



"The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture"

PRESS RELEASE

EurepGAP responds to Global MRL Challenges

Cologne, 29th October 2004

In response to the challenges posed by fast changing Crop Protection Product legislation the EurepGAP Technical and Standards Committee, composed of technical experts from retail distribution and global producers, have amended the EurepGAP protocol and developed guidance notes to help farmers and growers to become more fully aware of the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in operation in the markets where the product will be sold.

"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. 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," said Hugo Hays EurepGAP's Technical Director. "EurepGAP has always stressed the importance of residue screening and it provides further re-assurance where the exact destination of the product is not known"

"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 1st May 2005. We have also produced a list of contacts where growers can find out the most up to date information concerning MRLs and hope this will help growers meet the challenges posed by legislative requirements added Mr Hays."

The revised documents and further information is available on the website, www.eurep.org, where the full protocol text can be obtained free of charge.



"The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture"

PRESS RELEASE

EurepGAP responds to Global MRL Challenges

Notes to Editors

1. About EUREPGAP

EurepGAP is an initiative of agricultural producers and their retailer customers. The mission is to develop widely accepted standards and procedures for the global certification of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Wide consultation with producer and industry representatives, NGO's and governments has produced a robust and challenging but nonetheless achievable protocol which farmers around the world can use to demonstrate compliance with Good Agricultural Practices. Producer organizations can seek independent and transparent recognition of equivalence with the EurepGAP standards and procedures through a benchmarking system, thereby facilitating global trade and aiding the harmonization of technical criteria. EurepGAP members include retailers, producers/farmers and associate members from the input and service side of agriculture. The work of the EurepGAP Committees is supported by FoodPLUS, a not-for-profit limited company based in Cologne, Germany.

2. For further Information

Contact

Hugo Hays (Madrid) +34629785628

Kristian Moeller (Cologne) +492215799325

Nigel Garbutt (UK) +447810104168

www.eurep.org