

Dear GLOBALG.A.P. scheme manager,

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## 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](mailto: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 on XX Month XXXX*. Sections with new information have been marked with (New) next to the heading.

## 2 INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE

### 2.1 GFSI recognition for IFA v6 GFS for aquaculture and fruit and vegetables

*Previously communicated on 29 August 2024*

As communicated on 27 August 2024, the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) version 6 GFS standards for aquaculture and fruit and vegetables are [recognized by GFSI as of 6 August 2024](#). All audits taking place either on or from 6 August 2024 against IFA v6 GFS for aquaculture and IFA v6 GFS for fruit and vegetables are considered benchmarked to GFSI.

There will be a transition period until **31 December 2024** during which the IFA v5.4-1-GFS can still be audited and remain GFSI benchmarked. However, producers and producer groups seeking GFSI-recognized certification to IFA for aquaculture or IFA for fruit and vegetables are advised to register **only** for IFA v6 GFS after receipt of this communication.

IFA v6 GFS will replace IFA v5.4-1-GFS from **1 January 2025**. After the new system has been adopted, it will **no longer be possible** to audit against IFA v5.4-1-GFS. All IFA v5.4-1-GFS certificates issued during the transition period will be valid for the full lifecycle of the certificate and remain GFSI benchmarked.

Where the purpose of the audit/inspection is the extension or maintenance of valid existing IFA v5.4-1-GFS certificates, further audits/inspections against this version will be allowed after 1 January 2025 only in the following situations:

- Surveillance audits against IFA v5.4-1-GFS during the certificate validity of Option 2 producer groups/Option 1 multisite producers with QMS
- Addition of further products to the currently valid certificate of a producer/producer group certified to IFA v5.4-1-GFS
- Addition of new producer group members and/or production sites to the currently valid certificate of a producer group/multisite producer with QMS certified to IFA v5.4-1-GFS (within the 10% or above the 10%)

Producers or producer groups that **do not** require GFSI recognition may continue registering for and auditing against the currently valid IFA v6 Smart edition.

For certification bodies (CBs) approved for IFA v6 GFS, no additional CB training and/or exam is required.

In the meantime, all changes as communicated in TN 03/2023 and TN 02/2024 for IFA v6 GFS are valid from the date of their communication, and CBs and producers shall have already implemented them.

Updated editions of the IFA v6 GFS normative documents dated August 2024 and checklists with the new date of August 2024, reflecting all the changes communicated in previous Technical

News issues, are available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center and in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.

CBs previously approved to IFA v5.4-1-GFS shall become accredited to IFA v6 GFS by the end of 2024. If not, those CBs shall follow the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations about the limited number of non-accredited certificates they can issue until they gain accreditation.

*Previously communicated on 29 October 2024*

With this communication we would like to make it very clear that only IFA v6 GFS for the aquaculture scope was recognized by GFSI, and not IFA v6 Smart, as was mistakenly indicated on the GFSI website.

GFSI will publish a correction notice for the recognition announcement made in August 2024 for the two GLOBALG.A.P. standards and send it out to all stakeholders. The correction notice will indicate that the Smart edition of the IFA v6 for aquaculture is not recognized by GFSI.

We would like to remind you here as well that full remote audits are only possible for IFA v6 Smart, and not for IFA v6 GFS.

## **2.2 FoodPLUS secures IAF scheme endorsement for IFA v6 (New)**

On 15 July 2024, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) signed a Scheme Endorsement Agreement with GLOBALG.A.P. c/o FoodPLUS GmbH in recognition of the IFA standard version 6.

The IAF is a leading association of accreditation bodies, conformity assessment bodies, and other organizations working to develop a single international program for conformity assessment. In 2013, IFA was the first scheme to receive IAF endorsement under the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) scope of Product Certification.

The latest version of the flagship GLOBALG.A.P. standard – launched in late 2022 – replaced IFA v5.2 on 1 January 2024 for the product categories of fruit and vegetables, flowers and ornamentals, hops, and aquaculture. Please note that the PHA standard has also been endorsed by the IAF.

### **Mutual recognition of accredited certification**

The MLA marks an agreement for the mutual recognition of accredited certification between IAF Accreditation Body Member signatories.

These signatories are then required to recognize certificates and verification statements issued by CBs accredited by all other signatories of the MLA with the appropriate scope.

### **About MLA levels**

The IAF MLA consists of five levels. Level 4 sub-scopes are IAF-endorsed normative documents used by accreditation bodies in conjunction with main scope documents to assess a CB's competence in a specific sector. Level 5 sub-scopes are IAF-endorsed normative documents used by CBs.

The new scheme endorsement agreement includes the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations v6 under level 4 and the IFA v6 Smart/GFS principles and criteria (P&Cs) under level 5.

## **2.3 Emergency procedure for CBs operating in Israel, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, and Ukraine**

*Previously communicated in TN 02/2024*

Due to the war in Israel and the Palestinian territories, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has offered the possibility to activate the emergency procedure for certificate validity extension for a maximum period of six months. Here we would like to remind you that this exception also applies to Ukraine. 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 Ukraine 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:

- Until further notification

As soon as the situation in these areas improves, we will communicate the timeframe by when this exception will be phased out.

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

## 2.4 National interpretation guidelines for IFA v6 (New)

We would like to inform you about the IFA v6 national interpretation guidelines (NIGs) that are already published and available on our website.

In the countries listed below, CBs shall use the new NIGs for IFA v6. The relevant countries are:

- For IFA v6 Smart/GFS for aquaculture: Colombia
- For IFA v6 Smart for fruit and vegetables: Albania, Belgium, Ecuador, Japan, Italy, Albania, France, Spain, India, the Netherlands
- For IFA v6 Smart for flowers and ornamentals: DACH countries (one common NIG for Germany, Austria, and Switzerland)

## 2.5 GLOBALG.A.P. residue monitoring system checklist version 6

*Previously communicated on 23 September 2024*

We would like to call your attention to the implementation of the residue monitoring system (RMS) checklist version 6:

### 1. Introduction

The RMS approach was introduced in IFA v4, as an alternative for the 100% testing by product, site, and production cycle.

The RMS is based on a risk assessment by product, and the outcome of the risk assessment is a monitoring program by product. The monitoring program defines the number of samples by product for a group of producers. This can be a group of Option 1 individual producers participating in the RMS of an independent RMS operator; or it can be the members of an Option 2 producer group participating in the RMS of the group.

For IFA v6/RMS v6, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has added two new elements:

- A minimum number of samples must be taken for each product, based on the number of participating sites.
- A performance-based approach, in which the number of maximum residue limit (MRL) exceedances is leading for the applied sampling table: reduced, standard, tightened, or 100%.

Both new elements are based on the ISO 2859 standard for attribute testing. The justification of the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat for adding these two new elements is to increase the credibility of the IFA standard based on an internally accepted standard.

### 2. Registration in the GLOBALG.A.P. database

#### 2.1 Registering an RMS operator

- An independent RMS operator offering RMS services to Option 1 individual producers shall be registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. database as a producer. (There is no alternative name available in the database.) As a result of the registration, a GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN) is generated.

- Option 2 producer groups operating their own RMS for their members do not need further registration. The GGN of the producer group is used.

## 2.2 Registering an RMS

- Registration of the RMS in the GLOBALG.A.P. database is mandatory for independent RMS operators but voluntary for Option 2 producer groups.
  - Go to “Manage products” in the database.
  - Select the scheme RMS checklist version 6.
  - Select product RMS 1. Note: An RMS operator might have more than one RMS. A maximum of 10 RMSs can be registered under the same GGN (RMS 1 to RMS 9). If only one RMS is operated, please select RMS 1.
  - Register the number of products in the scope of the RMS and the number of producers participating in the RMS.
  - Select the applicable value for the attributes: product category, scope of activity, and type of sampling.

## 2.3 Acceptance and certification of an RMS

- These steps follow the same procedure as for any other product and can be accessed in the database through “Acceptance” and “Certification”.

## 2.4 Uploading the RMS checklist

- The RMS checklist shall be shared with the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database.
- The RMS checklist for an Option 2 producer group is integrated in the IFA QMS checklist. No separate upload of the RMS checklist is needed.

## 3. Miscellaneous

- If the first buyer is a company with GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) certification, the RMS operator is allowed to sample the products of producers at the facilities of the company with CoC certification. The first buyer may operate its own RMS.
- If the participating producers of an RMS are certified to IFA 5.4-1-GFS, the previous RMS checklist version 5.2 is still valid. If one or more of the participating producers is certified to IFA v6 Smart or IFA v6 GFS, the RMS checklist version 6 applies.
- In the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy, a self-paced training is available to make yourself familiar with the rules of RMS checklists and the sampling tables.
- The GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform will be launched in Q4 of 2024 (postponed to 2025). This platform offers RMS operators and individual producers the option to share MRL test results with GLOBALG.A.P. participants and their products will be visible on the GLOBALG.A.P. website. Participants will also receive a monthly aggregated report on MRL test results. More details about the GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform will be shared in an upcoming briefing.

## 4. Summary

- Producers can still do self-sampling for residue testing, and producer group members can still test all their registered products, following a risk assessment.
- Option 2 producer groups and Option 1 multisite producers with QMS may develop their own RMS for their members/production sites. That will be audited during the CB QMS audit.
- Option 1 individual producers may participate in the services of an independent RMS operator if this RMS is audited by CBs.



- The CB-audited RMS (independent RMS operator, or RMS operated by an Option 2 producer group) may become visible in GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform after the operators' application to [rms@globalgap.org](mailto:rms@globalgap.org) and approval by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The launch of the GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform has been postponed to early 2025. The GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform validates GGNs and certification statuses in the GLOBALG.A.P. database. The GLOBALG.A.P. database will be replaced in Q4 of 2024 by the osapiens supply chain portal. Once the osapiens portal is operational, the GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform will be connected to this portal.

*Note:* The GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform is available for testing on the present GLOBALG.A.P. test database until the end of 2024. Applications to participate in the GLOBALG.A.P. RMS Platform can be sent to [rms@globalgap.org](mailto:rms@globalgap.org).

You can find more information on the [GLOBALG.A.P. website](https://www.globalgap.org), or write to [standard\\_support@globalgap.org](mailto:standard_support@globalgap.org) if you have any questions.

## 2.6 Signatures for CB witness audits (New)

As described in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, “a documented or electronic confirmation by the producer is accepted as equivalent to the producer’s signature.”

Similarly to this and from now on, the witness audit report shall contain handwritten or genuine and valid digital signatures of both auditors: the witnessed auditor and the auditor performing the witness audit. JPG images are not considered valid signatures.

## 2.7 Auditors’ competency for IFA v6 GFS (New)

We would like to remind you of the communication sent out in TN 02/2022, section 2.1: The assignment to the IFA v6 GFS plants/aquaculture scope shall be done by the CBs and shall only be done for CB auditors that have already been signed-off and approved for IFA v5.4-1-GFS. These CB auditors shall complete the necessary GLOBALG.A.P. online training (e.g., for CB QMS auditors) and pass the auditor online tests for the **relevant scope** within one month after release in their working language. New CB auditors shall follow the initial sign-off and qualification process for IFA v6 GFS.

CB auditors previously approved for IFA v5.2 or currently approved for IFA v6 Smart are considered “new” auditors for IFA v6 GFS, and the initial sign-off process described in the “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for certification bodies,” sections 12, 13, and 14.1 shall apply.

## 2.8 About maintenance of auditor competency (New)

According to the “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for certification bodies,” sections 12.3.5.d) and 13.3.5.e), “the CB shall carry out a CB farm witness audit/CB QMS witness audit for each of its GLOBALG.A.P. CB farm auditors/CB QMS auditors at least once every four years to verify competence.”

We would like to clarify here that these witness audits shall be done by competent CB farm auditors, witnessing CB farm auditors, or CB QMS auditors, witnessing other CB QMS auditors. Witness audits conducted by accreditation body assessors cannot count toward compliance with this competency requirement.

## 2.9 Updated definition of producer group (New)

After the last GFSI office assessment we decided to update the definition of producer groups as described in IFA v6 glossary. The definition is adapted for both IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS to: “Group of **three or more** producers (see definition of producer) that apply for GLOBALG.A.P. certification organized under a quality management system (QMS), according to GLOBALG.A.P. QMS requirements. The legal entity managing the QMS is the only certificate holder in this

certification option. The approved producer group members are listed in an annex to the GLOBALG.A.P. certificate.”

And the definition of group certification is now adapted to: “The option to apply for GLOBALG.A.P. certification as a group of producers (**three or more**) where a quality management system (QMS) is implemented. The group, as a legal entity, is the certificate holder once certified.” This producer group might consist of three members or the group itself with its own production sites and two more producer group members.

The producer group may “lose” some producer group members during the certificate validity without applying a suspension. However, during the CB surveillance audit, the producer group shall have at minimum three producer group members. Otherwise, a certificate suspension shall apply.

Also, during re-registration and before the next recertification audit, the producer group shall have at minimum three members. If not, the CB shall not accept this re-registration as an Option 2 producer group.

These new definitions shall apply for any new certification or recertification audit to IFA v6 Smart or IFA v6 GFS, after the publication of this Technical News issue.

### 3 PRIMARY FARM ASSURANCE VERSION 6 (NEW)

*Previously communicated on 23 September 2024*

Primary Farm Assurance (PFA, previously known as “localg.a.p.”) is a non-accredited verified capacity-building program specifically designed by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat for agricultural supply chains for developing economies and emerging markets. The PFA program can help producers to adopt good agricultural practices which improve the efficiency of farm management, to cut exposure to food safety risks, to comply with local legislation, and to access local and regional markets. The PFA program is also a key building block for producers who need GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certification to access demanding markets.

#### Normative documents

The PFA normative documents can be found [here](#). Currently the PFA v6 normative documents are available in English only. Spanish will follow soon.

#### Transition period from PFA v5 to PFA v6

PFA v6 (scheme ID: 357 – Entry Level, 358 – Intermediate Level, 359 – Advanced Level) was published on 11 September 2024 and will follow a six-month transition period from September 2024 to March 2025. PFA v6 is valid from 11 September 2024 and replaces PFA v5 from 1 March 2025. This means that assessments against PFA v5 can still be conducted until 28 February 2025, with resulting PFA letters of conformance (LoCs) valid for one year from their date of issue.

#### CB/VB approvals for PFA v6

CBs and verification bodies (VBs) already approved for PFA v5 shall contact the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat (CB\_admin@globalgap.org) to extend their approval to PFA v6. This requires the submission of a letter of intent (see letter of intent template in PFA v6 general rules, Annex V).

CB/VB assessors that want to assess against PFA shall successfully have passed IFA v6 in-house trainer (IHT) training for the plants scope or public Registered Trainer training for the product category of fruit and vegetables as offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat is developing a dedicated PFA v6 training. Further details will follow in due course.

If you have any technical questions about the new PFA program, please contact [standard\\_support@globalgap.org](mailto:standard_support@globalgap.org). If you have any CB/VB-related questions, please contact [CB\\_admin@globalgap.org](mailto:CB_admin@globalgap.org).

## 4 ADD-ON-RELATED UPDATES

### 4.1 GRASP add-on

#### 4.1.1 GRASP verification methodology for subcontractors

*Previously communicated on 21 August 2024*

We would like to inform you that the [GRASP verification methods for subcontractors](#) document is now available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center (currently in English only).

This guideline is intended for producers implementing the GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP) add-on version 2 and auditors conducting GRASP v2 assessments. It serves as a reference to ensure compliance with the P&Cs, as well as to help determine which subcontractors are covered under GRASP and to what extent. Please note that this guideline is valid from 1 August 2024. We hope you will find it useful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [standard\\_support@globalgap.org](mailto:standard_support@globalgap.org).

#### 4.1.2 GRASP v2 national interpretation guidelines (New)

We would like to inform you that the exception for not using the GRASP v2 NIGs has expired. The NIGs correctly submitted to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat are already available in the document center or will soon be uploaded to the document center. CBs are advised of the following instructions for conducting GRASP assessments:

In the following countries, CBs shall use the NIGs for GRASP v2 available in the document center:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Hungary, India, the Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye/Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In countries listed below, CBs can conduct assessments against GRASP v2 without further requirements until the NIGs are uploaded in the document center, as these GRASP v2 NIGs are still in public consultation. CBs shall use the new NIGs for the following countries as soon as they are published in the document center:

Argentina, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Croatia, Georgia, Kenya, Moldova, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Assessors 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."

#### 4.1.3 About GRASP v2 audit reports (New)

As previously communicated in TN 02/2024, CBs shall continue uploading CB audit report files for the GRASP add-on v2 to the GLOBALG.A.P. database and/or to Audit Online Hub (AOH). We would like to remind you that according to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, which also apply for the GRASP add-on v2, CBs shall upload after the GRASP assessment:

- GRASP QMS audit reports for Option 2 producer groups or for Option 1 multisite producers with QMS **and** the GRASP audit reports for every sampled producer group member/production site/product handling unit (PHU)



- GRASP CB audit reports for Option 1 single site producers or Option 1 multisite producers without QMS (including PHU, if applicable).

This includes all types of CB audits conducted against the GRASP add-on v2 (e.g., initial, surveillance, unannounced, and recertification audits).

As communicated in TN 02/2024, please consider that apart from the GRASP add-on v2, uploading audit reports is still mandatory for the RMS checklist for IFA v6, full remote audits for IFA, Tesco Nurture Module, Coop Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on, and GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS add-on.

## 4.2 SPRING add-on

### 4.2.1 SPRING add-on v2 national interpretation guideline (New)

We would like to inform you that the Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use add-on (SPRING) version 2 NIG template is now available in the GLOBALG.A.P. [document center](#) for those stakeholders who are interested in developing a NIG. Developing a NIG for SPRING v2 is not mandatory for local stakeholders, but after January 2025, once a NIG is developed and published, CBs shall follow it during SPRING v2 CB audits.

### 4.2.2 Parallel ownership in the SPRING add-on v2 still possible after 1 January 2025

*Previously communicated on 15 October 2024*

We would like to inform you that section 4.2.1 in TN 02/2024 (“Parallel ownership in the SPRING add-on to be phased out after 1 January 2025”) has since been changed.

After 1 January 2025, parallel ownership (PO) for individual products will **no longer** be allowed in the SPRING add-on v2 for Option 1 individual producers, but **it will be allowed for Option 2 producer groups**.

The following information remains the same: From 1 January 2025, Option 1 individual producers are not allowed to apply PO for SPRING, whether this is for their own production processes for the same single product or they buy the same product from a supplier that does not hold a SPRING LoC for that product.

The following information marks a change from the information published in previous Technical News issues: As of 1 January 2025 it will be possible for an Option 2 producer group to register for the SPRING add-on (e.g., for apples) and to apply PO to apples in this group. This means that not all producer group members producing apples under the IFA v6 (Smart/GFS) certificate need to be included in the SPRING add-on LoC. This producer group would also be allowed to buy apples from other suppliers that have IFA-certified production processes but not a SPRING LoC for apples. In the case of PO in the SPRING add-on, the traceability and segregation requirements shall apply, as described in the SPRING v2 P&Cs.

## 4.3 AH-DLL GROW add-on

### 4.3.1 New annex for AH-DLL GROW add-on (New)

The following updates have been made to the AH-DLL GROW v3.1 annex:

- Included new product: baby beet greens
- Changed “common bean” to “green bean” to align with the GLOBALG.A.P. product list
- Changed “brussel sprouts” to “brussels sprouts” to align with the GLOBALG.A.P. product list

## 4.4 TR4 add-on

### 4.4.1 TR4 add-on new version (New)

The TR4 Biosecurity add-on version 2 (scheme ID: 354) was published on 27 August 2024 and will replace the previous version on **27 February 2025**. The TR4 add-on v2 is combinable with IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS for fruits and vegetables under the plants scope as the base standard, and the normative documents are available in the [GLOBALG.A.P. document center](#).

Please inform your clients that upcoming TR4 add-on audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart/GFS will be done using the TR4 add-on v2 and that they shall use the new checklists for self-assessments.

#### 1. What is new in the TR4 add-on v2?

General regulations specifications:

- Compliance is now rated as a percentage (%) based on the achievement level demonstrated by the producer.
- All P&Cs have been changed to Major Must.
- A new overall 4-level rating has been developed for compliance with the TR4 Biosecurity add-on audit:
  - Fully compliant
  - Some improvements required
  - Not compliant, but some steps taken
  - Not compliant
- Auditor training contents have been changed accordingly.

Principles and criteria:

- The number of criteria was increased from 27 in v1 to 37 P&Cs in v2.
- The numbering format of P&Cs was changed from, e.g., TR4 - 1 to TR4 01.
- The wording was aligned with IFA v6 (CPCC to P&C).
- The wording in several criteria was clarified.

#### 2. TR4 add-on v2 auditor training

In addition to the CB auditor qualifications for the IFA v6 for plants scope, CB auditors need training in order to be able to conduct audits against the TR4 add-on.

##### CBs already approved for the TR4 add-on

All CBs currently approved for the TR4 add-on v1 will be automatically approved for the TR4 add-on v2.

All CB auditors already approved for the TR4 add-on v1 shall successfully pass the TR4 add-on v2 auditor online test *within one month* of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in their working language.

##### New CBs: CB auditor training requirements

CBs not yet approved for the TR4 add-on may apply by uploading a signed letter of intent in CB-AT. In order to be approved for the TR4 add-on, the CB shall have final approval for IFA v6. The annual CB scope extension fee applies.

The TR4 add-on CB auditors shall complete and pass the TR4 add-on v2 online test as offered by the applicable GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. This online test shall be taken within *three months*

of when it becomes available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

If the CB auditor fails the test twice, they are required to retake the test proctored.

## **4.5 GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS add-on**

### **4.5.1 Parallel ownership in the GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS add-on (New)**

We would like to inform you of changes in the GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS (PLUS) add-on general regulations specifications, in regard to PO as described in section 5.2.1.

After the publication of this Technical News issue, PO is allowed for Option 1 individual producers, meaning that they may produce the same product they register for the PLUS add-on partly as certified and partly as non-certified, as long as this is not at one production site and they ensure traceability and segregation. Production of certified and non-certified PLUS add-on products at the same production site is not allowed unless the two products have distinctive visible differences detectable by the average consumer (e.g., cherry tomatoes vs. Roma tomatoes).

Also, Option 1 individual producers may buy the same products they register for the PLUS add-on from non-certified sources. In this case, producers shall register for PO in the PLUS add-on scope, and traceability and segregations rules shall apply.

Option 2 producer groups or Option 1 multisite producers with QMS can also register for PO as long as they ensure traceability and segregation. The producer group or the multisite producer with QMS may buy the same products they register for the PLUS add-on from non-certified sources. Furthermore, they may register only some of their producer group members or production sites for the PLUS add-on. However, the producer group members or production sites that are included in the PLUS add-on scope shall register for the PLUS add-on all their production sites where the registered product is produced. Single sites or sub-producers shall not produce products using certified and non-certified processes.

We are working on updating the PLUS add-on general regulations specifications, and the new normative document will soon be available in the CB extranet.

## **5 GLOBALG.A.P. IT UPDATES**

### **5.1 Transition to the new GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems (New)**

As previously communicated, we are collaborating with osapiens to build a new platform to cover all the functions currently provided by the GLOBALG.A.P. database, AOH, and Validation Service. It will be used both as an audit operating system for CBs, with functions covering the registration process, audit process, and issuing certificates, as well as a portal for supply chain stakeholders, with functions such as bookmarking and sharing audit reports (depending on data access rights).

We expect the transition to the new GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems to be finished by mid-December 2024. All data for currently approved CB auditors will be linked to the new system, including the already uploaded qualification evidence and the roles and authorizations from CB-AT that are used in AOH. CB-AT will continue to function as is during Q1 of 2025 and will be phased out during 2025.

In the new GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, the CBs will no longer issue their own paper certificates based on the templates, as CB certificates will be generated in the new platform as soon as it is fully operational.

The CB Academy will continue to exist and will remain the platform for CBs to take exams and CB trainings offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

We will communicate more details about the transition to the new GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems soon!

## 5.2 Availability of CB audit reports when AOH is discontinued (New)

As mentioned above, our new IT strategic partnership will begin in 2025. After that point, it will no longer be possible to access logged CB audit reports once AOH is discontinued. After AOH is discontinued, no more modifications will be accepted for any audit report.

Since there is no link between the current IT system (AOH) and the new IT system (operated by osapiens Services GmbH), new audit reports will need to be created from scratch in the new IT system.

Once the new IT system is up and running, we will continue to offer the process of transferring audit data from one report to another, as long as the report has been generated through the new IT system.

## 6 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 – v5.21 (November 2024) and v6.0\_Nov24 (November 2024) – are available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website:

[GLOBALG.A.P. product list v5.21](#)

[GLOBALG.A.P. product list v6.0\\_Nov24](#)

Product name	Change/ Comment	Applicable version		Sub-scope/Product category ID numbers				
		v5	v6	FV	PPM*	CC*	FO	AQ
Cowpea	New	x	x	102460	102461			
Cowpea seed	New					102462		
Corn on the cob	New – <i>Zea mays</i> varieties	x	x	102463				
Carob	New – <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	x			102464			
Carob pod	New – <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	x	x	102465				

*\*Plant propagation materials (PPM) and combinable crops (CC) are not yet available under IFA v6*

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Sincerely,

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