hour, 7 days a week operational guarantee."

The existing feature of verifying online the validity of a certificate by typing in the EurepGAP Registration Number (www.regnumbersearch.eurep.org) will continue to exist publicly.

New features are:

- Farmers and farmer groups have access to their own data and can grant or withdraw read access to individual customers at any time.
- Farmers can perform their own self-assessment with an online checklist in their language and archive those.
- CB's can use that assessment as base for their compulsory online audit report.
- The database system will generate a unique certificate number and builds a historic record of certificates, product scopes and validity dates.
- Benchmarked schemes can use the system for their checklists, and each audit can be reported as EurepGAP audit to show the identical level of each form.

In addition to the auditing features, farmers in the database have a number of additional voluntary services they can use:

Enter and maintain a field passport for each field and crop harvested.

Establish a unique reference number of each field, the so called "Unique Area Identification", UAID (see more on www.uaid.org).

Participate in a trial traceability system through the food chain by creating harvest batch numbers of suppliers and register those in the database.

Traders can register access accounts in the system to verify data of suppliers and avoid the sending of paper certificates.

...AND WHAT OUR MEMBERS THINK

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 GIS as an important step in enhancing the authenticity of certification, and in allowing certifiers to make random audits as allowed by the regulations."

MAKING CHANGES FOR THE BETTER

Fast-changing crop-protection-product legislation, has prompted EurepGAP to make a timely amendment to its protocol and develop guidance notes. The aim of the changes introduced by the body's Technical and Standards Committee is to help growers become more fully aware of the maximum residue limits (MRLs) in operation in the markets where their products will be sold.

The committee is made up of agronomists and technicians from the retail and production sectors worldwide.

"The changes have been introduced so that growers develop a high awareness of the MRLs in operation in the countries where the product will be, or is likely to be, sold," said Hugo Hays, EurepGAP Technical Director.

"It is important that growers can demonstrate that their produce meets these country of destination requirements particularly if the regimes are stricter than those in the country of production.

"EurepGAP has always stressed the importance of residue screening and it provides further reassurance when the exact destination of the product is not known," he said

"So as to allow time for growers to become familiar with the new requirements, the amended procedures will become binding in the certification programme from May 1, 2005.

"We have also produced a comprehensive list of contacts where growers can find out the most up-to-date information concerning MRLs and hope this will help them meet the challenges posed by legislative requirements," Hays added.

L MATTERS

FIRST INSPECTION TIMING

A guideline on how to determine the moment for carrying out the first on-farm inspection has been published under our "guidelines and supporting documents" section of the document section of the Fruit and Vegetables area of our website: www.eurep.org Look out for updates as new issues are dealt with.

This basically explains what must be taken into account when initiating the EurepGAP certification inspection process for the first time.

The main issue is that the EurepGAP checklist must be

verified in full before a certificate can be issued.

Because there are some control points that cover issues that are only verifiable at specific times of the year (usually around harvest), this means that the timing of the first inspection is important to avoid non-compliances, or repeat visits with the costs they incur.

In summary what the guide says is that inspection must take place as close to harvest as possible, at which time there must be records covering at least 3 months prior to the inspection.

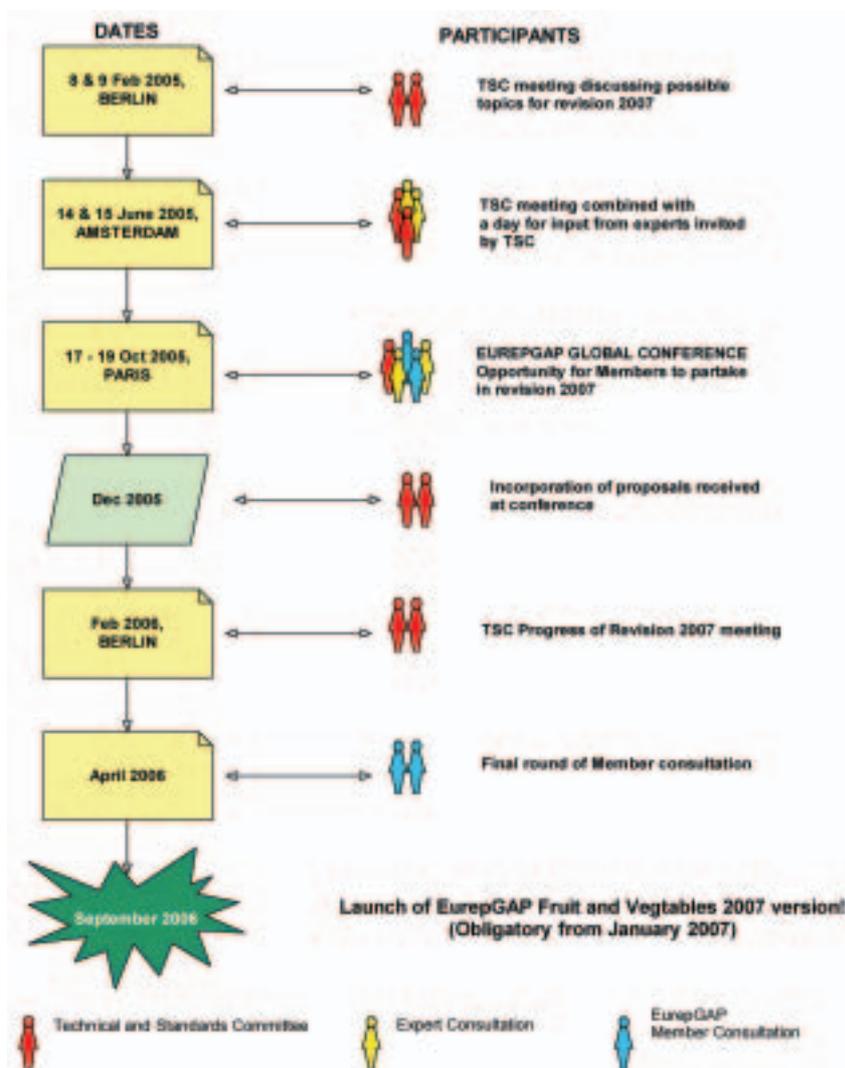
Only crop data from the harvest year being certified is acceptable, and if some points cannot be verified on the inspection day, these must be followed up and closed out before a certificate can be issued.

Particularly tricky to demonstrate before harvest are points in Section 9 and 10 (if applicable) and some in Chapter 8 (i.e. harvest interval and residue testing results).

The guideline also covers subsequent inspections and the addition of further crops to the certificate scope.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE NEXT VERSION OF THE EUREPGAP PROTOCOL

Revision Process for the Fruit and Vegetable 2007 Version





Steve Homer (Homegrown) and Nigel Garbutt see small-scale farmers harvesting green beans

David Shapley speaks to Nigel Garbutt who travelled to Kenya recently to visit small-scale farmers in the Mount Kenya and Sagana regions.

What prompted your visit to Kenya?

EurepGAP is interested in how small-scale farmers are coping with the requirements and what the challenges are for this specific group of producers and to offer our advice and assistance.

One criticism is that while EurepGAP is seen as valuable, producers in developing countries can find standards difficult to achieve. What was your experience?

Well, I was very encouraged by the high standards being implemented amongst the smallholder base in Kenya. There are around 50,000 smallholders some as small as 0.5 hectare with the average around 3 hectares of export crops of legumes.



Collection point where smallholders products are graded and labelled before transfer to Nairobi

Smallholders tend to pay a lot of attention to their crops and the quality of the produce was very high. Exporters have done a very professional job of organising the growers into groups ready for certification and there is certainly no panic about meeting the requirements in EurepGAP.

This has required the development of quality management systems and considerable training. A number of development partners such as DFID and USAID have played an important role in getting some of these activities off the ground.



Typical adjacent small scale farmer holdings in the Mount Kenya region

I would say that capital expenditure on facilities has not needed to be great to meet the standards to enable responsible small-scale production. Already 3 or 4 exporters have groups that are certified with numerous more in the pipeline so EurepGAP is achievable in this context.

PRACTICAL APPROACH IS A LESSON WHICH CAN BE LEARNT BY ALL

What are the main challenges?

Organising the growers into viable groups is a considerable task.

Smallholders need a lot of support interpreting the EurepGAP requirements. In this context clear risk analysis has been a key activity.

The costs of certification were raised also as being high.

This is very much a function of the grower group size and there is definitely an opportunity as the system matures to reduce costs.

Some analytical tests were being sent to European laboratories and inevitably this is costly.

While EurepGAP is concerned with high standards the route to achieving these is flexible.

Thus high quality training is essential and it is important to obtain this from bona-fide trainers.

Is it up to national governments or growers organisation themselves to fulfil this role?

Everyone has a role to play.

Horticulture earnings in Kenya are expected to grow by 34 per cent this year, but understandably the initial view in the Kenyan Government was the requirements of the EU were going to be a hindrance to their produce.

It now sees that EurepGAP, sometimes called "The 200 EU Conditions", will help them to access European and Arabian markets.

It is also keen to see Good Agricultural Practices applicable to the domestic market as well.

"Tourists from Europe, US and many other countries are conscious of hygiene, and we would want produce for the domestic market to adhere to the conditions because they are simple to practise," Agriculture Minister Kipruto Arap Kirwa stressed recently.

What are the next steps after your visit?

EurepGAP will be working very closely with the exporters' association, FPEAK.

During my visit the National Technical Working Group was inaugurated and this for me was a great moment as it brought many exporters together with Government and non-government specialists.

The Exporter agronomists are now taking the lead in defining and interpreting EurepGAP in the smallholder context.

In particular this will bring greater robustness to the risk assessments and greater consistency.

The intention is to benchmark the KenyaGAP protocol with EurepGAP during the summer of 2005.

Kenya is a great model for other countries and this is a very good way of working..... this is what we mean by **"EurepGAP - The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture."**

COUNTRIES WHERE EUREPGAP CERTIFICATES HAVE BEEN ISSUED

Albania	Italy
Argentina	Jamaica
Australia	Jordan
Austria	Kenya
Belgium	Malta
Belize	Mexico
Brazil	Morocco
Bulgaria	Namibia
Canada	Netherlands Antilles
Chile	New Zealand
China	Peru
Colombia	Poland
Costa Rica	Portugal
Cuba	Puerto Rico
Cyprus	Senegal
Dominican Republic	South Africa
Ecuador	Spain
Egypt	Swaziland
Ethiopia	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Gambia	Tanzania/United Republic
Germany	Thailand
Ghana	The Netherlands
Greece	Turkey
Guatemala	United Kingdom
Honduras	Uruguay
Hungary	USA
India	Venezuela
Ireland	Zambia
Israel	Zimbabwe

BAVARIA REPORTS PROGRESS

The Landeskuratorium für pflanzliche Erzeugung in Bayern e.V. (LKP) is the umbrella organisation for Bavarian producer groups of plant products and its activities focus on quality assurance and consulting.



Contributed by Josef Bauer
Landeskuratorium für pflanzliche
Erzeugung in Bayern e.V.
Tal 35
80331 München
josef.bauer@lkp.bayern.de

Positive experience with the implementation of the EurepGAP standard in Bavaria.

Since the spring of 2004, advisers of the Landeskuratorium für pflanzliche Erzeugung in Bayern e.V. (LKP) (The State Committee for horticulture in Bavaria) have assisted approximately 800 agricultural and horticultural enterprises in the EurepGAP certification process.

The focus was on field vegetable crops as well as onions, asparagus, potatoes and cucumbers.

Advice centred on a handbook produced by LKP which explained all the procedures and the documentation necessary.

Within the framework of mostly half-day seminars the handbook also was used for training, although advisors also visited companies to provide additional support during the learning curve.

A key aspect which soon became apparent was that many of the fears over reaching the EurepGAP standard were unfounded.

Indeed many of the producers were already used to complying with a large number of legal regulations covering labour and social standards, food hygiene and good professional practice over handling fertilisers and associated pest management.

As a result the main task of the advisers and enterprise managers was not to change operational structures or horticultural production techniques, but

rather to single out a small number of weak points and to ensure the implementation of sufficient QM-compliant documentation.

Again it was often possible to fall back on existing systems which could be supplemented by the special requirements of EurepGAP.

The main areas where EurepGAP created benefit was standards of food safety and the storage of products and pesticides which have a bearing on occupational health and safety.

Helping identify weak points in the enterprises addressed prior to the certification was often a simple matter for larger enterprises as the space available on their premises gave them more scope for making changes.

Scale made it more difficult for some smaller participants which meant that advisers and enterprise managers often had to spend more time finding solutions which conformed to EurepGAP.

Most of the enterprises made use of the monitoring programme offered by LKP to carry out product testing for pesticide residues which had proved successful over many years within the framework of "Controlled Integrated Production".

So with a few changes it was possible to again quickly adapt to the requirements of EurepGAP, thus ensuring continued independent and reliable information for traders and consumers about the quality of the products from the producers examined. All in all, the conclusions drawn for 2004 are extremely positive with regard to the consultation process and the results of the audit.

With EurepGAP, Bavarian enterprises are meeting the demands of international markets with successful certification confirming support on this.



Example of a storeroom for pesticides. Negative examples of this type were reorganised to comply with the rarely encountered during onsite requirements of EurepGAP consultation.

Announcement of EurepGAP Training Courses and Meetings:

23/24 May 2005

- **Cologne/Germany:** Train-the-Trainer Seminar Fruit & Vegetables and Combinable Crops (Workshop language: German)

25 May 2005

- **Cologne/Germany:** German National Technical Workgroup for Fruit & Vegetables Meeting (Language: German)

6/7 June 2005

- **Vienna/Austria:** Certification Body Workshop Fruit & Vegetables (Workshop language: English)

16/17 June 2005

- **Warsaw/Poland:** Train-the-Trainer Workshop Fruit & Vegetables (Workshop language: English)

20/21 June 2005

- **Cologne/Germany:** Joint Train-the-Trainer and Certification Body Workshop Flower & Ornamentals (Workshop language: English)

21/22 June 2005

- **Cologne/Germany:** Train-the-Trainer Workshop Fruit & Vegetables (Workshop Language: English)

Please see regular updates and detailed information/registration forms on www.eurep.org under "Upcoming Events"!

New: EurepGAP Database Training

The objective of this training is to present and explain the structure of the new EurepGAP Database (<http://database.eurep.org>) and how to manage it for CBs, farmer group managers and other Associate Members.

If you are interested in training in certain regions, please check "Upcoming Events/News" on www.eurep.org for further details or contact the EurepGAP Secretariat for additional course inquiries (Ms. Daniela Giesen; giesen@foodplus.org)!

TOP US BERRY GROWER RECOGNISES VALUE

Driscoll's, a supplier and marketer of fresh strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries headquartered in Watsonville, California, is fully committed to the global food safety effort.

"In 2003, Driscoll's began its efforts towards 100% EurepGAP certification for all of our independent farmers in all growing regions around the world", says Keith Refsnider, Director of Food Safety for Driscoll's Strawberry Associates, Inc. Our adoption of the EurepGAP protocol represents the most recent step in the continuing evolution of our industry leading Global Food Safety Program.

Driscoll's commitment to food safety supports our company's mission of continually delighting berry consumers through alignment with our customers and berry farmers. This commitment further extends to the preservation of the environment, to providing a fair and equitable workplace for our employees and those of our



independent farmers, and to the philanthropic support of the communities in which we live and work. EurepGAP is an internationally recognized and accepted GAPS protocol that not only addresses the increasingly important issue of global food safety, but also verifies and documents our commitment to the environment, the welfare of workers and our community. The philosophy of EurepGAP, in accord with Driscoll's cooperate policy, is a perfect fit for our company.

In October of 2004, Driscoll's hosted food safety professionals from all over the world at the very first EurepGAP Train the Trainer Seminar held in the United States. Five Driscoll's employees participated in the training, affording

us the knowledge required to fully support our independent farmers in their efforts towards 100% EurepGAP certification and compliance.

Currently, Driscoll's has EurepGAP certified ranches in North America, South America and Europe. EurepGAP compliance and certification are integral parts of our Global Food Safety Program.

In concert with mandatory independent third party laboratory assays for residual pesticides, microbial assays of irrigation water, legal compliance audits, and US GAPs certification, EurepGAP helps to ensure that Driscoll's maintains its position as the leading supplier and marketer of The Finest Berries in the World® in all growing regions worldwide.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Company	Country
Agrova Food Group	Denmark
American Council for Food Safety	United States
CAFI Camara Argentina de Fruticultores Integrados	Argentina
COTECNA GENEVA	Switzerland
Danish Agricultural Advisory Service	Denmark
Dombegyhazi EURO TESZ Kft.	Hungary
DQS GmbH	Germany
EDEKA	Germany
Erzeugergroßmarkt Langfoerden-Oldenburg eG	Germany
Farm Frites International	The Netherlands
Foodlink Management Services	Australia
Geomar International Inc.	Canada
Hungarian Fruit & Vegetables Interprof. Org.	Hungary
Instituto Genesis	Brazil
Jerusalem Botanical Gardens	Israel
Kappa Iberoamericana Alicante	Spain
KIRVAS S.A.	Greece
Korteweg b.v. - Swifterbant	The Netherlands
LABORATOIRES ACI	France
Lacon-Privatinstitut für Qualitätssicher. und Zertifizierung	Austria
Lamb Weston/Meijer V.O.F.	The Netherlands
LRF Consult	Sweden
mais Mitteldt. Agentur f. Informationsservice	Germany
Mexico Calidad Selecta A.C.	Mexico
New Zealand Vegetable Growers Federation (VegFed)	New Zealand
Pfälzische Früh-, Speise- u. Veredlungskartoffel-Erzeugergemeinschaft	Germany
Pfalzmarkt für Obst u. Gemüse eG	Germany
Progis Software	Germany
Reichardt GmbH Steuerungstechnik	Germany
T.E.PERAKAKIS AND CO (OSCAR ART)	Germany
Tegut...	Germany
ValNantais	France

If you are interested in knowing more about the benefits of EurepGAP Membership, please contact our Membership Coordinator Mrs Nuray Uestuen at uestuen@foodplus.org.

Global Conference Paris, 17th-19th October 2005

TOWARDS GLOBAL HARMONISATION 2005

“ACHIEVING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE”

The can't miss event of 2005. Why? Retailers and producers from the EurepGAP partnership will join with other stakeholders from around the globe to debate and discuss EurepGAP's contribution to safe and sustainable agriculture. This is your opportunity to influence the future content of the EurepGAP protocol.

How can you benefit from attending?

- Hear from world class speakers on the topic of sustainability
- Be there at the beginning of the discussions for the next version of the EurepGAP protocol effective 1st Jan 2007
- Contribute to further harmonisation of standards, auditing and certification
- Discover the latest developments in EurepGAP

There will be a thought provoking mix of plenary keynote speakers and breakout sessions on:

- Food safety: microbiological risks and residues
- Environment
- Social and Worker Welfare issues
- Animal Welfare

Network in our exhibition area and during social events.

Why not block your diary now according to your product interest?

- Integrated Farm Assurance (Livestock/Crops/Coffee and Aquaculture): 17th/18th October 2005
- Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers: 18th/19th October 2005

To become a sponsor or exhibitor contact:

Mrs Daniela Giesen, [mailto: giesen@foodplus.org](mailto:giesen@foodplus.org)

The EurepGAP Steering Committees recommend your participation:

Fresh Produce

- Ronald Bown, S.H.A.F.F.E. / ASOEX
- Josse de Baerdemaeker, VBT
- Brian Kelly, Superquinn
- Horst Lang, Globus SB Warenhaus Holding
- Hans-Juergen Matern, Metro Group
- Benito Orihuel Iranzo, ANECOOP
- Chris Payne, Assured Produce
- Eran Sorek, AGREXCO
- J. A. van Staalduinen, DPA; The Greenery

Integrated Farm Assurance

- Chris Anstey, Tesco Stores
- David Clarke, Assured Food Standards
- G.J. Gerard Doornbos, LTO The Netherlands
- Reinhard Kaepfel, McDonald's Europe
- Rene Maillard, VLAM; Flanderns Agricultural Marketing Board
- Hans-Juergen Matern, Metro Group
- Stephen Ridge Somerfield
- Jon Roe, Sainsbury's
- Alfons L. Schmid, Royal Ahold
- Per E. Sorensen, Danske Slagterier
- Bert A.P. Urlings, Dumeco bv
- Roberto Vázquez Platero, INAC - Instituto Nacional de Carnes
- Peter Wahlsten, Grain Council Western Australia
- Johann Zueblin, Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund

Online registration via www.avantel.de/eurepgap2005.

