

Main Issues and Way Forward

Regional Workshop:
GAP: Practices and Policies
Kenya, 6-9 March 2007

Workshop Objectives

- 1) Facilitate **exchange of experiences** on challenges and opportunities of GAP and strategic options for E&S Africa
 - with particular attention to viable approaches and supportive policies for small-scale producers
- 2) Draw **lessons** to prepare recommendations and guidance for implementation at national level
- 3) Identify potential areas of **cooperation** on GAP at regional level
- 4) Discuss follow-up **activities** and **coordination** needs by donors and other actors

Main Issues

- GAP has become a major issue in terms of food safety, environmental protection, social and labour responsibilities, with the EU retailers and governments making demands from producers/exporters on being compliant.
- →Requirements to carry out certification and proof through traceability and quality management system to meet GAP standards for the export market
- Domestic market yet to be developed to establish an implementation system to respond to GAP in the sub-region

Sub-regional context

- Currently country GAP achievements have been as a response to export market demands
- GAP compliance led by the private sector to a large extent (exporters and producers) but with support and collaboration of government and donor funding

Experience of GAP in the sub-region

- Benefits from GAP are being documented and are overall, positive
 - shown to improve production and productivity, promote environmental protection through reduced use of chemical inputs, enhance social responsibility and relationship/conditions of farm workers, facilitate technical knowledge on good agricultural practices and farm management skills.
- **Training and awareness creation a key activity in GAP**

Small holder farmers and GAP

- Have capacity to be technically compliant to GAP requirements but the initial investment costs are a challenge and the recurrent costs appear prohibitive
- Small scale farmers have difficulties in maintaining certification especially the traceability documentation without the collaboration of exporters and donors
- Compliance to the different private retail standards in Europe are demanding and may have created shifts in the structure of small scale farmers exporting to EU market

Small scale sector and GAP compliance

- Experience to date would seem to imply that small scale farmers have to be organized into groups for efficient operations;
- ❖ co-ownership e.g. physical and technological infrastructure: (safe storage of chemicals, waste chemical disposal, implements/ equipment e.g. knapsack sprayer, hygienic practices e.g. hand washing facilities, protective equipment, and)
- ❖ capacity building and training (e.g. food safety and hygiene, pesticide handling training)
- ❖ lab tests (MRL, plant, soil, irrigation water analysis)
- ❖ certification and verification (farm visits and inspection, →certification and inspection fees)
- ❖ record-keeping and traceability: (recording and documentation)
- ❖ Marketing facilities and support services e.g. packing sheds, cold storage and transport

Small Holder Continued

- For smallholders to be competitive in export markets there it appears there is a minimum farm size and/or scale of production that is required, in order to compensate for the additional cost of certification and investments, required to upgrade farm infrastructure and business managerial skills.
- **Group certification is perceived as an alternative to facilitate smallholders certification provided that:**
- Strong group cohesion and efficient management structures are in place to enhance transparency and effective functioning of the group;
- Good contractual arrangements are maintained with buyers (exporters) are maintained;
- Have access to financial and credit facilities
- Access to markets
- Farm management and Agri-business skills are developed

Emerging Issues

- coordination of actors in food chain is necessary
- Donors have been taking different approaches in setting up BDS;
- Capacity building in GAP and agribusiness management is crucial for farmer groups
- Development of agri-business linkages and support services required
- Need for establishment of farm data management systems
- Need for interpretation of GAP requirements to the local situation

Emerging Issues Continued..

- To make private voluntary standards more accessible to the smallholders in developing countries, it should be ensured that:
 - i) requirements are not discriminatory and disproportionate to the risk involved;
 - ii) compliance criteria are appropriate to Developing Country context; and
 - iii) there is proper interpretation by auditors i.e. in the case of laboratory samples and analysis

National GAP Strategies

- ❖ **Advanced countries/farmers :**
- focus on individual E-GAP compliance + group compliance for smallholders
- If a national GAP or code of practice exists, consider whether to benchmark to E-GAP + promotion of domestic GAP and introduction of voluntary two-tier GAP (export/domestic)
- if no national GAP exists, develop National interpretation guidelines
- ❖ **Less advanced countries/farmers :**
- individual compliance + national GAP as voluntary tool to upgrade the industry (not benchmarked) + infrastructure development + business skills / linkages (= 'back to basics')

National GAP Programme Components

