

Meeting enhanced food safety and food quality requirements of leading supermarkets: EUREPGAP and the need for national protocols on Good Agricultural Practice

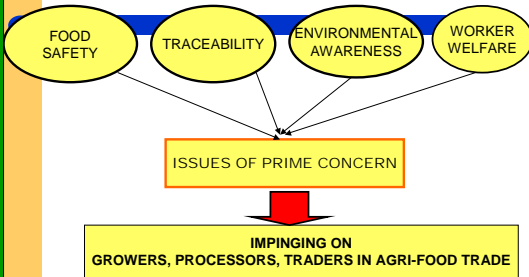
Presented by
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 qa plus asia-pacific sdn. bhd.

National Training Workshop
 Environmental and Health-related Requirements and Market Access
 November 3-4, 2005
 Hanoi, Vietnam

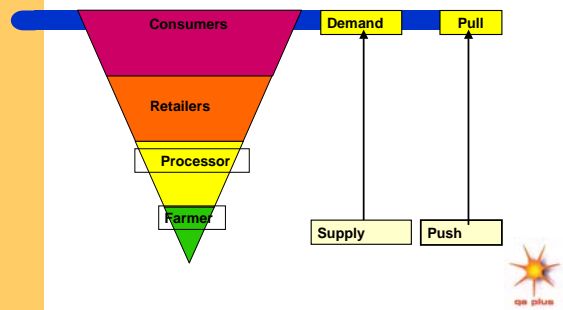
Agri-Food: Drivers of Change

- Consumers demand confidence in the food they eat
- Media and NGO pressure
- Environmentalists
- Retailers pressure – direct link to the consumers in the Food Chain
- Retailer responsibility (due diligence legislation in some countries) and market differentiation (retailer labels)
- Retailers respond to consumers' demand
- **Conglomeration of Retail Businesses**
- **Increased need for certificated evidence**
- **Increased liability for offensive supplies**

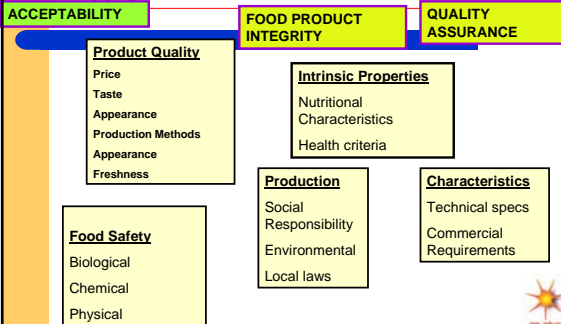
Issues of Concern



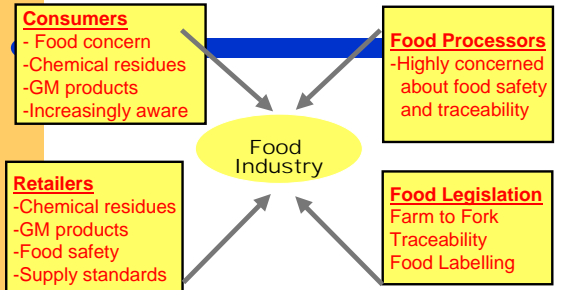
Consumer Driven Era of Food Supply=Demand driven food supply system



Consumer Trust in relation to Food Supply



Health and Food Safety: Strong (Food) Industry Drivers



Food safety Issues in Agriculture

- Contamination by microorganisms
- Mycotoxins
- Persistent organic pollutants e.g. dioxins, PCBs
- Heavy metals-lead, mercury, cadmium
- Pesticide residues
- Use of high levels of antibiotics
- Animal feed additives
- Chemicals in agriculture
- Biotechnology - GMO



Evolution of supermarket procurement of Fresh Produce

- Procurement systems for supermarket chains have changed
- Supermarkets impose quality and safety standards
- Shifting from reliance on traditional wholesale markets toward use of specialized wholesalers dedicated to supermarkets
- Procurement consolidated through use of centralized distribution centers that serve the entire supermarket chain in a region or zone.
- Specialized wholesalers classify quality of products collected from suppliers, produce their own fruits and vegetables or have semi-contractual relations with suppliers (provide technical assistance etc.)



Agricultural Challenge in the XX1st Century

- How to make agricultural systems both more sustainable and safe, in a world where food supply chains are ever more globalized?

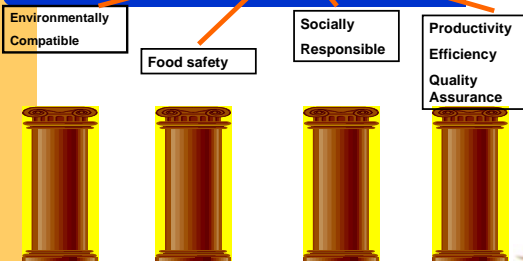


Good Agricultural Practice at farm level (GAP) can make a major difference

- FAO definition: GAP addresses economic, environmental and social sustainability of agriculture and leads to food safety and quality (FAO, 2003)



Pillars of GAP



Good Agricultural Practice -Principles

- Restore consumer confidence in agricultural production
- Utilizes the preventive food supply chain approach
- Applies the principles of HACCP
- Focuses on the management of farm activities
- Products of quality and are food safe
- Use of resources efficiently
- Care for the environment
- Attention to the welfare and safety of workers



Farm Assurance is Important

- Provides controlled and more efficient production of agricultural raw materials
- It reassures and improves confidence in agricultural products
- In Response to the current demands of globalization



Retailers & Consumers

Retailers the direct link to **Consumers**

Demanding the implementation of safe and sustainable agricultural production systems that address these demands

CERTIFICATED EVIDENCE to globally accepted auditable standards are being increasingly looked at to provide that assurance



Codes of Practice

Major European Supermarkets are now implementing Codes of Practice in response to growing consumer concerns about food production methods and their impact on the people and the environment



Proliferation of Standards & Quality Assurance Schemes

Evidenced By Regional & Product Group Standards on GAP And Food safety

- HACCP (Codex)- based food safety management system
- UK Assured Produce
- Sainsbury's Working with Suppliers Code of Practice
- SOF 2000
- British Retailers Consortium (BRC)
- Fresh Care Code of Practice (Australia)
- EUREP Guidelines for GAP (**EUREPGAP**)



EUREPGAP®

"The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture"

"The Global Pre-Farm Gate Standard"



Why EUREPGAP?

- Created in response to the demands of consumers-need assurance that food is safe
- Created and Supported by major Retailers and their global suppliers
- Satisfies minimum consumer requirements
- Transparent and credible
- Permits benchmarking



EUREPGAP

- Started in 1997 as an initiative by several large European retailers - created the Euro Retailer Producer Working Group (EUREP)
- EUREP worked with producer and certification groups to establish a Standard for Good Agricultural Practices for fresh produce
- Has today evolved into an equal partnership of agricultural producers and their retail customers
- EUREPGAP members include retailers, suppliers/growers and associate members from the input and services side of agriculture.



EUREPGAP Guiding Principles

- It is based on HACCP Principles
- Reduces risks by implementing Good Agricultural Practice
- Focus is Food Safety, Environmental Protection, Worker Welfare
- Stakeholder consultation / communication
- Open access for all producers
- Integrity of Certification Process
- Complimentary to regulatory approach
- Mutual recognition on a Transparent Basis



EUREPGAP Protocol – defines the elements of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)

It addresses topics that include

- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)
- Integrated Crop Management (ICM)
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Quality Management System (QMS)
- Worker Health, Safety and Welfare
- Environmental Pollution
- Conservation Management



EUREPGAP Reference Standards

- EUREPGAP Fruit and Vegetables Version 2004
- EUREPGAP Protocol for Flowers and Ornamentals
- EUREPGAP Protocol for Integrated Farm Assurance- Beef & Lamb, Dairy, Pigs, Poultry, Combinable Crops
- EUREPGAP Integrated Farmed Fish Assurance Standard
- EUREPGAP Reference Code for Coffee
- EUREPGAP Protocol for plantation crops (in preparatory stage)



EUREPGAP Protocol for Fresh Produce- Control Point Criteria

Food Safety
Traceability
Record Keeping
Internal Self-Inspection
Harvesting
Produce Handling
Fertilizer Use
Crop Protection

Environmental
Varieties & Rootstock
Site History & Site Management
Irrigation & Fertigation
Waste & Pollution Management,
Waste-Recycling & Re-use
Environmental Issues

Social Responsibility
Worker Health, Safety & Welfare

Others
Complaint Form



EUREPGAP-Fresh Produce Fruits and Vegetables

- Total of 210 control points
- 47 major musts
- 98 minor musts and
- 65 recommended control points



EUREPGAP Protocol – Control Point Category

- Each of the issues in the protocol contain several control points which are divided into 3 categories
- 1) **'Major Musts'** – mainly dealing with food safety; 100% compliance is compulsory
- 2) **'Minor Musts'** – mainly dealing with environment and personnel; 95% compliance is compulsory
- 3) **'Should'** – dealing with biodiversity on the farm. These are recommended.



EUREPGAP

Horticulture Sector (Fruit and Vegetables):

Globally acceptable

- 27 Retail and Food Service Members
- ~20,000 certified farms in 50 countries
- 65 approved certification bodies in over 40 countries
- Schemes benchmarked or application received from Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, France, New Zealand among others



COUNTRY	RETAILERS
United Kingdom	Asda (subsidiary of Wal-Mart), Marks Spencers, Sainsburys Supermarkets Ltd, Tesco, Waitrose Ltd, Somerfield
Netherlands	Ahold, Laurus, TSN, Superunie
Switzerland	Migros, Coop
Belgium	Delhaize
South Africa	Pick n Pay
Germany	Metro, McDonalds Europe
Austria	Spar Osterreich
Spain	Eroski
Italy	Coop Italia
Norway	Coop Norge
Sweden	Coop (KF Gruppen), Ahold (ICA)
Finland	Kesko



EUREPGAP – Fruit & Vegetables

Continent	Number of Certified Producers		
	2002	2003	2004(June)
Africa	316	1,169	1,980
Asia	4	158	802
Aust / N.Z.	0	427	840
Europe	3,530	11,088	13,323
N. America	2	11	51
Latin America	40	187	1,478
TOTAL	3,892	13,040	18,475



EUREPGAP Benchmarking Scheme

- Allows quality assurance schemes to be benchmarked to the EUREPGAP Standard
- National GAP schemes can be benchmarked
- Establishes global level playing field
- Facilitates global trade
- Preserves cultural and regional identity
- Assures market differentiation
- Continues to act local



Principal Requirements of Benchmarking

- Transparent criteria and rules
- Independent Technical Assessment
- Stakeholder involvement
- Document & Field assessment
- Regular surveillance
- Complaint Procedure



EUREPGAP Approved & Applicant Schemes to the EUREPGAP Scope Fruit and Vegetables

Approved Schemes

- Naturane vs 1.3 (Spain)
- AMA Stamp of Quality Control Directive (Austria)
- ChileGAP 2005 (Chile)
- New Zealand Fresh Produce Approved Supplier Program
- Mais Doux (Sweet Corn) (France)

Other applicant schemes

- UK Assured Produce
- UNE 15500 (Spain)
- QS-GAP 1.0 (Germany)
- Swiss GAP (Switzerland)
- Danish GAP Fruit & Vegetables
- Danish GAP Potatoes
- Mexico Supreme Quality- GAP Version



National Technical Workgroups

EurepGAP Fruit and Vegetables

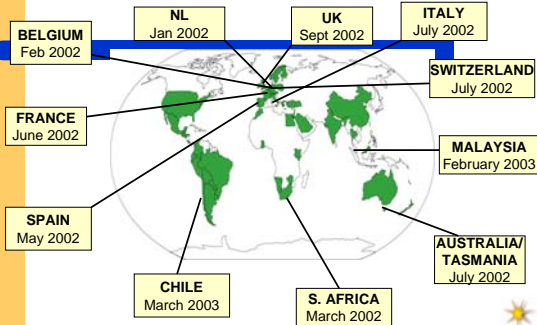
List of National Technical Workgroups

As the Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture, EurepGAP intends to link its global implementation activities closer to the grower, while at the same time seeking to gain qualified input from national experts in their own language with respect to specific legal and structural conditions within the different areas covered by EurepGAP. This goal will be achieved by the establishment of EurepGAP Technical Workgroups. Such groups work in close cooperation with the EurepGAP Secretariat and TSC and support as well as facilitate the EurepGAP implementation and continuous improvement based on the specific interest area needs.

Country	Hosting Organization	Contact
Netherlands	CBL	Klaaske Tienstra Klaaske.tienstra@cbl.nl www.eurep.nl
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National / Regional Technical Working Groups



Certification to EUREPGAP standards - demonstrate commitment

- Maintaining consumer confidence in food quality and safety
- Meeting most requirements of International Trade on food safety
- Minimizing detrimental impact on the environment while conserving nature and wildlife
- Reducing the use of agro-chemicals
- Improving the efficiency of natural resource use
- Ensuring a responsible attitude towards worker health and safety.



EUREPGAP : Advantages

- Accepted by major retailers as a common baseline standard
- Not a National Standard
- Credibility and Integrity – Certification is through 3rd party Audit and by accredited CBs to ISO Guide 65 (EN 45011)
- Flexibility – Permits for other quality assurance schemes to be recognized by the Benchmarking process



MALAYSIAN SCENARIO 3rd National Agricultural Policy (NAP3)(1998-2010)

Focuses on new approaches to:

- Increase productivity & competitiveness
- Enhance food security
- Deepen linkages
- Create new sources of growth
- Utilize natural resources optimally



Fruit and Vegetable Industry under NAP3

- Basic policies and strategies are outlined to address issues encountered by the FFV industry
- Amplified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries through its key agencies
- NAP3 targets to achieve near self sufficiency levels for fruits and vegetables in 2010.



Fruit & Vegetables Development Strategies under NAP3 (1998-2010)

- 1) Increasing efficiency & productivity
- 2) Rationalizing resource use
- 3) Strengthening Competitiveness
- 4) Strengthening Economic Foundation
- 5) Strategic Sourcing



Malaysian Agricultural Sector

- Agriculture is the 3rd engine of growth
- Implementation of GAP is a National Agenda
- For Agriculture in total: Horticulture, Animal, Aquaculture, Flowers, Plantation crops
- Main Objectives: Quality and Food safety
- Increased Competitiveness: Improved Quality
- Worker Health & Safety
- Environment
- Sustainability



Initiatives on GAP in Malaysia

- Implementation of SALM Scheme
- Development of Malaysian Standard MS 1784: 2005 for Crop Commodities – Good Agricultural Practice



FARM ACCREDITATION SCHEME OF MALAYSIA (SALM SCHEME)

- SALM is a national program developed by the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Malaysia.



Implementation of the Scheme

- The scheme started from January 2002.

Source: Department of Agriculture Malaysia



Farm Accreditation Scheme of Malaysia (SALM)



- The basic references used in developing SALM:-
 - FAO Draft on Good Agricultural Practice
 - **EUREPGAP** - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
 - WHO/FAO Codex of Hygiene Practice for Primary Production and Packaging of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
 - Malaysian Standard for agriculture products.
- Currently the scheme only apply for fruits, vegetables and corn.
- Ultimately all crops will be covered by the scheme.



WHAT IS SALM ?

Objective

A program to recognize and accredit farms that adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), operate in a sustainable and an environmentally friendly way and yield produces that are of quality and safe for consumption



Pros & Cons of SALM Scheme



Pros

- Provides standard guidelines on GAP for farms
- Scheme ensures farms adhere to the requirements through the accreditation
- Successful farms derive benefits from SALM-Certificate of recognition, right to use logo and signage and promotion
- Reports of new order for exports and better pricing
- Advisory services provided by DOA's extension officers

Cons

- Both Advisory services and Certification are carried out by DOA
- No external assessment as yet



Problems Experienced in Implementation of SALM

- Documentation of procedures
- Understanding of GAP requirements
- Communicating objectives and requirements to workers
- Maintenance of records, traceability
- IPM
- Pesticide residue analysis
- Inadequate equipment
- Management of system
- Small farmer issues



MS 1784: 2005 - Malaysian Standard on Good Agricultural Practice

- Developed by the Working Group on GAP for Crop Commodities
- Approved by the Department of Standards Malaysia, the national standardization and accreditation body
- In January 2005
- Secretariat is SIRIM Berhad

Source: MS 1784:2005 issued by SIRIM



Scope of MS 1784:2005

- Prescribes a generic code of practice
- Generic Standard for Crop Commodities – Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
- Standard is intended for use in certification schemes to recognize & certify farms which adopt GAP in Malaysia
- Defines essential elements to promote Good Agricultural Practice
- Sustainable crop production
- Legally compliant, environmentally sound, economically viable
- To ensure quality produce
- Safe & suitable for utilization and/or consumption



Other MS-GAP Standards for specific crops-being developed

- GAP standards for specific crop commodities based on Generic MS 1784:2005
- Crop commodities include Fruits & Vegetables, Cocoa, Palm Oil, Rubber, Tea, Coffee, Pepper, Flowers
- Presently being developed by Technical Working Groups comprising experts for specific crops



Barriers to implementation of GAP

- Insufficient awareness of the impact of agricultural practices on
 - the environment
 - climate
 - social : worker welfare
 - food safety



Grave need to increase this awareness

- Inform people, policy makers, agri-business heads and the public at large on the negative impacts of unhealthy agricultural practices



What is required

- Capacity building at all levels in elements that contribute to GAP and standards
- Awareness seminars, workshops and conferences
- Suitably trained personnel on agricultural auditing through conduct of proper recognized training programs which is presently lacking



Solutions

- Capacity building
- Product group instructions
- Pre-formatted documentation for records recommendations
- Appropriate equipment and usage
- IT usage



Common misconception in implementing GAP

- Identified with increasing cost
- Farms may comply but do not get premiums
- Voluminous record-keeping/ paperwork
- Buyer market is not guaranteed

In actual fact GAP contributes to:

- Increase in productivity
 - efficient and effective use of agricultural inputs
 - improved morale of workers
- Product safety and quality



Vietnam- Agricultural Sector

- Agriculture makes up 22% of Vietnam's GDP
- 67% of Vietnam's working population is involved in agriculture and agricultural production
- Is the second largest rice exporter in the world
- World's largest pepper exporter
- Second largest exporter of coffee and cashew nuts
- In 2004 agricultural sector earned USD 4.5 billion, an increase of 60% compared to 2000
- Trade liberalization is opening up great opportunities for Vietnam to export its farm products

Ref: BVOM.COM- News 26th Oct 05



Process to develop National GAP Standards

- Stimulate the sustainable development of agriculture
- Reduce the risks linked to food safety in the process of agricultural production
- Coordinate the various sectors of the supply chain of agricultural products
- Stimulate the development of GAP standards and relevant certification and accreditation activities
- Benchmark to international standard for market access



Way Forward

- To Ensure Acceptance of Horticultural Products
 - A GAP Standard should be developed
 - Capacity Building
 - Basic Hygiene
 - IPM
 - GAP requirements
 - Benchmarking to EUREPGAP
 - Active participation in EUREPGAP and International committees – Formation of Regional Technical Working Groups
 - Auditor Training
 - Establishment of Certification Body.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

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