

Welcome
To the delegates

Food Safety and Quality Year 2008-2009

Subject : Challenges in Implementation of GlobalGAP

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 Director

Duration : 20 – 30 Min

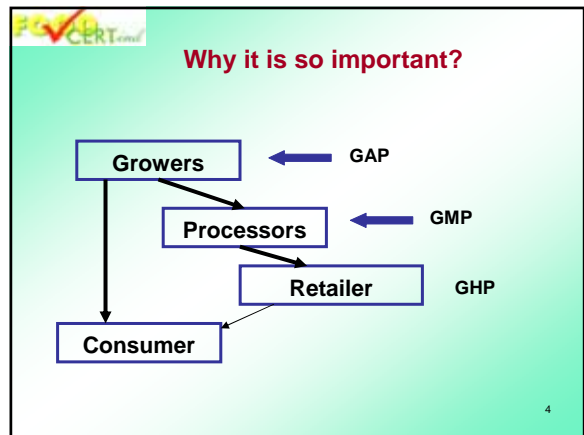
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What is GAP?

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Quality Management System in Agricultural Production

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Who initiated the GAP as a Standard?

1. EurepGAP, initiated in 1997, by European Retailers, and other members of input and services side of Agriculture.
2. First version released in Europe in 2001.
3. EurepGAP standard is designed to reassure consumers
 - about how food is produced on farm by minimizing detrimental environmental impacts of Farming operations,
 - reducing the use of chemical inputs
 - ensuring responsible approach to worker health and safety as well as animal welfare.

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4. GlobalGAP served as practical manual for GAP anywhere in the world transferring consumer requirements into agricultural production.
5. The aim is to establish one standard for GAP with different product applications capable of fitting to the whole of Global agriculture.
6. It is a pre-farm gate standard covering the process of the certified product, Farm inputs like seedlings, and all the farming activities until the product leaves the farm


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7. Existing National or regional farm assurance schemes that have successfully completed bench marking process are recognized as equivalent to GlobalGAP. (Think Global and Act local).

8. Through GlobalGAP a way was found to encourage the development of regionally adjusted management system, so as to prevent farmers from having to undergo multiple audits.


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What FoodCert India has done?

- Introduced in India in 2002 after visits to European Farms by FoodCert India Team to study its implimentability in India.
- Satisfied with the outcome of the visit, some exporters of Fresh Fruits were informed about the requirements of the European Retailers.
- Exporters of fresh Grapes to Europe have selected 14 grape growers to cover the GAP.


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But there were some issues to be resolved.

- Cultural Practices and use of chemicals in India for specific crops to be harmonized with Eurepgap Scheme.
- There was no NTWG for approving guidelines for dealing with general Interpretation and application of control points and guidelines dealing with specific geographic and cultural differences.


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- Pre-harvest intervals not listed for Many Chemicals .
- Only limited crops recommended on the label.
- MRL Limits were not specified for some chemicals.

In India the practice of recommendation of Chemicals for specific crops is done mostly by National Research Institutions under ICAR. But as per GlobalGAP only Chemicals registered by CIB for specific crops to be used.


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How the issues were resolved initially for Grape Crop

- Discussed with APEDA, and with cooperation from NRCG, APEDA developed Residue Monitoring plan referring the use of Chemicals, PHI's, MRL's and sampling collection etc.
- Forwarded the proposal to FoodPlus for approval based on Indian Practices and FoodPlus approved the proposal.
- This enabled First batch of 12 Grape growers certified under Eurepgap.

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How EurepGAP Progressed?

- Many farmers and Exporters are apprehensive that European standard may be difficult to implement in India as this standard was just released in Europe which is a developed Region.
- Implementation started in the last quarter of 2002 and first inspections commenced in Jan 2003 and 12 growers were certified out of 14 applicants.
- Once these 12 growers certified then, they have become demonstrating centres for others to follow.

The feed back from Certified farmers indicated benefits in terms of Cost reduction in chemicals/Fertilizers usage and improvement in production and demonstration of Good Practices

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Position of Farmers covered under Eurepgap in India by FCI

Year	Number of growers under Option-1 (Individual Grower)	Number of growers covered under Option-2 (Farmers Group)
2003	12	Nil
2004	48	4 (46)
2005	139	11 (440)
2006	243	6(357)
2007	224	10(475)
2008	195	16(1214)

Data base in Eurepgap indicates the total growers covered under Eurepgap is 1004 as on July 2007



Issues to be resolved for wide spread implementation

1. Committee for interpretation of Guidelines

A committee to be established for approving guidelines for dealing with general interpretation and application of CCP and guidelines dealing with specific geographic and cultural differences. This becomes a platform for harmonization of activities within the region and providing guidance to all the stake holders.


Recently established NTWG by QCI can become a platform for undertaking interpretation of the guidelines.

This committee can also formulate separate guidelines for certification for small holders.

- 2. Establishment of one stop shop solution centres in important centres of agricultural production for assisting the farmers on the following activities.**
- Advise on use of chemicals
 - Disposal of surplus mix or tank washings
 - Registered chemicals for different crops
 - Chemicals advised by concerned research institutes under ICAR for different crops
 - Pre-harvest intervals to be followed
 - Provision of information on banned chemicals in India and important importing countries of agricultural produce

- Maximum residue levels permitted in the respective markets.
- Calibration of the farm equipments used on the farms.
- Conducting analysis and arranging reports for water, soil and manure used on the farms.
- Registration of the farmers with traceability system.

- Training of the farm workers on
 - handling plant protection products or other hazardous substances,
 - use of fertilizer (organic or inorganic),
 - use of protective clothing
 - Operation & maintenance of complex equipments
- Provision of hygiene training in
 - handling harvest for different crops ;
 - water conservation,
 - preparation and implementation of water management plans.




➤ Annual health check up of the farm labour and provision of certificates.

➤ Assistance in preparing small holders manual for groups of small growers joining as a group.

➤ Translation of Normative Documents into local languages.

3. Nurseries
A system to be established for approval of nurseries which can be used by the growers for sourcing.

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4. Disposal of Empty Plant Protection Products Containers

A system to be put in place for collection of empty plant protection product containers in a manner that avoids contamination of environment.

5. GAP compliant demonstrating centres

Agricultural universities, research stations under ICAR/State governments can implement GAP for their centres which can become demonstrating centres for the potential growers willing to implement GAP.

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6. Train the Trainer Programs

➤ A system to be put in place for development of training materials on GAP

➤ authorization of agencies for conducting these programs.

This will help development of inspectors for conducting internal inspections of the farms and also help the growers in understanding and implementing the GAP.

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7. Bench Marking with global accepted scheme like GLOBALGAP

In the long run IndiaGAP is to be benchmarked with globally accepted similar schemes like GLOBALGAP.

Once IndiaGAP is benchmarked to GLOBALGAP, the exporting farmers shall have the advantage of implementing the bench marked GAP as per the market needs.

Thus there will be one inspection covering both India and the rest of the world.

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8. Small Holders involvement :

- Many food products in India come from small farming communities.
- Due to structural reasons, the small scale farmers are faced with more difficulties to full fill the requirements on the same level.
- Small scale farmers were at the risk of missing out on market access.
- To facilitate the implementation, GlobalGAP has followed three approaches
 - Group Certification
 - Small holder manual
 - Feed back opportunities

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➤ In May 2007 GlobalGAP has appointed Dr. Johannes Kern as small holder ambassador to provide technical support to members in developing countries and to aid small holder farmers in the compliance of GAP practices.

➤ Therefore considering the position in India it is essential to establish a small holder task force to solve the issues being faced by the small and marginal farmers in the implementation of GAP.

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Our Experience

- Our Experience for the last three years shows that gradually Farmer groups are being established and enlarging their farmers base instead of individual farmers opting for certification.
- The largest farmer group handled this year is about 289 growers.
- The cost structure for certification gets substantially reduced if the number of growers moving upward.
- Example for 300 growers in a group, the cost of certification for IndiaGAP is around Rs.1.8 Laks (Rs.600/- per grower).
- In case of GlobalGAP in addition to the above, Certification license fee to be payable to the scheme owner FoodPlus @ 10 Euro per grower and 20 euro per inspected grower.

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Let us hope and wish that the Indian Consumers will have an opportunity to eat Safe food.

Wishing all the Success for the promotion and implementation of Good Agricultural Practices

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Eurepgap Certified Farm Photos

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