

Dear GLOBALG.A.P. scheme manager,

In this issue you will read about:

1	TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION	2
2	INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE	2
	2.1 IFA v6 in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.....	2
	2.2 Phasing out IFA v5.2 on 31 December 2023-Transition to IFA v6 (New).....	4
	2.3 Deadline for accreditation for IFA v6 Smart	5
	2.4 GGN number on final product: when FV 07.02 is non-applicable (New).....	6
	2.5 About maintenance of competency for auditors approved for GFSI recognized standards (New)	6
	2.6 About audit reporting for GFSI recognized standards (New).....	7
	2.7 Producers moving between Certification Programmes (New).....	7
	2.8 Clarification for the non-conforming product procedure in FV-GFS 11.01 and AQ 17.02 (New)	7
	2.9 About 25% random selection of the sample in Option 2/Option 1 multisite producer with QMS (New)	9
	2.10 New NIG template for IFA v6: legal identification number included (New).....	9
	2.11 About sublicense and certification agreement (SCLA) (New)	9
	2.12 About translation of IFA v6 certificates (New)	9
	2.13 IFA standard for livestock phasing out (New).....	9
	2.14 Emergency procedure for CBs operating in Israel, Lebanon, and Palestinian territory	10
	2.15 Producer quick start guide (New).....	10
3	GLOBALG.A.P. CHAIN OF CUSTODY (COC) (NEW)	11
4	ADD-ON-RELATED UPDATES	11
	4.1 Add-on versions and their combinability with IFA versions (new)	11
	4.2 GRASP add-on	12
	4.2.1 GRASP clarifications (New).....	12
	4.2.2 Clarification on GRASP transitioning during 2024 (New).....	13
	4.2.3 Full compliance in IFA v6 P&Cs related to workers' health, safety, and welfare mandatory for GRASP v2 (New).....	13
	4.2.4 GRASP v2 National Interpretation Guidelines (NIGs) (New)	13
	4.3 Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater use (SPRING) add-on.....	14
	4.3.1 SPRING add-on v2.....	14
	4.3.2 Clarification for parallel ownership in SPRING add-on v2 in case of Option 1 (New):	16
	4.4 GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Sustainability Assessment version 3.0 (GGFSA): No change in the fee calculation (New)	18
	4.5 Coop Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on version 2	18
	4.6 Nurture module new version	19
	4.7 BioDiversity add-on version 1.1 (New).....	20
	4.8 Impact Driven Approach (IDA) add-on new version 1.1	21
	4.9 FSMA PSR add-on v2 CB auditor qualifications (New).....	22
	4.10 New GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS version 2 (New).....	23
5	GLOBALG.A.P. IT UPDATES	24
	5.1 About GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems wiki (New).....	24
	5.2 About CB-AT (New)	24
	5.3 Audit Online Hub (AOH) updates	24
	5.4 About GLOBALG.A.P. database performance (New)	25
6	GLOBALG.A.P. FEES (NEW)	25
7	PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (NEW)	25

1 TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

This technical communication is uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. document center and the CB Extranet. It is also sent to the scheme managers of each approved and provisionally approved certification body (CB), to the technical committees, to the hosts of the national technical working groups, to the GLOBALG.A.P. Advisory Board, to accreditation bodies that have signed a memorandum of understanding, and to all benchmarked scheme and checklist owners. You can ask us to add selected persons to the mailing list or to send these technical news releases to all your registered staff by sending your request to Valentin Pazachev at pazachev@globalgap.org.

Several of the chapters included have been previously communicated to you and have been added with little or no changes. These are marked with *Previously communicated: XX Month XXXX*. Chapters with new information have been marked with (New) next to the title.

2 INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE

2.1 IFA v6 in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems

Previously communicated on 10 November 2023

We hereby inform you that we decided to allow a transition period for the full implementation of IT systems' smart process (i.e., issuing certificates in Validation Service-VS and uploading reports in Audit Online Hub).

GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will allow from *1 January 2024* CBs to conduct the entire audit process for all the certification options for Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) version 6 Smart, IFA v6 GFS and the linked add-ons in the current GLOBALG.A.P. database. This will be allowed for a period and will be terminated with a new announcement by the Secretariat.

During this period, CBs will be able to register, accept and issue IFA v6 certificates for all certification options for the plants and aquaculture scopes, for both IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS, and for the linked add-ons' versions in the GLOBALG.A.P. database, issuing their own paper certificates/letter of conformance by using the paper certificate templates that are available in CB Extranet.

CBs may use AOH to upload their checklists (when available) and database as well, following AOH upload rules for legacy process (now applicable for GLOBALG.A.P. database too) for all new standards and add-ons, obligatory from the 1 January 2024. CBs may still use AOH for the standards that do not change on the 1 January 2024, e.g., CoC, IFA v5.4-1 GFS and IFA v5.2 sub scopes CC or PPM.

CBs may choose to issue certificates via the VS or make the certification decision in the current GLOBALG.A.P. database and issue paper certificates.

The minimum percentage for uploading reports (checklists) is stated per farm assurance products (FAP) (i.e., standards or add-ons) in the table below. The number of reports created in AOH (Legacy and Smart process) and the number of checklists uploaded in the GLOBALG.A.P. database are added up to calculate the minimum percentage for uploading reports and checklists.

CBs shall keep following the Audit Online Hub (AOH) (Legacy) upload rules v1.1 July 2023 regarding the % of the checklist to be uploaded per standard or add-on. The CBs will be able to choose if they want to upload the checklist in the AOH or in the GLOBALG.A.P. database, using a new feature that will allow the upload of the checklist in the GLOBALG.A.P. database in any format used by the CB. GLOBALG.A.P. will provide the checklists in excel in the CB extranet. This choice will determine where the certification process will have to take place.

With other words, if VS is used to issue the certificate/letter of conformance, AOH shall be used to upload audit checklists/reports. If GLOBALG.A.P. database is used for the certification process, CBs shall upload the audit checklists/reports in database.

All certificates issued either in VS or in GLOBALG.A.P. database can be accessed in current database “Search” function.

CBs shall use the same IT system for the base standard and the add-on as well when both are available in the same system. Example: if database is used for IFA v6 Smart certification process, then certification process for SPRING v2 and GRASP v2 add-on shall also take place in database. CBs cannot switch to another IT system for the add-ons.

CBs choosing database for the certification process *shall use* the checklists and the paper certificate templates for IFA v6 and all linked add-ons, available in CB Extranet.

Farm assurance product (FAP)	Obligatory from	Upload % reports	Available in***
IFA v6 Smart FV*	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB, CB+AOH+VS
IFA v6 Smart FO*	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB, CB+AOH+VS
IFA v6 Smart HOP*	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB, CB+AOH+VS
IFA v6 Smart AQ*	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB, CB+AOH+VS
IFA v6 GFS AQ*	Pending GFSI- recognition		DB, CB+AOH+VS
IFA v6 GFS FV*	Pending GFSI- recognition		DB, CB+AOH+VS
GRASP v2*	01/01/2024	100%	DB, CB+AOH+VS
SPRING v2**	01/01/2024	100%	DB
FSMA PSR v2.0**	01/01/2024	100%	DB
GGFSA v3.0**	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB
AH-DLL GROW v3.1**	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB
BioDiversity v1.1**	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB
Nurture Module v12**	01/01/2024	100%	DB
GG Plus v2**	01/01/2024	100%	DB
COOP ITALIA v2.0**	01/01/2024	100%	DB
RMS v6 independent operator**	01/01/2024	100%	DB

Farm assurance product (FAP)	Obligatory from	Upload % reports	Available in***
IDA add-on v1.1 for plants and IDA add-on v1.0 for AQ **	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB
TR4 Biosecurity Standard v1.0**	03/07/2023	minimum 20%	DB
CFM v3.1**	01/01/2024	minimum 20%	DB

This is a transition period and eventually we aim to implement all GLOBALG.A.P. FAPs only in the smart IT process.

Auditors still need to pass the relevant online test for the audit to be registered in either system. The GLOBALG.A.P. database will use the GAIN number to check the results the auditor achieved in the respective online tests. All the auditors need to be registered (not approved, only registered) in CB-AT and the CB Scheme Manager/CB assist must assign the relevant standard or add-on (farm assurance product) to the auditor. The only roles triggering exams are QMS auditor, farm auditor or reviewer.

For the producers, the GLOBALG.A.P. fees as described in GLOBALG.A.P. general fee table 2021 (and GLOBALG.A.P. North America fee table) will apply during this period for all farm assurance products (i.e., standards or add-ons), regardless of the IT system used for the certification process. For IFA v6 Smart the IFA v5.2 fees will apply and for IFA v6 GFS the fees for IFA v5.4-1-GFS will apply, as described in the above-mentioned fee tables.

The GLOBALG.A.P. System participation fees v7.0 June 2023 will *not* apply during this period (for IFA v6 and GRASP v2 fees) and until a revised fee structure is implemented with the consideration of stakeholders' feedback. The published fee tables will be updated accordingly.

Here we give a summary for all new FAPs that will follow the above-mentioned procedure:

New standards and add-ons per 1 January 2024

*CBs may use either AOH Smart process for creating an audit report or excel reports to upload in GLOBALG.A.P. database

**CBs shall use only excel reports to upload in GLOBALG.A.P. database

***We continuously work to implement the smart IT process for all FAPs (AOH+VS).

The below mentioned FAPs are under review and will be published soon:

- PHA v1.3 standard
- HPS v2 standard
- TR4 Biosecurity add-on v2.0

2.2 Phasing out IFA v5.2 on 31 December 2023-Transition to IFA v6 (New)

As already communicated, IFA v5.2 sub scopes fruit and vegetables, flowers and ornamentals, the aquaculture scope, and both IFA v5.2 and IFA v5.3-GFS for hops will be phased out on 31 December 2023 and IFA v6 Smart will become mandatory on 1 January 2024. This date is linked to the *audit date* and IFA v5.2 and IFA v5.3-GFS for hops certificates issued after these audits will be valid until their "valid to" date, as usual.

Where the purpose of the audit/inspection is the extension or maintenance of valid existing IFA v5.2 certificates, further audits/inspections against this version are allowed in the following situations:

- Adding of additional products to the certificate of an IFA v5.2 certified producer/producer group
- Adding of new producer group members and/or production sites to the certificate of an IFA v5.2 certified producer group/multisite producer with QMS (within the 10% or above the 10%),
- Planning the 10% additional unannounced audits/inspections during the validity of IFA v5.2 certificates, as required in IFA v5.2.

For initial audits where no valid IFA v5.2 certificate already exists no audits against this standard are allowed anymore from 1 January 2024.

Please consider that the first audits of certificate holders (Option 1/Option 2) already certified to IFA v5.2/IFA v5.4-1-GFS against IFA v6 are considered *subsequent (recertification) audits*. This means that the rule requiring 10% of the subsequent audits to be unannounced applies to these certificate holders and CBs *shall* consider this new rule in their audit planning for year 2024.

The IFA v5.2 subsopes plant propagation material and combinable crops will remain valid and CB audits may be conducted against them after 1 January 2024.

IFA v5.4-1-GFS for FV and AQ will still be valid, and audits will be possible against this IFA version until GFSI benchmarking is achieved.

IFA v5.4-1-GFS will be replaced by IFA v6 GFS with a transition period allowed after the benchmarking process has successfully finished.

2.3 Deadline for accreditation for IFA v6 Smart

Previously communicated on 27 July 2023

We would like to remind you that CBs will need to get accreditation for IFA v6 at scope level. CBs shall be accredited for IFA v6 Smart *by 31 December 2023 at the latest*.

If not, after January 2024, the CBs will remain “provisionally approved” and will be allowed to issue a *limited number of nonaccredited certificates* (to a maximum of 20 producers per scope) *starting the calculation from that date*.

Both the IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS editions require accreditation, but both can be achieved in one audit. Accreditation body (AB) witness audits for IFA v6 GFS will also cover IFA v6 Smart.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat allowed CBs that are provisionally approved for IFA v6 Smart to issue an unlimited number of nonaccredited certificates for IFA v6 Smart until 31 December 2023.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat does not require a new office assessment from the AB as a precondition for the CB’s accreditation for IFA v6.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will be applying for International Accreditation Forum (IAF) evaluation. The IAF mark *cannot* appear on the certificate until the IAF evaluation has been successfully completed.

2.4 GGN number on final product: when FV 07.02 is non-applicable (New)

FV 07.02 reads that:

<p>The GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN) is indicated on all final products originating from certified production processes when registered for parallel ownership.</p>	<p>Where the producer is registered for parallel ownership (i.e., where products originating from certified and noncertified production processes are owned in parallel by one legal entity), all products originating from certified production processes packed in final consumer packaging (either on the farm or after product handling) shall be identified with a GGN.</p> <p>It can be the GGN of the Option 2 producer group, the GGN of the producer group member, both GGNs, or the GGN of the Option 1 individual producer. The GGN shall not be used to label products originating from noncertified production processes.</p>
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This P&C can be non-applicable (N/A) when:

- The producer/the producer group only owns GLOBALG.A.P. products (no parallel ownership)
- or
- When there is a written agreement available between the producer/the producer group and the buyer not to use the GGN on producer's final product packaging
- or
- When there is a market label specification that prevents the producer/producer group from using the GGN on the producer's final product packaging

In all cases where the GGN is not used on final product *when there is parallel ownership*, there shall be at minimum a system in place to identify the product originating from certified production. There shall be written information in place between the buyer and the producer/producer group which explains the system. All agreements and communication shall be documented and available during the CB audits.

2.5 About maintenance of competency for auditors approved for GFSI recognized standards (New)

We would like to inform you that GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations – Rules for Certification Bodies clause 14: Additional requirements for IFA V6 GFS 12.3.5 i) and 13.3.5 i) are to be replaced by the following text:

The CB shall have in place a procedure to ensure that annually every auditor conducts at least five on-site audits, at a number of different producers.

In the case of a CB auditor approved for GFSI recognized GLOBALG.A.P. standards, the five on-site CB audits required for maintenance of competency shall be against any GLOBALG.A.P. GFSI benchmarked GLOBALG.A.P. standards and *at least one* annual on-site audit against the respective GFSI recognized GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

If this requirement cannot be met, the CB auditors shall carry out 5 on-site audits against any GFSI-approved Certification Programmes (see list [here](#)) and *at least one* annual on-site audit against the respective GFSI recognized GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

For example, a CB auditor may conduct 4 audits to *any* GFSI-approved Certification Programme and only one audit to IFA v6 GFS to maintain competency for IFA v6 GFS.

2.6 About audit reporting for GFSI recognized standards (New)

GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – rules for Certification Bodies clause 8.1.p, GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for QMS clause 7.1.d and GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for individual producers clause 7.1.d currently read:

“Where the country of destination (as registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems) includes the USA and/or Canada, the CB shall provide the final CB audit report including the completed audit checklist to the producer, at the latest by the time of the certification decision.”

Here we would like to inform you that the text is amended for IFA v6 GFS as following:

“CBs shall provide the final CB audit report including the completed audit checklist to producers registered for any GLOBALG.A.P. GFSI benchmarked standard, at the latest by the time of the certification decision.”

2.7 Producers moving between Certification Programmes (New)

Herewith we communicate amendment of Rules for GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for QMS point 5.2.4 clause 9.1 additional requirements for IFA V6 GFS and GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations–Rules for individual producers, clause 5.2.4 under 8.2 additional requirements for IFA V6 GFS.

CBs shall complete a risk assessment on producers that switch between any GFSI-approved Certification Programmes to any GLOBALG.A.P. GFSI benchmarked standard. This risk assessment shall consider, but shall not be limited to, such aspects as:

- Unannounced audits
- Suspensions
- Withdrawals
- Cancellations, etc., by the previous certification programme.

In all cases, audits of producers moving from another GFSI benchmarked Certification Programme to a GLOBALG.A.P. GFSI benchmarked standard shall always be considered as an initial audit and not a subsequent (recertification) audit.

2.8 Clarification for the non-conforming product procedure in FV-GFS 11.01 and AQ 17.02 (New)

We would like to inform you that P&Cs FV-GFS 11.01 and of AQ 17.02 are amended to include text:

“Where the root cause is related to significant food safety reasons, the procedure in place shall be implemented and maintained for the determination and implementation of corrective actions. Such actions shall aim to eliminate the cause of a nonconformity to prevent reoccurrence.”

So, after launch of this Technical News FV-GFS 11.01 will read:

<p>FV-GFS 11.01</p>	<p>Procedures are in place to manage and handle non-conforming products.</p>	<p>Documented procedures, including a hold-and-release process, shall be in place to prevent unintended use or delivery of non-conforming products.</p> <p>Products may be considered non-conforming because of food safety issues, quality issues, maximum residue limit exceedance(s), cross contamination issues, etc.</p> <p>Non-conforming products shall be identified during production and handling. Non-conforming products shall be segregated, appropriately handled, and potentially redirected to a suitable end use (processing, animal feed, etc.). If not redirected, the products shall be disposed of appropriately.</p> <p>The non-conforming product procedures shall also address the treatment of dropped product, as per the risk assessment.</p> <p>Products that pose a risk to food safety shall not be harvested or shall be discarded. Discarded products and waste materials shall be stored in clearly designated areas to avoid contamination of products. Signs shall be used to identify waste products, where appropriate. These areas shall be routinely cleaned and/or disinfected according to the cleaning schedule.</p> <p>Where the root cause is related to significant food safety reasons, the procedure in place shall be implemented and maintained for the determination and implementation of corrective actions. Such actions shall aim to eliminate the cause of a nonconformity to prevent reoccurrence.</p>
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and AQ 17.02 will read:

<p>AQ 17.02</p>	<p>Procedures are in place to manage and handle non-conforming products.</p>	<p>Documented procedures shall be in place specifying that all non-conforming products be clearly identified and quarantined as appropriate. These products shall be handled or disposed of according to the nature of the problem and/or specific customer requirements.</p> <p>Where the root cause is related to significant food safety reasons, the procedure in place shall be implemented and maintained for the determination and implementation of corrective actions. Such actions shall aim to eliminate the cause of a nonconformity to prevent reoccurrence.</p>
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2.9 About 25% random selection of the sample in Option 2/Option 1 multisite producer with QMS (New)

As it reads in Rules for QMS point 6.1.2.1.e for v6 GFS “at least 25% of the sample shall be randomly selected from the actual number of producer group members/production sites.”

We would like to remind CBs to record in GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems (AOH) the producer group members/production sites randomly selected.

2.10 New NIG template for IFA v6: legal identification number included (New)

IFA v6 National Interpretation Guideline (NIG) templates were updated to include new point 7 about legal identification number. The new NIG templates were launched in document center on 13 September 2023. Registration of legal entities with their unique legal registration number is not mandatory. It is up to the NTWG of each country to decide on mandatory use of this number and include this requirement in the respective country's NIG.

2.11 About sublicense and certification agreement (SCLA) (New)

We would like to remind all CBs to use the most recent version of the SLCA (latest version 5) that is available in CB Extranet. Current ones are with separate Privacy Notice except those for North America/Canada.

2.12 About translation of IFA v6 certificates (New)

We have already communicated in the past that IFA v6 certificates issued in GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems following the smart IT process (in Validation Service-VS) are issued in English. CBs can download them and send to the producers. Until more languages are available in VS, CBs may translate the certificate in the local languages, including all information from the English one originated from VS. The same applies for certificates issued in GLOBALG.A.P. database.

A disclaimer shall be added to all certificates issued in VS and translated by the CBs to advise users to refer to the English certificate issued in GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, that is the original one. CBs shall add in the translated certificate the “Certificate No.” number from the English certificate issued in VS.



CBs shall always share with producers together with the translated version the English certificate issued in GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.

2.13 IFA standard for livestock phasing out (New)

As previously communicated, IFA v5.2 Livestock scope will not exist anymore after end of 2023.

The *last possible date for audits/inspections* against IFA v5.2 livestock scope is **31 December 2023**.

CBs can take the certification decision and issue certificates to IFA v5.2 livestock scope during 2024 as long as the audits have been conducted until 31 December 2023, but the validity of those certificates *cannot* be longer than **31 December 2024**.

Adding products, members and/or sites to existing IFA v5.2 for livestock scope certificates after 31 December 2023:

Where the purpose is the extension or maintenance of valid existing IFA v5.2 certificates for livestock scope, further audits/inspections against this version are allowed in the following situations:

- (i) Adding of additional products to the certificate of an IFA v5.2 certified producer
- (ii) Adding of new members and/or sites to the certificate of an IFA v5.2 certified producer group (within the 10% or above the 10%)

As long as all these certificates expire latest *until 31 December 2024*.

For *initial audits* where no valid IFA v5.2 certificate for livestock scope exists: *No audits* against this standard are allowed from 1 January 2024.

2.14 Emergency procedure for CBs operating in Israel, Lebanon, and Palestinian territory

Previously communicated on 18 and 19 October 2023

As of Saturday morning, 7 October 2023, the security situation has worsened in Israel. The country is in official situation of war. This poses significant risk on producers, certification body auditors and other personnel involved in GLOBALG.A.P. certifications.

GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat therefore is from now offering the possibility to activate the emergency procedure for certificate validity extension for a maximum period of six months.

In addition, the certification bodies that are not able to conduct an on-site inspection/audit due to the current official travel restrictions and state of emergency circumstances (“force majeure”) in Israel (including Israel and Golan Heights -Israel; Israel and West Bank -Israel), Lebanon and in the Palestinian Territory may conduct the inspection/audit remotely following the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote Procedure (ver. 1.3). The time frame for the application of GLOBALG.A.P. Remote Procedure starts with immediate effect and will terminate by *31 December 2023*. If further extension of the validity of application of the procedure will be required, it will be communicated in a timely manner by the Secretariat.

GLOBALG.A.P. Remote Procedure was introduced as a response to the coronavirus crisis and was published in May 2020. The GLOBALG.A.P. Remote Procedure solution is applicable to the majority of GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons, with the exception of GFSI-recognized editions.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will continue to communicate updates on this topic and remains available to respond to questions or concerns. In the meantime, we call for peace.

2.15 Producer quick start guide (New)

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has developed the Producer’s Guide to the new home of GLOBALG.A.P. smart farm assurance solutions to help producers (via CBs) with a better understanding of the new GLOBALG.A.P. website. This guide includes visibility on where to find the solutions and services most applicable to their needs while also highlighting new introductions like our Smart Checklist Builder. The guide can be found in the CB extranet and is encouraged to be shared widely with producers. New features will be released on the website in 2024.

3 GLOBALG.A.P. CHAIN OF CUSTODY (COC) (New)

We would like to inform you that CBs auditing against CoC v6.1 shall seek to become CoC accredited according to ISO/IEC 17065 and can use the accreditation mark on the CoC certificate they issue.

CBs auditing against CoC through BRCS, CoC through IFS or CoC through QS is not mandatory to be CoC accredited to ISO/IEC 17065, and they cannot use the accreditation mark on the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC certificates they issue.

4 ADD-ON-RELATED UPDATES

4.1 Add-on versions and their combinability with IFA versions (new)

Herewith we would like to summarize the available add-on versions, the dates the new versions become mandatory and their combinability with IFA versions.

Add-on name and version	After 1 January 2024 <i>mandatory to combine with IFA v6 Smart/GFS</i>	After 1 January 2024, <i>possible to combine with IFA v5.4-1 GFS until it is phased out (after IFA v6 GFS becomes GFSI recognized)</i>	After 1 January 2024 <i>mandatory to combine with benchmarked schemes/ checklists against IFA:</i>	Available IT systems to issue the certificates/ letters of conformance
GRASP v1.3-1-i	Possible for IFA v5.2 CC/PPM, CfP	Yes	v5.2	Database
GRASP v2	Yes	Yes	v6.0	AOH+VS, Database
SPRING v1.1-1	Possible for IFA v5.2 CC/PPM	Yes	v5.2	Database
SPRING v2	Yes	Not possible	v6.0	Database
Nurture v11.4	Not possible	Yes	Not possible	Database
Nurture v12	Yes	Not possible	Not possible	Database
FSMA v1.3	Not possible	Yes	Not possible	Database
FSMA v2	Yes	Not possible	Not possible	Database
BioDiversity v1.0	Not possible	Yes	v5.2	Database
BioDiversity v1.1	Yes	Yes	v6.0	Database
TR4 add-on v1.0	Yes	Yes	v5.2	Database

Add-on name and version	After 1 January 2024 <i>mandatory</i> to combine with IFA v6 Smart/GFS	After 1 January 2024, <i>possible</i> to combine with IFA v5.4-1 GFS until it is phased out (after IFA v6 GFS becomes GFSI recognized)	After 1 January 2024 <i>mandatory</i> to combine with benchmarked schemes/ checklists against IFA:	Available IT systems to issue the certificates/ letters of conformance
IDA v1.0	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Database
IDA add-on v1.1	Yes	Yes	v6.0	Database
GG FSA v2.1-1	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Database
GG FSA v3.0	Also mandatory for IFA v5.2 CC/PPM, CfP	Yes	Not possible	Database
PLUS v1.1	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Database
PLUS v2	Yes	Yes	Not possible	Database
AH DLL GROW v3.0	Not possible	Yes	Not possible	Database
AH DLL GROW v3.1	Yes	Not possible	Not possible	Database
COOP Italia v1.0-1	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Database
COOP Italia v2	Yes	Yes	Not possible	Database

All the above-mentioned add-ons' new versions are already published and available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center. We continuously work to implement the smart IT process for all add-ons (AOH+VS).

4.2 GRASP add-on

4.2.1 GRASP clarifications (New)

Clarification for GRASP v2: Legal entities registered with two different CBs for GRASP v2

In GRASP v2 it is allowed for a legal entity to register with product 1 for IFA and GRASP with CB X and with product 2 for IFA and GRASP with CB Z.

GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems will have a function (in AOH) to notify the CBs that this legal entity has registered with another CB for GRASP (different products).

It won't be possible to have a GRASP Letter of Conformance if the legal entity has been sanctioned (e.g., suspension) or not compliant to GRASP with another CB.

4.2.2 Clarification on GRASP transitioning during 2024 (New)

As previously communicated in TN 02/2023 and on 10 November 2023, the GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP) v2 will become obligatory from 1 January 2024 in combination with Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) v6 Smart.

To ensure a seamless transition for stakeholders who require certification with GFSI recognition, IFA v5.4-1-GFS will continue to be valid after 1 January 2024 and remain available for audit until IFA v6 GFS becomes GFSI-recognized. During this period, IFA v5.4-1-GFS audits can still be conducted together with *GRASP v1.3-1-i*.

While the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat highly recommends producers to implement the new and improved GRASP v2, we are committed to supporting flexibility in allowing producers and certification bodies to make a joint decision if IFA v5.4-1-GFS audits will be combined with GRASP v2 or GRASP v1.3-1-i, based on their audit planning, preparation, and buyer demands.

However, it is up to the producers and CBs together to decide if IFA v5.4-1-GFS audits will be combined with GRASP v2 or GRASP v1.3-1-i, depending on their audit planning and preparation (especially where commercial offers are sent, and subsequent audits are already planned).

4.2.3 Full compliance in IFA v6 P&Cs related to workers' health, safety, and welfare mandatory for GRASP v2 (New)

As described in GRASP v2 general rules point 3, for any GRASP application, evidence shall be submitted of the verification of criteria on workers' health, safety, and welfare. A full compliance result in this category is required to obtain the GRASP letter of conformance.

CBs choosing to upload the GRASP checklists in database and issue GRASP v2 letter of conformance in the current GLOBALG.A.P. database, shall verify before making the certification decision that the minor P&Cs/CPCCs on workers' health, safety, and welfare are fully compliant.

These P&Cs/CPCCs are listed in GRASP v2 checklists (as annex) available for CBs in CB extranet.

4.2.4 GRASP v2 National Interpretation Guidelines (NIGs) (New)

As it reads in GRASP rules, GRASP add-on is already applicable in countries without NIGs, and this is so in GRASP v2. However, as previously communicated in TN 02/2022, existing GRASP v1.3-1-i NIGs shall be updated for GRASP v2. NIGs for GRASP v2 shall be developed *until the end of 2023* and sent to the Secretariat for approval.

In countries where NIGs for GRASP v1.3-1-i exist and a GRASP v2 NIG has been presented to the Secretariat, we will allow CBs to conduct assessments against GRASP v2, without further requirements, *until end of June 2024*, to give the local stakeholders a longer period to finalize the NIG for GRASP v2.

After 1 January 2024 drafts for GRASP v2 NIGs (updates or new NIGs) will be received anytime and will be subject to revision by the Secretariat and public consultations, outside of the periods indicated above. NIGs submitted to the Secretariat cannot be guaranteed to become approved and available for the date of a specific assessment.

After this period (1 January 2024), in countries where NIGs for GRASP v1.3-1-i exist but draft NIGs for GRASP v2 have *not* been presented or approved by the Secretariat, the CBs shall follow *the special registration of assessors in countries without a NIG*, as described in GRASP v2 general rules, when assessing GRASP v2 in countries without NIG.

In countries where no NIG for GRASP v1.3-1-i exists, the special registration of assessors in countries without a NIG shall apply for every GRASP v2 assessment.

As of 22 November 2023, in these countries CBs can conduct assessments against GRASP v2, *without further requirements*, until *end of June 2024*:

- New Zealand
- Thailand
- China
- Austria
- Denmark
- Belgium
- Romania
- South Africa
- Japan
- Serbia
- Netherlands
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- Ireland

Please consider that this list is constantly updated, as more NIGs are sent to the Secretariat.

For more information about the countries and the development stage of NIGs for GRASP v2 in the countries you are interested in, please contact: graspnig@globalgap.org.

4.3 Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater use (SPRING) add-on

4.3.1 SPRING add-on v2

Previously communicated on 5 September 2023

SPRING add-on v2 (Scheme ID 191) is valid from 5 September 2023 and will become obligatory from *1 January 2024* for IFA v6 Smart audits and for IFA v6 GFS as soon as it is GFSI recognized and becomes mandatory.

SPRING add-on v2.0 is combinable with IFA v6 for all product categories under Plants Scope and with CfP Standard as the base standard and the normative documents are available in the GLOBALG.A.P. Document Center.

What action must be taken?

1. Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming SPRING add-on audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart/GFS will be done using SPRING add-on v2 and that they shall use the new checklist for self-assessments.

2. What is new in SPRING add-on v2.0?

The goal and main focus of this update is simplification of the add-on rules and the alignment with IFA v6.

Main changes in the general regulations specifications

- Alignment of the level of compliance with IFA (i.e., critical points are changed to Major musts)
- Alignment of the scoring system with IFA (i.e., compliance Yes/No, instead of 0;1;2;3)
- Alignment of audit results with IFA (i.e., deletion of Improvement needed or Critical status and respective consequences)
- Requirement on auditor training regarding local legislation on water use

- National Interpretation Guidelines are required after 1 January 2024

Main changes in the P&Cs (previously CPCCs)

- Added: No N/A in previous Critical points
- 1.2.1: Added: j) If there is a PHU on the farm, consider the risk of contaminating the water sources. Recommendation: a basin characterization prior to the analysis
- 1.3.1: Stakeholders. Added: NGOs.
- 2.1.3: Deleted, because of duplication with IFA v6 (next points change numbering)
- 2.1.4: Changed numbering: 2.1.3
- 2.1.5: Changed numbering and wording: 2.1.4
- 3.1.2: Remarks added in the criteria
- 3.1.3: Rewording
- 3.1.5: Deleted, because of duplication with IFA v6 (next points change numbering)
- 3.1.12: Recovering and storing rainwater: New wording
- 3.1.15: New numbering: 3.1.8
- 3.1.8: Deleted, because of duplication with IFA v6
- 4.2.2: Rewording
- 4.4.1: and 4.4.3: Deleted, because of duplication with IFA v6
- 4.4.2: Changed numbering: 4.4.1

3. About SPRING add-on v2.0 auditor and IHT training

In addition to the IFA plants CB auditor qualifications, CB auditors need training in order to be able to conduct audits against the SPRING add-on.

Existing CBs, CB IHTs for SPRING add-on v1.1-1

All CBs currently approved for SPRING add-on v1.1-1 will be automatically provisionally approved for SPRING v2. *All* already approved SPRING IHTs should have registered and completed the SPRING v2 IHT *update* training (online live session) and successfully completed and passed the update SPRING IHT test. There was a limited number of update IHT trainings available in Q3/Q4 2023. If IHTs failed to attend one of these update IHT trainings during 2023, they shall register for a full SPRING v2 IHT training.

IHTs can look for all available CB trainings in CB Academy by registering with their credentials.

CB auditors previously approved for the SPRING add-on v1.1-1

All CB auditors already approved for the SPRING add-on v1.1-1 shall be trained by the IHT and successfully complete and pass the update online test for SPRING add-on v2.0. This online test shall be conducted within *one month* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

New CBs: IHT and CB auditor training requirements

CBs not yet approved for the SPRING add-on may apply by uploading a signed letter of intent in CB-AT. A pre-condition for approval is that the CB shall have final approval for IFA v6. The annual CB scope extension fee applies.

The CB IHT shall attend the SPRING add-on v2 IHT training (full training) offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and successfully complete and pass the IHT test. The IHT trains the relevant CB auditors against this add-on who then have to complete and pass the SPRING add-on online test as offered by the applicable GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.

This online test shall be conducted within *three months* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

Failing the test twice requires that the CB auditor retake the test proctored. Failing the third test attempt requires that the CB auditor attends the GLOBALG.A.P. SPRING add-on v2 IHT training and pass the respective IHT test.

4.3.2 Clarification for parallel ownership in SPRING add-on v2 in case of Option 1 (New):

Herewith we would like to share with you clarification for SPRING add-on v2 general rules specifications point 5.2.1, about parallel ownership (PO) in Option1. We will allow a transition period *until 1 January 2025*, with a validity of one year in their cycle, where we will allow PO as described below, also for option 1 producers.

This is how point 5.2.1 is amended *during this transition period* for PO in case of Option 1 producers:

<p>Additional requirements regarding the registration process</p>	<p>PO is allowed in Option 1 producers (single site and multisite) when producers buy same products originating from IFA certified procedures without holding a SPRING add-on LoC (<i>valid until 1 January 2025 for one year cycle</i>).</p> <p>But it is <i>not</i> allowed for Option 1 producers to register in parallel same products partially registered for the SPRING add-on and partially not registered for this add-on.</p> <p>PO is allowed in the case of Option 2 producer groups – albeit only with regard to producer group members, not products.</p>
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Accordingly, P&C 5.1.1 is amended to:

<p>5.1.1</p>	<p>An effective system is in place to identify all products grown by producer group members/producers registered for the SPRING add-on and segregate them from products grown by other producers.</p>	<p>Producer groups/producers shall have a system in place to ensure that products from producer group members/producers registered for the SPRING add-on are segregated from products originating from other producers.</p> <p>An annual mass balance calculation for products from producer group members/producers registered for the SPRING add-on shall be available for each product.</p> <p>Communication with clients about producer group members registered and not registered for the SPRING add-on shall be available. In case of Option 1, producers shall inform their direct clients in case they buy products originating from IFA certified procedures without a SPRING add-on Letter of Conformance.</p> <p>In the case of producer groups, products shall be identified with each producer group member's GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN). The producer group's GGN shall never be used for traceability. Random controls of pallets dispatched during the last 12 months shall show that only products from producer group members registered for the SPRING add-on were delivered to clients demanding it. The quality management system (QMS) manager shall communicate to its clients if not all of the producer group members are registered for the SPRING add-on.</p> <p>In case of Option 1 producers with PO (buying products originating from IFA certified procedures without a SPRING add-on LoC), the products shall always keep the original GGN of the original producer/producer group in case of individual finished units or including always the GGN in the transaction documents in case of bulk.</p> <p>This principle and the relevant criteria are not applicable for Option 1 individual producers without parallel ownership or for Option 2 producer group in which 100% of the producer group members are registered for the SPRING add-on.</p>	<p>Major Must</p>
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4.4 GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Sustainability Assessment version 3.0 (GGFSA): No change in the fee calculation (New)

As already communicated in TN 02/2023, GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI Platform) reviewed the GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Sustainability Assessment (GGFSA) and launched GGFSA v3.0 which is obligatory for all GGFSA audits conducted after 1 May 2023. GGFSA v3.0 normative documents meant no change in the fee calculation in comparison to the earlier GGFSA v2.1.

While the section on the fee in the General regulations specifications of GGFSA v3.0 reads differently from that of GGFSA V2.1., it means no change in the fee calculation.

This fee-related section of the GGFSA v3.0 General regulations specifications will be amended as to read more similar to the earlier version GGFSA V2.1, eliminating from the text the mention to “distributed in three years.”

4.5 Coop Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on version 2

Previously communicated on 8 November 2023

COOP Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on v2 (Scheme ID 606) is valid from 8 November 2023 and will become obligatory from 1 January 2024 for IFA v6 Smart audits and for IFA v6 GFS as soon as it is GFSI recognized and becomes mandatory.

COOP Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on v2.0 is combinable with IFA v6 for all product categories under Plants scope as the base standard and the normative documents are available in the GLOBALG.A.P. [document center](#).

What action must be taken?

1. Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming COOP Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart/ GFS will be done using COOP Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on v2 and that they shall use the new checklist for self-assessments.

2. What is new in COOP Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on v2.0?

The goal and main focus of this update is simplification of the add-on rules and the alignment with IFA v6.

Main changes in the general regulations specifications

- Clarification on add-on scope for products produced by hydroponic and substrate cultivation are not required to be certified against the Coop Italia Pesticide add-on
- Alignment of audit results with IFA audit results (i.e., deletion of Improvement needed requirement, 100% Major conformance is required for certification).
- Update on unannounced audits and alignment with IFA v6 audit rules. Although unannounced audit is not required for this add on, if the producer is chosen for unannounced IFA v6 audit, Coop Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on shall be audited unannounced.
- Clarification on audit sampling rules when the add-on is combined with IFA v6 GFS with high-risk producers/sites/PHUs is added.

Main changes in the P&Cs (previously CPCCs)

- CIPT6 New P&Cs numbers were added as “FV SMART/GFS 7 (“Parallel ownership, traceability, and segregation”) and FV SMART/GFS 8 (“Mass balance”).”

4.6 Nurture module new version

Previously communicated on 1 November 2023

Nurture Module v12 (Scheme ID 603) is published since 2 November 2023 and will become obligatory from *1 January 2024* for IFA v6 Smart combined audits and for IFA v6 GFS as soon as IFA v6 GFS is GFSI recognized and becomes mandatory.

Nurture Module v12 is combinable with IFA v6 for Fruits and Vegetables under Plants scope as the base standard and the normative documents are available in the GLOBALG.A.P. [document center](#).

IFA v5.4-1-GFS will continue to be combined with Nurture Module v11.4 even after 1 January 2024, until IFA v6 GFS becomes mandatory.

What action must be taken?

1. Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming Nurture Module audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart/ GFS will be done using Nurture Module v12 and that they shall use the new checklists for self-assessments.

2. What is new in Nurture Module v12?

- The goal and main focus of this update is alignment of Nurture Module with IFA v6
- The P&Cs on producer level remain the same as in Nurture Module v11.4
- On QMS level the P&Cs relevant to product handling of Tesco “unfinished” products become applicable from the moment that an option 2 certificate holder has a product handling unit that handles “unfinished” Tesco registered products.

3. About Nurture v12 auditor and IHT training

In addition to the IFA plants CB auditor qualifications, CB auditors need training in order to be able to conduct audits against the Nurture Module.

Existing CBs, CB IHTs for Nurture v11.4

All CBs currently approved for Nurture v11.4 will be automatically approved for Nurture v12. *All* already approved Nurture IHTs *shall* register and complete the full *Nurture v12 IHT training* (online live session) and successfully complete and pass the Nurture v12 IHT test. IHTs can look for all available CB trainings in CB Academy by registering with their credentials. Failing to participate in this training would mean that the CB will not be able to perform v12 Nurture audits from 1 January 2024 on and get blocked.

CB auditors previously approved for the Nurture Module v11.4

All CB auditors already approved for Nurture v11.4 shall be trained by the IHT and successfully complete and pass the online test for Nurture v12. This online test shall be conducted *within one month* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor. Evidence of the internal training shall be available during any CIPRO audit.

New CBs: IHT and CB auditor training requirements

CBs not yet approved for Nurture Module can send the request to Andrea Meizoso at meizoso@globalgap.org. The conditions to be approved by TESCO are available on our website under [Nurture Module](#). Another pre-condition for approval is that the CB shall have *final approval for IFA v6*. The annual CB scope extension fee applies.

GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will complete the evaluation of your application, but the final decision on approval is taken by TESCO.

The CB IHT shall attend the Nurture v12 IHT training (full training) offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and successfully complete and pass the IHT test.

The IHT trains the relevant CB auditors against this add-on who then have to complete and pass the Nurture v12 add-on online test as offered by the applicable GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. This online test shall be conducted within *three months* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

Failing the test twice requires that the CB auditor retake the test proctored. Failing the third test attempt requires that the CB auditor attends the GLOBALG.A.P. Nurture v12 IHT training and pass the respective IHT test.

4.7 BioDiversity add-on version 1.1 (New)

BioDiversity add-on v1.1 is published on 1 December 2023 and will become obligatory from *1 January 2024* for IFA v6 Smart combined audits and for IFA v6 GFS as soon as IFA v6 GFS is GFSI recognized and becomes mandatory.

BioDiversity add-on v1.1 is combinable with IFA v6 for Fruits and Vegetables under Plants scope as the base standard and may be combined with IFA v5.4-1-GFS and the normative documents are available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

What action must be taken?

1. Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming BioDiversity add-on audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart/GFS will be done using BioDiversity add-on v1.1 and that they shall use the new checklists for self-assessments.

Also, inform your clients that upcoming BioDiversity add-on audits in combination with IFA v5.4-1-GFS may be done using BioDiversity add-on v1.1 (or BioDiversity add-on v1.0) and that they shall use the respective checklists for self-assessments.

2. What is new in BioDiversity add-on v1.1?

- The goal and main focus of this update is alignment of the add-on with IFA v6
- The level of compliance aligns with IFA (critical points are changed to Major musts.)
- The scoring system aligns with IFA scoring system (compliance: yes or no, instead of 0,1,2,3)
- Not all producer group members and/or production sites of Option 2 producer groups or Option 1 multisite producers need to participate in the add-on audit.

3. About BioDiversity add-on v1 auditor and IHT training

In addition to the IFA plants CB auditor qualifications, CB auditors need training in order to be able to conduct audits against the BioDiversity add-on.

Existing CBs, CB IHTs for BioDiversity add-on v1.1

All CBs currently approved for BioDiversity add-on v1.0 will be automatically approved for BioDiversity add-on v1.1.

All already approved BioDiversity v1.0 add-on IHTs shall successfully pass the auditor online test before the CB's first audit against the BioDiversity add-on v1.1.

All already approved BioDiversity v1.0 CB auditors shall successfully pass the auditor online test within one month of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in their working language.

New CBs: IHT and CB auditor training requirements

CBs not yet approved for BioDiversity add-on may apply by uploading a signed letter of intent in CB-AT. A pre-condition for approval is that the CB shall have final approval for IFA v6. The annual CB scope extension fee applies.

The CB IHT shall attend the BioDiversity add-on IHT training (full training) offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and successfully complete and pass online test.

The IHT trains the relevant CB auditors against this add-on who then have to complete and pass the BioDiversity add-on online test as offered by the applicable GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. This online test shall be conducted within *three months* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

Failing the test twice requires that the CB auditor retake the test proctored. Failing the third test attempt requires that the CB auditor attends the GLOBALG.A.P. BioDiversity add-on IHT training and pass the online test.

4.8 Impact Driven Approach (IDA) add-on new version 1.1

Previously communicated on 14 November 2023

IDA add-on v1.1 (Scheme ID 288) is valid from 13 November 2023 and will become obligatory from *1 January 2024* for IFA v6 Smart audits and for IFA v6 GFS as soon as it is GFSI recognized and becomes mandatory.

IDA add-on v1.1 is combinable with IFA v6 for *all product categories under Plants scope and under Aquaculture scope* as the base standard and the normative documents are available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

IDA add-on v1.1 will be combinable as an addition to valid IFA v5 certificates during an active certification cycle until December 2024.

What action must be taken?

1. Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming IDA add-on v1.1 audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart/GFS will be done using IDA add-on v1.1.

2. What is new in IDA add-on v1.1?

The goal and main focus of this update is simplification of the add-on rules and the alignment with IFA v6. A new API for IDA Plants between the farm management software and the GLOBALG.A.P. system has been deployed (API specifications available [here](#)). This API includes the registration of precipitation events and differentiates between the physical site (whole farm) and logical sites (fields and greenhouses). All changes for IDA FO v1 which has been communicated in previous technical newsletters have been implemented in the checklist and the general regulations specifications. The API for Aquaculture is currently being deployed and it is expected to be running in Q2 of 2024. Therefore, audits against IDA for the scope AQ will be possible only after the launch of the IDA AQ API.

Main changes in the general regulations specifications

Alignment of the general regulations specifications with the other add-ons' structure. A paragraph was introduced, which allows producers who produce products registered for IDA add-on seasonally only to digitally report data in this season. The new general rules specifications highlight, that the producer shall use the same GGN/GLN with their service provider, as used on the certificate. In case the producer already has a GLN (e.g., from an auction) the producer shall use this GLN. Update of the product statuses, according to previous technical newsletter communications.

Main changes in the principles and criteria (P&Cs) (previously CPCCs)

Deleted Integrated Pest Management and General section, as they are covered in IFA v6 P&Cs. Introduction of precipitation events as metric that has to be digitally recorded. Introduction of a traceability P&C in case of parallel ownership. Introduction of Quality Management System P&Cs for Option2/Option 1 multisite producers with QMS.

3. About IDA add-on v1.1 auditor and IHT training

In addition to the IFA plants or Aquaculture CB auditor qualifications, CB auditors need training in order to be able to conduct audits against the IDA add-on.

Existing CBs, CB IHTs for IDA add-on v1.0

All CBs currently approved for IDA add-on v1.0 will be automatically approved for IDA add-on v1.1. All already approved IDA add-on IHTs shall register and complete the IDA add-on v1.1 IHT training (online live and self-paced session) and successfully complete and pass the IDA add-on auditor online test before the CB first audit against the new IDA add-on v1.1.

CB Academy plans to offer an *IDA add-on v1.1 live session IHT training on 11 December 2023 at 14:00 CET*. Please contact cbtraining@globalgap.org for further information on registration for this training.

CB auditors previously approved for the IDA add-on v1.0

All CB auditors already approved for the IDA add-on v1.0 *shall* be trained by the IHT and successfully complete and pass the online test for IDA add-on v1.1. This online test shall be conducted within *one month* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

New CBs: IHT and CB auditor training requirements

CBs not yet approved for the IDA add-on may apply by uploading a signed letter of intent in CB-AT. A pre-condition for approval is that the CB shall have *final approval for IFA v6*. The annual CB scope extension fee applies.

The CB IHT shall attend the IDA add-on IHT training offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and successfully complete and pass the IDA add-on auditor online test.

CB Academy plans to offer an *IDA add-on v1.1 live session IHT training on 11 December 2023 at 14:00 CET*. Please contact cbtraining@globalgap.org for further information on registration for this training.

The IHT trains the relevant CB auditors against this add-on who then have to complete and pass the IDA add-on online test as offered by the applicable GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. This online test shall be conducted within *three months* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

Failing the test twice requires that the CB auditor retake the test proctored. Failing the third test attempt requires that the CB auditor attends the GLOBALG.A.P. IDA add-on IHT training and take and pass the IDA add-on auditor online test.

4.9 FSMA PSR add-on v2 CB auditor qualifications (New)

The CB QMS and farm auditor requirements to attend Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training were unintentionally omitted in the FSMA PSR add-on version 2. CB auditor training for all FSMA PSR add-on QMS and farm auditors and decision-making committee shall remain the same as in v1.3:

CB auditors shall demonstrate sufficient competence with the FDA's FSMA PSR through evidence of attendance at a Produce Safety Alliance training with an approved instructor. The minimum expectation for CB auditors is the "Grower Training course" – minimum of eight-hour duration, as offered by any approved trainer. This can be a private training by an approved trainer.

The list of "Grower Training courses" that are registered with PSA can be found [here](#). A list of approved trainers who can conduct a private class is [here](#). Any one of these trainers can offer the course to CBs and CB affiliates.

4.10 New GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS version 2 (New)

GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v2 (Scheme ID 604) is published on 1 December 2023 and become obligatory from *1 January 2024* for IFA v6 Smart combined audits and for IFA v6 GFS as soon as IFA v6 GFS is GFSI recognized and becomes mandatory.

GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v2 is combinable with IFA v6 for Fruits and Vegetables under Plants scope as the base standard.

GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v2 is combinable with IFA v5.4-1 GFS, until IFA v6 GFS is GFSI recognized and becomes mandatory.

What action must be taken?

1. Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS or IFA v5.4-1-GFS will be done using GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v2 and that they shall use the new checklists for self-assessments.

2. What is new in GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v2?

The goal and main focus of this update is alignment of GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS with IFA v6.

The P&Cs on producer level remain the same as in GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v1.1

3. About GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v2 auditor training

In addition to the IFA plants CB auditor qualifications, all the CB auditors shall attend the online training and pass the test annually via the link [here](#).

Existing CBs for GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v1.1

All CBs currently approved for GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v1.1 will be automatically approved for GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v2.

CB auditors previously approved for the GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v1.1

All CB auditors already approved for GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS v1.1 shall attend the online training and pass the test annually according to the current schedule, and do not need to do an additional training or test for the new version.

New CBs: CB auditor training requirements

CBs not yet approved for GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS can send the request to Andrea Meizoso at meizoso@globalgap.org. Another pre-condition for approval is that the CB shall have final approval for IFA v6 and GRASP v2. The annual CB scope extension fee applies. GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will complete the evaluation of your application.

Applicant CB auditors shall first need to complete the McDonald's online training "Produce food safety training" and pass the proficiency test. Applicant CB auditors shall present the certificate issued by McDonald's to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in order to be approved.

CB auditors shall attend the online training and pass the test annually via the link [here](#) or contact elearning@diversey.com

5 GLOBALG.A.P. IT UPDATES

5.1 About GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems wiki (New)

We would like to raise awareness to all CBs that the Secretariat created a wiki about all GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. This wiki is regularly updated with useful information for the users. You can find it [here](#). Any comments/suggestions for improvement about wiki are welcome in: customer_support@globalgap.org.

5.2 About CB-AT (New)

About auditors' status

Currently there are still a number of auditors assigned IFA v6 Farm Assurance Products in CB-AT with the approval status 'Open'. We kindly ask CBs that when all required documents are uploaded in CB-AT to change the status to "Submitted to GLOBALG.A.P." so that the Secretariat can proceed with the reviews. We would like to clarify that the "temporarily approved" status of the FAP's in CB-AT allows the auditor to do audits in AOH under that FAP. We will allow CBs to continue uploading the required documents and assigning the respective statuses in CB-AT for all FAPs until further notification.

In the meantime, CBs shall register all their auditors in CB-AT to assign them a GAIN number, before assigning an audit to the auditors. GLOBALG.A.P. database will validate during the transition period described in point 2.1 that all registered auditors have passed the necessary online tests.

CB application in CB-AT

Please note that the application for IFA v6 and several add-ons scope extensions are now done directly in CB-AT. The process starts with the assigning of the Farm Assurance Product (FAP) under the Certification Body Module. For IFA v6 application you will need to upload the confirmation letter from the Accreditation Body. When done, please inform GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat by email so that application can be reviewed.

Please note that for all the CBs who received automatic approvals for IFA v6 and add-ons, the FAPs also need to be assigned in CB-AT. We advise CBs to check in the website or CB Extranet their approval status before adding the FAP in CB-AT.

New role in CB-AT

The CB certificate signatory role has been included in CB-AT. This role is intended for the person who signs the certificate in Validation Service, as communicated in TN 02/2023. No qualification requirement or training applies for this role.

We would like to remind you that the reviewer and the Certification committee are also roles available in CB-AT that CBs shall assign to their staff per FAP in order to use AOH and VS.

5.3 Audit Online Hub (AOH) updates

Previously communicated on 12 October 2023

Here we would like to communicate temporary changes in Audit Online Hub (AOH) (Legacy) upload rules v1.1 July 2023 regarding *only* the percentage of uploading checklists ([changes in blue](#)). Following changes apply from 1 September 2023 until further notice:

- **20%** of all checklists for IFA v5.2, IFA v5.3, IFA v5.4-1-GFS, HPSS v1.2, or PHA v1.2 shall be uploaded per month.

Those IFA checklists uploaded for the FSMA PSR add-on, the Nurture Module or because of the use of GLOBALG.A.P. Remote may be counted towards the **20%** referenced before.

This is a temporary change and all other rules included in AOH (Legacy) upload rules v1.1 July 2023 remain *unchanged*.

5.4 About GLOBALG.A.P. database performance (New)

We kindly ask CBs to avoid uploading large files where possible. The reason is that large files in the upload queue cause significant delays for all CBs in the database. It is therefore recommended that larger files are preferably uploaded in the evenings, as the database remains active during the night.

We also kindly request that CBs check files carefully prior to uploading. Unsuccessful uploads and subsequent re-uploads due to avoidable mistakes (e.g., incorrect O-key) is another reason for delays.

Lastly, we kindly ask CBs to refrain from uploading the same file more than once. If you do miss a reply email with regards to an upload, kindly contact the Customer Support Team instead. There are instances where the same file has been uploaded five times, causing significant delay as a result.

6 GLOBALG.A.P. FEES (New)

If a legal entity requests in parallel IFA v5.4-1-GFS and IFA v6 GFS certification for the same products, the IFA v6 certificate may be issued via Validation Service or GLOBALG.A.P. Database and the IFA v5.4-1-GFS certificate is issued in the GLOBALG.A.P. database.

In such cases (parallel certification of production processes for same products against IFA v5.4-1-GFS and IFA v6 GFS), CBs *shall align the valid to date of both certificates* (IFA v6 GFS certificate and IFA v5.4-1-GFS), to avoid double charge of GLOBALG.A.P. fees.

The Secretariat will cross check data of GGNs with double certification with same valid to date and will not charge IFA v5.4-1-GFS fees.

When we have parallel IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS certification or IFA v6 Smart and IFA v5.4-1-GFS certification for the same products, fees will be charged as described in [GLOBALG.A.P. general fee table 2021](#).

7 PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (New)

There have been some updates to the GLOBALG.A.P. product list.

The latest versions of the GLOBALG.A.P. product list (v5.17 and v6.0_Jul23) is available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website:

[GLOBALG.A.P. product list v5.18](#)

[GLOBALG.A.P. product list v6.0 Nov23](#)

Product name	Change/Comment	Applicable IFA version		Sub-scopes/product categories ID numbers				
		v5	v6	FV	PPM	CC	FO	AQ
Ambarella fruit	New product: <i>Spondias dulcis</i>	x	x	100963	100964			
Brussels sprouts	Correct spelling of this product.	x	x	17	508			
Chaya/Tree spinach	New product: <i>Cnidoscolus aconitifolius</i>	x	x	100967	100968			
Enoki mushroom	New product: <i>Flammulina filiformis</i> Separated from the product "Mushroom" due to disease outbreak risks making it a high-risk crop	x	x	100969				
Jujube	Add another scientific name under this product: <i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	x	x	226	681			
Miracle fruit	New product: <i>Synsepalum dulcificum</i>	x	x	100965	100966			
Palm tree (for palm hearts)	New product: includes various spp. Important note is that this product excludes processing of palm hearts	x	x	100961	100962			

Product name	Change/Comment	Applicable IFA version		Sub-scopes/product categories ID numbers				
		v5	v6	FV	PPM	CC	FO	AQ
Peanut (green)	New product: <i>Arachis hypogaea</i>	x	x	100960				
Spider plant	Changed name to "African cabbage"	x	x	100127	100135			

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Sincerely,

GLOBALG.A.P. Certification Body Administration, Benchmarking, and Compliance team