Dear GLOBALG.A.P. scheme manager,

In this issue you will read about:

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 sections included have been previously communicated to you and have been added with minimal or no changes. These are marked with *Previously communicated: XX Month XXXX.* Sections with new information have been marked with (New) next to the heading.

2 INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE

2.1 Update about IFA v6 implementation from CBs

Previously communicated on 14 February 2024

2.1.1 IFA versions and the IT systems to use

The table below contains a reminder for CBs about the IT systems they can use for Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) versions.

IFA version	IT systems to use
IFA v5.4-1-GFS	Audit Online Hub (AOH) for the audit report (legacy process) and database to issue the certificate
IFA v6 Smart/GFS	• Excel audit report (as published on the CB Extranet) and database to issue the certificate + upload the Excel report to the database (**or**) • AOH for the audit report (final PDF report) and database to issue the certificate + upload the PDF report to the database (max. 5 MB file size) (**or**) • AOH for the audit report and Validation Service (VS) to issue the certificate (Smart process)

For IFA v6 Smart/GFS, when CBs use the GLOBALG.A.P. database for making certification decisions, they shall use the Excel audit report available in CB Extranet.

Since the AOH *downloadable Excel template* does not cover all necessary attributes, it cannot be used as an alternative to the Excel audit report from the CB Extranet. In other words, it is not possible to upload the AOH *downloadable Excel template* to the database and issue the certificate there. However, it is possible to use the complete final audit report (PDF) generated by AOH for upload to the database as an alternative to the Excel audit report from the CB Extranet.

2.1.2 Checklist to be uploaded in the GLOBALG.A.P. database or in the AOH

The defined minimum percentage is still applicable as communicated in TN 03/2023.

Until further notice, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat allows a flexible approach concerning the type of checklist to be used and uploaded by the CBs.

For those CBs using and uploading reports to the database, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has published a CB checklist for each farm assurance product (i.e., standards and add-ons) in the CB Extranet. These checklists are changeable, editable, and customizable, and CBs may add new tabs in them. Some of the data fields are mandatory, and these are marked with an asterisk (*).

CBs may use their own checklist formats, provided they contain the same mandatory fields (those marked with "*") as the CB checklist published in the CB Extranet. It is not necessary to copy the whole tab from the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat's published CB checklist into the CB's own checklist, only the mandatory data fields.

If the CB uses AOH, it may use the AOH *downloadable Excel template* to work offline, but the template is not editable. If you change the AOH *downloadable Excel template*, the upload to AOH will no longer work.

2.1.3 Translations

The original English versions of the P&Cs and their official translations are published in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center. If an official translation of the P&Cs has already been published by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, and the CB wants to add a translation to a checklist, the CB shall add this official translation. If an official translation of the P&Cs is not available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center, the CB may add its own translation to the CB checklist used: either to the one published by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in the CB Extranet or to the CB's own checklist.

2.1.3.1 When CBs use the CB checklist published by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat

Currently, the CB checklists available in the CB Extranet (used for database upload) are in English. We will be releasing more languages shortly and will inform CBs via the CB Extranet when the translations are ready. Once the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat provides a translation of a CB checklist, the CB shall always use this checklist.

For cases where no CB checklist is available in the desired language, a translation may be added to the original English CB checklist in the sheet containing the audit checklist (e.g., CL – IFA v6 Smart – FV). Translated content can be added from the first unprotected column onward. There are two options for adding a translation:

a) An official translation of the P&Cs is available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

- The CB shall use the original English CB checklist published in the CB Extranet by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

- The official GLOBALG.A.P. translations of the P&C documents are published in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

- The CB shall use this official GLOBALG.A.P. translation of the P&Cs and add it to the relevant CB checklist sheet from the first unprotected column onward.

- The original English contents (protected columns) shall not be altered in any way.

- The following disclaimer shall be added to cell B7 of the sheet containing the audit checklist (e.g., CL – IFA v6 Smart – FV):
  "Translated content in this sheet is provided by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. Original GLOBALG.A.P. documents are in English. In the case of a discrepancy between the English version and the translation, the English version shall prevail."

b) No official translation of the P&Cs is available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

- The CB shall use the original English CB checklist published in the CB Extranet by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

- The CB can provide its own translation of the P&Cs and add it to the relevant CB checklist sheet from the first unprotected column onward.

- The original English contents (protected columns) shall not be altered in any way.

- The following disclaimer shall be added to cell B7 of the sheet containing the audit checklist (e.g., CL – IFA v6 Smart – FV):
  "Translated by [name of CB]. Original GLOBALG.A.P. documents are in English. In the case of a discrepancy between the English version and the translation, the English version shall prevail."

2.1.3.2 When CBs use their own checklist

CBs may add translations of the P&Cs section to their own checklist.

a) When there is an official translation published by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, the CB shall use this translation and add the following disclaimer: "Translated content in this sheet is provided by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. Original GLOBALG.A.P. documents are in English. In the case of a discrepancy between the English version and the translation, the English version shall prevail."

b) When there is no official translation published by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, the CB shall always insert the official English version as a reference next to the CB's own translation and add the following disclaimer: "Translated by [name of CB]. Original GLOBALG.A.P. documents are in English. In the case of a discrepancy between the English version and the translation, the English version shall prevail."

2.1.4 Unannounced CB audits

We would like to clarify that for those IFA v5.2 certificate holders who re-register for IFA v6 and will be **reaudited** during 2024, the 10% unannounced audits are no longer counted as additional audits for 2024, because unannounced subsequent audits for IFA v6 are possible during this year. CBs do not need to plan the 10% additional unannounced audits for IFA v5.2 certificate holders who re-register for IFA v6 and are audited during 2024, but shall apply IFA v6 rules for unannounced subsequent audits.

2.1.5 About the CB – Committee and Reviewer roles in the database and AOH

For the role "CB – Committee" in the GLOBALG.A.P. database, the qualification of the "Reviewer" role in CB-AT and AOH applies. The CB is advised to nominate the same person in both platforms.

Please see TN 02/2023, section 7.2.

2.2 Reminder for IFA v6 Smart/GFS for aquaculture (New)

We would like to remind the CBs approved for IFA v6 Smart/GFS for aquaculture that there is a relevant change in the food safety requirements for postharvest activities in IFA v6 Smart/GFS for aquaculture, when compared with IFA v5.4-1-GFS for aquaculture:

AQ 28.06	**Food safety system**		
AQ 28.06.01	For each postharvest unit, the producer has a food safety system in place at the time of the certification body (CB) audit.	This principle and the relevant criteria shall be marked as compliant if the producer has been certified to a GFSI-recognized post-farm gate standard or **to a third-party certified Codex Alimentarius-based HACCP system which is accredited** at the time of the CB audit. Note: For transparency purposes, the type of recognition is indicated in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.	Major Must

In IFA v5.4-1-GFS for aquaculture, the requirement is to have a Codex Alimentarius-based HACCP food safety system documented and implemented, while in IFA v6 Smart/GFS for aquaculture the criteria reads that the third-party certified Codex Alimentarius-based HACCP system shall be accredited.

2.3 Clarifications on the residue monitoring system checklist for IFA v6 (New)

Here we would like to share further clarification about the rule presented in the IFA v6 residue monitoring system (RMS) checklist:

"In the framework of GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) certification for the plants scope, the supply chain actor (e.g., trader) has the option to participate in an RMS audited by a CB or to operate their own RMS. An RMS in the framework of CoC certification means the additional monitoring of maximum residue limits (MRLs) and does not replace the requirement for producers to demonstrate compliance with the P&Cs referring to residue analysis in the framework of IFA certification. Operating an RMS or participating in an RMS is not a requirement for CoC certification" (see the IFA v6 RMS checklist, "Rules" tab, "RULES FOR THE RESIDUE MONITORING SYSTEM").

Where the supply chain actors (e.g., traders) offer an RMS for their suppliers to demonstrate compliance with P&C FV-Smart/GFS 32.07.02, this RMS shall be in compliance with IFA v6 RMS checklist requirements (site-based sampling). This is **not** a mandatory part of CoC certification.

Where the supply chain actors (e.g., traders) operate an RMS for their traded products, the samples are volume-based (tonnage) and the monitoring is an additional assurance for markets of destination. This is **not** a mandatory part of CoC certification. This does not replace the requirement for compliance with P&C FV-Smart/GFS 32.07.02.

2.4 Emergency procedure for CBs operating in Israel, Lebanon, Palestinian territories, and Japan

Previously communicated on 12, 18, and 29 January 2024

Due to the war in Israel and the Palestinian territories, and the dramatic earthquake that occurred in Japan early in January 2024 in the prefectures of Ishikawa, Fukui, Niigata, Toyama, and Nagano, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat offered the possibility to activate the emergency procedure for certificate validity extension for a maximum period of six months.

In addition, certification bodies that are not able to conduct on-site inspections/audits due to the current official travel restrictions and state of emergency circumstances ("*force majeure*") in Israel (including Israel and the Golan Heights; Israel and the West Bank), Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, and in Japan in the prefectures of Ishikawa, Fukui, Niigata, Toyama, and Nagano, are allowed to conduct inspections/audits remotely following the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure (version 1.3)/GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote procedure version 6 (for IFA v6 Smart audits).

The time frame for the application of the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure is:

- Up to 30 June 2024 for Israel, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories
- Up to *30 July 2024* for Japan's prefectures of Ishikawa, Fukui, Niigata, Toyama, and Nagano

If further extension of the time frame of validity for applying the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure is required, it will be communicated in a timely manner by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The emergency procedure allowed for Ecuador was valid from 12 January 2024 to 15 February 2024.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will continue to communicate updates on this topic and remains available to respond to questions or concerns.

3 ADD-ON-RELATED UPDATES

3.1 GRASP add-on

3.1.1 New country risk classification for GRASP

Previously communicated on 31 January 2024

We would like to inform you that the new country risk classification to be applied in 2024 was released on the GLOBALG.A.P. website on 1 January 2024.

According to the GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP) version 2 general rules, section 6.2 f), it is the responsibility of the GRASP auditor to check the correct country level before conducting a GRASP assessment and determine the required methods of evidence (e.g., interviews with the workers). This may result in the introduction of interviews in countries where it was not mandatory in previous years.

Please consider the change in the new classification for Portugal, where GRASP assessments for 2024 shall follow the rules for medium-risk countries.

3.1.2 List of countries with exception to conduct GRASP v2 assessments without a NIG until 30 June 2024 (New)

As communicated in TN 03/2023, in countries where NIGs for GRASP v1.3-1-i existed and a GRASP v2 NIG was presented to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat before the end of 2023, we allow CBs to conduct assessments against GRASP v2 even without a published NIG for GRASP v2 until the end of June 2024 to give the local stakeholders a longer period to finalize the NIG for GRASP v2.

In the countries listed below, CBs can conduct assessments against GRASP v2 without further requirements until the end of June 2024:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, São Tomé and Principe, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Türkiye/Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

This list is also available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

Auditors conducting GRASP v2 assessments in countries not listed above shall proceed using the process described in the GRASP v2 general rules, section 5.3, "Special registration of assessors in countries without a NIG."

3.1.3 GRASP v2 letter of conformance in the GLOBALG.A.P. database (New)

As already communicated, CBs may use the GLOBALG.A.P. database to upload GRASP v2 audit reports and issue letters of conformance (LoCs). Here, we ask CBs to use the GRASP v2 LoC template available in CB Extranet to create a PDF version of any GRASP v2 LoCs they issue, and upload these PDFs to the GLOBALG.A.P. database. This is because, unlike GRASP v1.3-1-i LoCs, the GLOBALG.A.P. database does not produce a PDF version of GRASP v2 LoCs.

3.2   Nurture Module

3.2.1 KPI score for CBs approved for the Nurture Module v12 (New)

We would like to inform you that after further consideration by the Nurture Governance Committee (NGC), it was decided to revert the yearly minimum benchmark KPI score that has to be achieved by all approved Nurture Module CBs back to the previous score of **3.90**.

3.2.2 Nurture Module audit report using the GLOBALG.A.P. database (New)

As communicated in TN 03/2023, CBs that use the GLOBALG.A.P. database to issue Nurture Module v12 certificates shall send part of the uploaded audit report (in PDF form) by email to the respective primary supplier of each Nurture Module producer. This audit report shall consist of the following Excel sheets: "Cover," "Audit Notes," and "Summary" (P&Cs are not required).

3.3   IFA-approved auditors for AH-DLL GROW v3.1 (New)

We would like to clarify here the requirements for AH-DLL GROW v3.1 auditors. The auditors shall comply with requirements as described in the AH-DLL GROW v3.1 general regulations specifications and be approved IFA farm auditors, **not** auditors approved for benchmarked schemes.

4 GLOBALG.A.P. IT UPDATES

4.1 Reminder about changes to the AOH upload rules (New)

We would like to remind you that the AOH upload rules have been updated, as communicated in TN 03/2023. The new rules include a reduced mandatory upload percentage for many GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons. In addition to the rules communicated in TN 03/2023, we want to further clarify a change to the mandatory upload percentage for certain standards:

As of **1 December 2023**, 20% of all checklists for CoC v6, IFA v5.2 for combinable crops (CC)/plant propagation material (PPM), IFA v5.4-1-GFS, Harmonized Produce Safety Standard (HPSS) v1.2, or Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) v1.2 shall be uploaded per month.

For a full overview of the AOH upload rules, please consider the information presented above together with the information in TN 03/2023.

4.2 Notification of changes to the GLOBALG.A.P. data access rules

Previously communicated on 11 January 2024

The GLOBALG.A.P. data access rules have been updated. Version 4.1 of the data access rules became mandatory on 1 February 2024 and is now available in GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

Changes made

- Revisions in the data access group for CBs: visibility of company master data to certification bodies added (for search options)
- New data access group for benchmarked certification system owners added and benchmarking added as a separate section (section 6)
- New section added for historical data in VS
- Removed: Produce Safety Standard (PSS) and product attribute "no use of antimicrobials" (IFA v6 for aquaculture)
- Added: "authorized by" in certification data
- For PHA and GRASP: minor updates

New search option for certification bodies/verification bodies

- After having accepted a company as their client, the CB or verification body (VB) will gain access to the company data registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems as well as to product and certification data (including the certification history). Once a CB/VB is linked to a GLOBALG.A.P. identification number to issue an Option 2/Option 4 certificate, all producer group members linked to this GLOBALG.A.P. identification number will be visible to the CB/VB.
- Accordingly, any references to "CB" in sections 3, 4, and 6 only refer to the CBs and/or VBs of which the affected company is a client.

Data access group: benchmarked certification system owner – new definition added

- This data access group exclusively represents benchmarked certification system owners (BCSOs). BCSOs are independent organizations which own a scheme/checklist that has been benchmarked by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and recognized as equivalent to a GLOBALG.A.P. standard or add-on. BCSOs only have access to data related to producers who are certified to their own benchmarked scheme/checklist.

Data access group: public user – clarifications added

- Any user of the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems without a personalized account is considered a "public user" and granted public access rights. Public users may apply for and be given accounts to use certain services, however, their access rights will not be changed.

About historical data

- The visibility of the data which is particularly required for integrity purposes, reports, or validations related to the consumer labeling is limited to a certain period of time as specified. This also applies to data related to companies that are suspended and/or have terminated their sublicense and certification/registration agreement(s) with their CB(s)/VB(s).
- Historical data is available to BCSOs for only those periods during which the affected company had at least one product certified to the relevant BCSO's scheme/checklist. Data regarding previous certification to other GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons is not available to BCSOs.
- Personal data, if any, will be deleted in accordance with applicable data protection laws notwithstanding the periods defined.

About producer group members/production sites/product handling units (for IFA v6)

- Where the standard allows group certification, data is also visible for Option 2 producer groups (certificate holder), but not visible by default for producer group members. Producer group member data is only visible to the respective data access group unless access has been granted by the producer group member. *For IFA v6*: The producer group controls data access and visibility for the linked producer group member sites and product handling units (PHUs) (including central PHUs) jointly and uniformly.

Clarifications for GRASP

- Possible GRASP results*: for GRASP v2:* GRASP letter of conformance and the results of the GRASP assessment: conformance, non-conformance, and not applicable
- For GRASP v2: Public users can retrieve the information via the IFA certificate as it is identical.
- For GRASP v2: The GRASP assessment number is not available to public users.

New section for BCSOs (section 6)

- Section 3.2 (standard/company data) is copied to section 6; for BCSOs, read Option 3 instead of Option 1 and Option 4 instead of Option 2.
- Section 3.3 (product/certification data): If product data is not relevant to a benchmarked scheme/checklist, this data is not displayed at all for the respective scheme/checklist (e.g., parallel ownership).
- Audit checklist and results: Available and shared in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems if requested by the BCSO and released according to these data access rules as defined in the scheme rules (for benchmarked schemes) or GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents (for benchmarked checklists). If audit checklist data is not available in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, agglomerated audit checklist data will be shared with the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat by the BCSO.
- Quantity data (availability to market participants): Configuration voluntary for the BCSO. If the BCSO makes it mandatory for their producers, the data will be available to market participants.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat recommended that CBs communicate this information to their producers.

4.3 Choosing CB auditors' preferred language in CB-AT (New)

The *preferred language* in CB-AT is the one CB auditors use to conduct audits and to pass the farm auditor online test. CBs may also choose additional languages in CB-AT per farm assurance product if their farm auditors feel competent enough in these languages to take the farm auditor online test. Please ensure that the *preferred language* is also selected for the farm assurance product. CBs may add more language preferences for farm auditors for each farm assurance product in addition to the languages previously chosen, but they cannot switch the *preferred language* <u>more</u> than once. If they do so more than once, a financial sanction will apply.

4.4 When CB auditors' approval in CB-AT is mandatory (New)

Where CBs follow the smart IT process, meaning that they use AOH for the audit report and VS to issue the certificate/letter of conformance, CB auditors <u>shall</u> be approved in CB-AT (statuses "*approve*d" and "*temporarily approved*" work for AOH and VS). We would like to remind CBs when uploading the necessary documents in CB-AT to also click the "submit to GLOBALG.A.P." button for each farm assurance product.

4.5 Reminders for CB-AT (New)

Where CBs use the database only for their audit report and certification decisions, auditors shall only be registered in CB-AT and have completed the mandatory online training.

Also, we want to remind CBs to assign the "CB certificate signatory" role to users that they wish to be used as "authorized person" in VS. This role is found on the user profile below "preferred language" and is a "Yes/No" role.

CBs shall make sure that auditors are registered in AOH using the same email address they use in CB-AT, otherwise synchronization cannot be established.

4.6 Database performance (New)

Database performance

Please try to refrain from uploading large files (e.g., product upload sheets) whenever feasible. This precaution is advised as the presence of large files in the upload queue can cause considerable delays for all CBs. It is therefore recommended that larger files be uploaded during the evening when possible, as the database remains active overnight.

Additionally, we kindly request that you meticulously review files prior to uploading. Instances of unsuccessful uploads and subsequent reuploads due to avoidable errors (such as an incorrect O-key) contribute to delays.

Lastly, we urge you to refrain from uploading the same file multiple times. If you miss an email reply regarding an upload, please contact the Customer Support team. Instances have arisen where the same file has been uploaded multiple times, resulting in significant delays.

Guidance on the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems

We have received numerous inquiries regarding the utilization of our IT systems. At this juncture, we wish to direct your attention to the technical news releases, records for IFA v6, and pertinent Wiki articles. These resources comprehensively address many commonly asked questions. Should further assistance be required, the Customer Support team stands ready to help you.

5   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 (v5.19 and v6.0_Mar24) are available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website:

GLOBALG.A.P. product list v5.19

GLOBALG.A.P. product list v6.0_Mar24

Product name	Change/ Comment	Applicable IFA version		Sub-scopes/Product category ID numbers				
		v5	v6	FV	PPM	CC	FO	AQ
Abacá/ Manila hemp	New product	x			ID 102452	ID 102449		
Water chestnut	New product	x	x (only FV)	ID 102449	ID 102450			

Added clarification in the GLOBALG.A.P. product list about ornamental classifications (potted plants and plants with/without fruits):

- Note 2: If fruit trees (e.g., olive trees, apple trees, etc.) and shrubs (e.g., blueberries, etc.) are produced as ornamentals (to be planted) and not as food (the plant, parts of the plant, or fruit), then these are classified in the product category flowers and ornamentals. If the tree or shrub bears edible parts at the time of sale (e.g., lemon trees), then IFA fruit and vegetable certification applies, and residue testing is required.

- Note 3: If potted (or bagged, or naked-root) fruit and vegetable plants are produced for human consumption in the first season of fruiting or harvest (the plant, parts of the plant, or fruit), then IFA fruit and vegetable certification applies, and the products shall be registered according to the edible part of the plant (e.g., tomato, cucumber, strawberry, etc.). If the edible part of the plant is not present at the time of sale, residue testing is not required. If potted (or bagged, or naked-root) plants are intended for ornamental use only, then IFA flower and ornamental certification applies.

6   OTHER INFORMATION (NEW)

6.1 Transition tools to IFA v6 (New)

Transition tool to IFA v6 FO now available

We are pleased to announce the launch of the IFA v6 FO transition tool for the flowers and ornamentals product category, a checklist designed to facilitate a smooth transition from the previous version of IFA v5.2 to IFA v6 Smart FO. This valuable resource will assist producers in aligning their current programs with the updated requirements outlined in the latest version of the standard.

What is the IFA v6 FO transition tool?

The IFA v6 FO transition tool serves as a support tool for producers as they navigate the transition to IFA v6 FO. By mapping the requirements in IFA v5 and IFA v6 FO side by side, this checklist enables producers to identify gaps in their current programs and make necessary adjustments.

What the transition tool is *not*

It is important to clarify that the use of the IFA v6 FO transition tool is *not* obligatory. While it displays aligned requirements side by side, it does not provide a comprehensive and detailed list of all the specific changes and differences between the versions. Additionally, it does not highlight specific differences in the requirements. The tool's primary purpose is to assist producers in aligning their current programs with the new requirements and identifying areas of improvement during the transition process.

How can the transition tool be used?

Producers preparing for IFA v6 FO audits can leverage the tool to ensure a smooth transition. During internal audits, producers can use the tool to respond to the upcoming requirements of IFA v6 FO, identify gaps in their current programs, and take corrective actions to align with the new version. CBs are encouraged to inform their clients directly about the availability of this tool to facilitate a seamless transition.

The IFA v6 transition tool for flowers and ornamentals is now available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

Other transition tools to IFA v6 GFS/Smart

As previously communicated in TN 02/2023, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has launched the IFA v6 transition tools for other scopes/product categories, in order to facilitate a smooth transition from the previous IFA version to IFA v6.

CBs are encouraged to inform their clients directly about the availability of this tool to facilitate a seamless transition. All the IFA v6 transition tools are now available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

Fruit and vegetables, GFS edition – English
Fruit and vegetables, GFS edition – Spanish
Fruit and vegetables, Smart edition – English
Fruit and vegetables, Smart edition – Spanish
Aquaculture – English
Flowers and ornamentals – English

6.2   GLOBALG.A.P. educational video series – risk assessments (New)

The GLOBALG.A.P. educational video series is a free e-learning tool to support stakeholders in understanding risk assessments and their many benefits.

Developed in response to input and questions from our stakeholders, the six-chapter video series is tailored to producers and trainers who want to learn more about on-farm risk assessments. Each chapter tackles a technical topic in less than five minutes, providing key information in a concise and easy-to-understand manner.

1.   Risk assessments – General introduction

2.   Risk assessments – Preparing a risk assessment

3.   Risk assessments – Preharvest water risks and mitigation

4.   Risk assessments – Postharvest water risks and mitigation

5.   Risk assessments – Food fraud risks and mitigation

6.   Risk assessments – Food defense system risks and mitigation

CBs are encouraged to inform their clients directly about the availability of this free resource to support their adoption of GLOBALG.A.P. certification programs. The educational video series is now available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

6.3   Summit 2024 (New)

We invite you to join us at the SUMMIT 2024 in Warsaw, Poland (10–12 September) for an insightful gathering of FoodPLUS GmbH, GLOBALG.A.P., and GGN label stakeholders from around the world. For the first time since 2018, we will explore the latest developments in food safety, sustainability, and the future of the industry under the theme "Shaping the Future of Farming Together."

The three-day event offers a comprehensive program covering a range of topics, including developments, trends, and challenges in agriculture, aquaculture, and floriculture supply chains.

Take advantage of our "Early Bird" discount by securing your tickets for SUMMIT 2024 now – saving you €250 per person if you order before 31 May 2024. [Learn more about the event and book your spot today.](#)

Interested in sponsoring and aligning your brand with a notable industry event? Reach out to us at summit@globalgap.org to explore the opportunities.

We look forward to welcoming you to SUMMIT 2024 for meaningful discussions and valuable insights. See you there!

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Sincerely,

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