




Experience on Developing National GAP Programmes in Asia and Latin America -- A comparative Perspective

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Country-case Studies as a Basis for Comparative Analysis

- UNCTAD has prepared 3 series of country-case studies on challenges and opportunities of EurepGAP:
 - In Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Uganda
 - For Asia: Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam
 - In Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica
- Three monographs on these studies are currently in the final stage of publication.
- Background document of UNCTAD for this meeting is a synthesis paper on all country-case studies. This paper was also circulated to the regular session of the SPS Committee of the WTO held in Geneva last week.

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Importance of European Markets for Asia and LA

Share of FFV exports from / to	EU-15	Asia	US & Canada	Latin America	Africa
Asia (Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam)	10	70	10		
Latin America (Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica)	48		30	20	
Africa	69		2		2

- For Asia, intra-Asian trade is the most important export market.
- In Latin America, exports to the EU and North America are important. Intra-LA trade is only important for Argentina (almost 50% of total exports).
- Export dependency is highest in Argentina and Costa Rica. Domestic-market concerns play a more important role in the other countries.

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National GAP Schemes in Asia (1)

- Both Malaysia and Thailand have developed national GAP schemes:
 - In Malaysia, Farm Accreditation Scheme of Malaysia
 - In Thailand, the Q-GAP
- Both schemes were developed and are run by the Government (there is no third party certification) – Governments are judge and jury.
- Both schemes almost exclusively target the national market and national food quality and safety.
- Both schemes are recognized on a bilateral basis by the major trading partners (China and Japan – in the case of Thailand; and Singapore – in the case of Malaysia).
- Both schemes largely focus on pesticides use, with little attention to environmental issues, worker welfare, and microbial contamination.

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National GAP Schemes in Asia (2)

- In both countries, products in conformity with the national GAP schemes are awarded a label (Q-mark in Thailand, and Malaysia Best logo in Malaysia). These labels, however, do not entitle to or guarantee a price premium.
- Governments in Malaysia and Thailand bear a considerable part of running costs of the two schemes: inspection, testing, certification and training costs are borne by the Government.
- Both Malaysia and Thailand pursue a multi-tier approach to national GAPs:
 - There is a general GAP scheme, mostly targeting the national market and focusing on sound agro-chemical use.
 - In Thailand, the nation GAP scheme is supplemented by a premium GAP in one region that eyes export markets.
 - Directly EurepGAP-certified large producers/exporters.

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National GAP Schemes in Latin America (1)

- National GAP schemes only exist in Brazil, Chile and Mexico. In Costa Rica and Argentina, production of exported produce is dominated by very large producers, most of them are directly certified to EurepGAP.
- The GAP programmes in Chile and Mexico were developed by large producers (bottom up) and then endorsed by the Governments. There is little focus on conditions and concerns of small producers.
- Main objective of the schemes in Chile and Mexico is the export market: blending requirements of European markets with market access requirements for the US market to avoid multiple certification. Both national schemes have been benchmarked to EurepGAP.

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National GAP Schemes in Latin America (2)

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- Brazil's national scheme (Integrated Fruit Production – PIF) is a top-down, government-developed programme.
- The PIF scheme is almost entirely targeting the national market.
- The PIF standard includes most of the food safety, social and environmental aspects of the EurepGAP standard.
- The PIF standard is not generic (such as EurepGAP), but crop specific. This poses multiple-certification problems for farmers that are multi-crop producers.
- Some have argued that the Brazilian national GAP standard may be too comprehensive and stringent, demanding enormous efforts from producers to adapt to its requirements, but lacking recognition by the market, unlike EurepGAP.
- Government offers subsidies to small and medium-sized producers for applying PIF; for running costs and financing of investment costs.

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Some Key General Findings

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- 1 Clear vision, objectives and strategy for national GAP scheme are vital.
(weighing up national objectives with access requirements to export markets)
- 2 Gradual, step-like and multi-tier approach in Asia is interesting. Needs to be however based on more dialogue with stakeholders.
- 3 Credibility of the system (independent verification) and financial support to small producers are important.

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On-line Sources

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Website of UNCTAD's Consultative Task Force

www.unctad.org/trade_env/projectCTF.asp

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