

FAO's assistance to developing countries in dealing with private standards

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FAO & Private Voluntary Standards (PVS)

Outline

1. Introduction
2. PVS for food safety & good practices
3. "Value adding" PVS

1. Introduction

FAO:

- does not support any specific PVS
- is involved in dvpt of intergovl standards (e.g. through Codex) which may affect PVS
- recognizes importance of PVS impacts on agricultural dvpt, nutrition
- is concerned that proliferation of PVS may:
 - lead to market exclusion (esp. for poorer farmers and countries)
 - undermine the scientific basis for dvpt of food safety standards & focus on compliance with requirements rather than achievement of outcomes
 - not enable the participation of devpg countries in transparent standard setting
- can provide info, advice and assistance to optimize PVS impacts

Two types of PVS

	Good practices Food safety	"Value adding"
Examples	GAP, GMP, GHP ISO22000, traceability	Organics, Fair-trade, SA8000,...
Set by	Corporate buyers (retailers, processors)	NGOs, producer groups
Freedom of choice	Limited	High
Benefits for producer	May maintain market access	May add value, raise sales
Cost borne by	Producer (exporter)	Consumer (producer)

2. Food safety & Good practices

Food safety PVS - Analyses

- Voluntary food safety certification programs
- Country case studies on incentives/disincentives for F&V producers to implement food safety assurance progr in Lat Am
- FFV Thailand (focus on SPS rules but also relevant to PVS)
- Bee-keeping & honey production in Chile
- Std systems in Lat Am & Caribbean (in preparation)

Food safety & Good practices FAO & GAP

- FAO does not endorse specific commercial standards. It supports GAP, which ensures environmental, economic & social sustainability of pre- and post-farm gate production resulting in safe and high-quality food or non- food products.
- There are **different types of GAP** (not only certification)
- Work is on-going to define global principles of GAP in collaboration w partner organizations and stakeholders

Food safety & Good practices

Good Practices PVS - Analyses

- Success cases in GAP (lit review)
- Investment & training needs for GAP
 - Chile, Kenya, Malaysia, S. Africa
 - East Africa
- Market penetration in Europe

Food safety & Good practices

Information dissemination

- FAO Food safety & Quality portal:
www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/index_en.asp
- Fresh F&V quality & safety database:
www.fao.org/ag/agn/fv/ffvqs?m=catalogue&i=FFVQS&p=nav
- GAP Web portal: www.fao.org/prods/gap/index_en.htm

Food safety & Good practices

Facilitating discussion & collaboration

- Regional workshops on GAP: facilitate stakeholder dialogue on local GAP dvpt & implementation
E&S Africa (2007) w UNCTAD, S. America (2006), Asia (2003 F&V)
- Expert consultations: GAP (2003), livestock stds (2004)
- Symposium on stds for livestock sector (2004)
- Collaboration w UN agencies (e.g. UNCTAD)
- Dialogue w std setting industry groups (e.g. SAI-Platform)

Food safety & Good practices

Technical assistance

- Defining appropriate national GAP strategies
B. Faso, Brazil, Thailand, East Africa
- Capacity building:
 - GAP Regional training courses (Uganda, Egypt) 2006
 - GAP FFS in Burkina Faso (2004-06)
 - Distance training on food certification in Lat. Am (2003-06)
 - Train the trainer wkshps on food safety stds in Lat Am
- Policy advice

3. "Value adding" standards

Analyses - Environmental and social PVS:

- Comparison of PVS for F&V
- Review of cost/benefit analyses for cash crops
- Appraisal of costs & benefits of organic certification
- Strategy options for small organic farmers in Africa
- Markets for certified tropical products
- Various studies on organic agriculture

"Value adding" standards

Information dissemination:

- Web portals: OA, Env. & social PVS
- Databases: OA stds, OA country data
- Publications, reports on Env. & social PVS
- Extension and training manuals:
 - PVS & certification for exports
 - promotion of organic products in Lat Am
- Conferences and seminars on OA

Organic Agriculture at FAO

Français Español عربية		Welcome
FAO documents		Meetings International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security - May 2007
Bibliography		Links
Country data		Projects
Discussion fora		Photos and videos
Contacts		Frequently asked questions

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"Value adding" standards

Technical assistance

- Nat. legislation on OA (Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay)
- Exports of OA/FT products from Africa
- Capacity building on OA (Tunisia, Syria, Croatia, Turkey)
- Local marketing of organics by small producers (Sth. Am.)
- Distance training course on food certification in Lat. Am.

"Value adding" standards

Facilitating discussion & collaboration

- Expert mtgs, regional workshops, conferences
- Dialogue and exchange w NGOs (ISEAL, IFOAM, FLO,...)
- Promoting standard harmonization
 - Codex guidelines for OA foods
 - International Task Force for Harmonization of OA stds w UNCTAD, IFOAM
 - FAO International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries
 - Guidelines for certification of aquaculture

Conclusions

FAO

- looks forward to:
 - Increased collaboration with multilateral agencies & governments
 - Dialogue with industry groups and NGOs that set PVS to develop non-exclusionary standards
 - Clarification on the interface and relationship between public and private standards
- reminds of the importance of existing multilateral mechanisms for the international harmonization of standards (Codex Alim., CPM, OIE)

Conclusions

FAO

- Is of the view that safety provisions in food standards should be science-based and transparent
- recalls the challenges for developing countries to comply w stricter standards whether national, multilateral or commercial, and the need to support their participation in standard setting, capacity building, investment & policy assistance