

WELCOME

DISCUSSION ON

IMPLEMENTATION OF EUREP-GAP STANDARDS: CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT:

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1

EUREPGAP Background

WHAT IS EUREPGAP?

- EUREPGAP refers to European Retail Parties Good Agricultural Practices, which is developed on the basis of "The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture".
- Initiated by The Euro Retail Produce Working Group in the year 1997 in response to consumer concerns on food safety, animal welfare, environmental protection and workers health, safety and welfare by encouraging adoption of commercially viable Farm Assurance Schemes, which promotes the minimization of agrochemical inputs, within Europe and Worldwide.

2

EUREPGAP Members

- EUREPGAP represent leading European Food Retailers. A lot of members of EUREPGAP are global players in the retail industry. EUREPGAP members consists of:
 - Retail members
 - Supplier members
 - Associated members

3

WHY EUREPGAP?

- Reduction of the risk of food safety lapses
- Respect for environment
- Respect for worker welfare
- Consumers are asking how my food is produced

4

EUREPGAP OBJECTIVES

- Minimization of agrochemical inputs within Europe and worldwide.
- Promoting and encouraging Good Agricultural Practices in the fruit and vegetable production.
- Development of Good Agricultural Practices for existing farm assurance schemes and standards including traceability.

5

EUREPGAP scheme principles are based on the following concepts:

- **Food Safety**
- **Environment Protection**
- **Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare**

6

Options for EUREPGAP Certification

Option 1

- Individual Grower Certification (Farmer applies for EUREPGAP Certification).

Option 2

- Group Certification as a PMO (BRAC) (Farmer Group applies for EUREPGAP Group Certification).

7

The following documents that confirm the EUREPGAP Scheme

- EUREPGAP General Regulations.
- EUREPGAP Control Points and Compliance Criteria.
- EUREPGAP Checklist.

8

BRAC AT A GLANCE

BRAC, a national level development organization, was initiated in 1972 by its founder and Chairperson Mr. Fazle Hassan Abed. Originally conceptualized as a short-term relief and rehabilitation project following the Liberation war, BRAC soon re-directed its efforts towards long-term issues of poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor, especially focuses on poor rural women and children through the following core program:-

- Micro-credit and Development
- Health, Nutrition and Population
- Education
- Support Program (Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Extension etc.)
- BRAC Afghanistan Programme

9

BRAC'S VISION

A just, enlightened, healthy and democratic Bangladesh free from hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and all forms of exploitation based on age, sex, religion and ethnicity.

10

BRAC Vegetable Export Program

- BRAC Fresh Vegetables and Fruits Export Program was initiated in 1998 with the objective to connect the poor Bangladeshi farmers with international market. The program seeks to bridge the gap between the local producers and international consumers through the implementation of modern agricultural practices. BRAC provides all possible assistance to these farmers for producing Bangladeshi fruits and vegetables. These crops are produced under close supervision Of BRAC extension workers. The crops are then harvested and delivered to the pack house for grading, packaging, cooling and export.

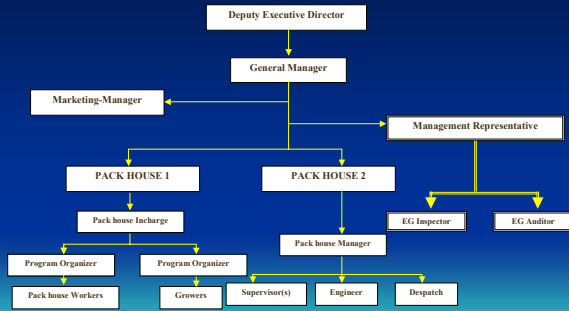
11

Export Destinations:

- London, Rome, Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Singapore, Kualalumpur.
- Produce Exported:
 - Bitter gourd, Yard Long bean, Okra, French bean, Chili, Potatoes, Green papaya and others.
- Quantity Exported:
 - Annually BRAC exports approximately 600 tons of fresh vegetables and fruits and 800 tons of potatoes. BRAC targets export of 1000 tons of vegetables and fruits and 2000 tons of potatoes for the year 2005.

12

BRAC-EUREPGAP PROGRAMME ORGANIZATION CHART



13

WHY BRAC NEEDS TO IMPLEMENT EUREPGAP SCHEME AMONGST ITS FARMERS

Most of the supermarkets are demanding that their suppliers to be EUREPGAP certified by the year 2004, Refers to frequently asked EUREPGAP questions, website www.eurep.org

14

OBJECTIVE OF BRAC STARTING THIS EUREPGAP PROJECT:

For the better opportunities of the farmers, also increase the export of the Country to the EUROPEAN buyers BRAC started for the EUREPGAP Certification from the beginning of the year, 2004 amongst BRAC'S Contract farmers at Chandina under Comilla district. We have completed all the Certification Process by our Certifying body FoodCert B.V. The Netherlands. We are expecting to get the EUREPGAP Certificate by the 2nd week of October, 2004.

Good News for us BRAC is going to the First EUREPGAP Certified PMO for Fresh Fruits & Vegetables in South East Asia.

15

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- The project will be implemented over a period of 5 years in various districts where potential for export of vegetables exist.
- The implementation of EUREPGAP project is aimed at improving the productivity at the farms, the adoption of good agricultural practices, increasing the export of vegetables for raising the level of income of the farmers.
- Providing training to the farmers on the implementation of EUREPGAP scheme.
- Training the trainers by the European faculty or recognized certification body of EUREPGAP.
- Creating for farmers in each production center for providing centralized services like seeds, pesticides, fertilizer, annual health checkup of workers engaged on farms and also BRAC staffs.

16

EUREPGAP PRODUCE QUALITY POLICY

Quality Aims & Objectives :

- 1) To raise the standard of the farmer to produce Internationality accepted Quality Products.
- 2) To guarantee importers and supermarket of a constant Quality products.
- 3) To give documented evidence from the farm to box and from Box the market trace ability.
- 4) To guarantee produce complying with MRL requirements.
- 5) 100% compliance to EUREPGAP Standards by all Farmers.
- 6) To attain Zero level customer complaints.
- 7) To reduce the use of pesticide to the lowest level.

17

FARMERS ENTRY REVIEW CHECKLIST

The farmer will be evaluated for Eurepgap community based on following objective criteria.

1. Government Land Registration No.
2. Farmer should be able to produce export Quality vegetables.
3. The farmer should be able to understand the recording system.

PMO FARMER MEMBER REGISTER

- Every farmer would be reviewed against checklist by member of review committee.

18

CENTRALIZED FARM CONTROL PROCEDURE

- To Bring the operation of key EUREPGAP requirements in Centralized control.
- Internal Audits & Inspection.
- Documentation & Data Control.
- Complaint Handling.
- To establish complaint handling procedures for the satisfaction of the customers.

19

PMO'S DUTY & RESPONSIBILITIES

TRAINING (Farmers & Staffs)

- MANAGEMENT REVIEW MEETING.
- COMPLETION OF INDIVIDUAL SELF INSPECTION.
- COMPLETION OF INTERNAL AUDIT OF PMO.
- RESIDUE TEST (MRL/PRA).
- Residue testing will be carried out only in laboratories accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025.

20

PMO RECORDS & REGISTER LIST

- PMO manual
- Compliance criteria and checklist
- Farmer entry check list
- PMO farm visit report
- Farmer member register
- Farm self-inspection
- Product Traceability log book
- EUREPGAP Manual
- Complaints register.

21

Vegetable Fields

Harvesting French beans

22

Vegetables Harvesting

Produce Receiving at Pack house

23

Broccoli Grading

Grading of Long beans

24

French bean receiving at Pack house

Weighing of French Beans

25

Packaging of French beans

Placement of cartoons
in Cooling chamber

26

Potato loading for Export

Potato and Pineapple display
in International Trade Fair

27

Potato Loading

BRAC's Reefer Truck

28

Visitors in the Field

BRAC's Produce at Supermarket in Dubai

29

CHALLENGES

1. Organization of small farmers in groups for EUREPGAP certification.
2. No laboratories in Bangladesh for MRL (Maximum Residue Level) testing.
3. Must have well equipped pack house for cool chain management and quality control.
4. Control of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers.
5. Control all the documents properly in the farm and also PMO office.

30

HOW BRAC OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES

1. At first we selected 60 committed farmers out of 100 farmers.
2. After that we make them aware about EUREPGAP program through training & workshops.
3. We always monitor their fields by our technical persons.
4. We apply pesticides recommended by the European Union by our own well trained pesticide operators.
5. MRL Testing was done by SGS Chennai in India.
6. BRAC has established one sophisticated pack house in Tongi under Chinese Technical Assistance.

31

Some Challenges for Future Vegetables Exporters in Bangladesh

1. No Vegetable exporters will be entitled to export to the European Union after January 2005 without EUREPGAP Certification.
2. Small exporters will face problem because they have no contact farming systems.
3. They have no pack house to comply with the requirements of EUREPGAP .

32

THANKS TO ALL

33