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# SARD good practices in the horticultural sector

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## Background

- Study: *Impact of adoption of GAP on farm labour's health and safety and identifying relevant SARD good practices in the horticulture and livestock sectors*
- Type of fresh produce: High Value Export (HVEs) & local African Leafy Vegetables (ALVs)
- Smallholders in Kajiado, Kiambu, Maragua, Meru Central and Meru North Districts


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## Methodology

- Phase 1: farm household survey = 300 SSI with smallholders (Dec 06 – Jan 07)
- Large sample necessary to ensure statistical representative sample (n=30)
- 37% - farmers growing African nightshade (*osuga/managu*), spiderplant (*saga*), Amaranth (*mchicha*) etc in Kiserian, Githunguri and Wangige
- 63% - farmers growing french beans, baby corn, sugar snaps etc in Maragua and Meru Central and Meru North Districts
- Phase II => FGDs with smallholders' workers

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## Characteristics - HVEs farmers

- Several farmers have been trained and are aware of EUREPGAP even though not certified
- Most farmers in the study areas have adopted innovative agricultural practices
- Farmer in Maragua on standards "dawn of a new era in agriculture"
- Farmers are either indirectly (buyer/contractor) or directly (in groups or individually) EUREPGAP certified
- More than half (52.9%) certified between 2004-2006
- No certification under social standards

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## Characteristics - ALVs farmers

- African indigenous vegetable farmers are organised into groups under the project: "Enhancing Market Access for African Leafy Vegetables (ALV)"
- Project in response to emerging consumer demand for ALV implemented in 2003 by Farm Concern International (FCI) and World Vegetable Centre
- Project focuses on empowering smallholders through sustainable leafy vegetable production, seeds supply and marketing of high quality ALVs
- Marketing and training done by FCI
- Farmers groups interviewed in Githunguri: Mugima; Githima; Kamuchege; Gakaru; Riahahara


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## Good Agricultural Practices


- Safe usage and handling of pesticides (79.4%)
  - Proper handling, usage and disposal of pesticides
  - PPEs
  - E.g. farmers in Kitharene, Kathita & Nduruma in Meru have: mud pesticides store; fertilizer store; PPEs; disposal drum; mixing drum; disposal pit
- Rotational farming & mulching (41.1%)
- Natural fertilizers and pest control (7%)
  - Gakuru farmers group use neem cake/fertilizer to during planting to control cutworms

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## Recap of GAP definition

- A SARD Good Practice is any agricultural or rural development practice that is consistent with core SARD principles:
  - friendly for the environment
  - profitable for farmers and farming communities
  - socially equitable
  - culturally appropriate
  - productive over the long-term
- Illustration of GAP from the study: “Proper usage and safe handling of pesticides”




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## Specific problem solved by GAP

- High usage and wastage of pesticides
- Unhealthy and risky working environment
- Allergies and skin problems
- Chemical contamination of water sources and soil




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## Strategies to address problem

- Training and awareness
- Use of PPEs when handling pesticides
- Mixing and storing of pesticides in well ventilated places
- Allergies and skin problems
- Construction of stores, disposal pits etc




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## Additional resources necessary

- Financial resources for construction materials, recommended pesticides PPEs
- Time and space for training and implementation
- Labour




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## Is GAP addressing problem?

- Reduced health and safety risks (>75%)
  - Workers get less sick
  - Less allergies and skin reactions
- Less pesticides used
- Less contamination of water sources
- No difference (5.6%)



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## Reasons for positive impact

- Market access
- Training and awareness
- EUREPGAP requirement
- External support





## Factors impeding change

- Costs of implementation: "spirit is willing but the pockets are weak" (A farmer in Maragua)
- Expensive equipments and inputs
- Lack of adequate external support
- Agents undercutting farmers
- Delayed payments
- Losses suffered from rejected produce



## Solutions

- Incentives (better prices, market accessibility) to farmers to encourage implementation of change
- Create awareness and training
- Eliminate agents
- External support through credit facilities and donations



## Conclusion

<b>Farming practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proper usage and safe handling of pesticides</li> <li>▪ Use of PPEs</li> <li>▪ Construction of pesticide stores</li> <li>▪ Use of clean and hygienic harvesting crates and buckets</li> <li>▪ Proper disposal of pesticides containers</li> </ul>
<b>Managerial Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recording of details (e.g. type, location, dates etc) for crop protection products</li> </ul>
<b>Organisational Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coming together in farmers' groups to share facilities (grading sheds) and certification</li> </ul>
<b>Institutional Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of nearby buying centres</li> </ul>
<b>Environmentally friendly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Empty chemical containers properly disposed</li> <li>√ Risk of workers' exposure to chemicals reduced</li> <li>√ Clean and hygienic post-harvest handling</li> </ul>
<b>Socially equitable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Both workers and farmers and children on the farm benefited from reduced risk to chemical exposure and associated health implications</li> </ul>
<b>Culturally appropriate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Reducing contamination of river water for drinking</li> </ul>
<b>Economic viability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Retaining EU market and penetration of others</li> </ul>