Technical News for
Certification Bodies – Issue 01/2025

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 webadmin@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   Terminology update in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations to align with the new GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform (New)

In April 2025, we published updates to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center. This update removed terminology related to our previous GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems (e.g., GLOBALG.A.P. database, Audit Online Hub), and replaced it with terminology related to our new GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.

2.2   Operational and non-operational P&Cs for years 2 and 3 (New)

As described in "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for certification bodies," section 7, "Audit process," the CB audit content shall be organized in a three-year cycle. For the audits in years 2 and 3, checklists will be available for CBs in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.

In TN 2/2024 we announced that CBs have access to the list of operational and non-operational items (not the CB audit checklists for years 2 and 3) in the audit method and justification guidelines for the Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard version 6 Smart and GFS for fruit and vegetables and IFA v6 Smart for flowers and ornamentals, as well as for IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS for aquaculture. This list was also made available in the CB Extranet for IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS for quality management systems (QMS) and IFA v6 Smart for hops.

Due to the transition to our new GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform, we announce that the CB audit content organization in a three-year cycle is, until further notice, currently optional and **not** mandatory. CBs may choose to consider the guidance for the non-operational items when planning audits in years 2 and 3, or they may audit all principles and criteria (P&Cs) as operational.

In all cases, CBs shall still audit every P&C, and the overall **minimum** audit duration cannot be reduced.

2.3   Reminder about food safety certification in IFA v6 for aquaculture (New)

We would like to remind CBs of the requirements for postharvest units in IFA v6 for aquaculture. According to the IFA v6 Smart P&C, AQ-Smart 28.06.01 and IFA v6 GFS P&C, AQ-GFS 28.06.01, "For each postharvest unit, the producer has a food safety system in place at the time of the 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."

2.4   Correction for the postharvest product handling unit audit in IFA v6 for plants (New)

"GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for plants," section 2.3 f) shall be corrected as follows:

"If the product handling unit (PHU) already has a post-farm gate food safety certification recognized by GFSI for scope BIII 'Preprocess handling of plant products' (www.mygfsi.com), the GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB auditor shall audit, as a minimum, segregation and traceability, postharvest treatments, if applicable, and the sections listed below for Option 2 and Option 1, respectively. In cases of doubt, the CB can reaudit all other applicable P&Cs.

For Option 2:

In addition to the P&Cs on the "PHU-FV" tab of the IFA v6 Smart and the IFA v6 GFS QMS checklists, the CB auditor shall audit the following sections as a minimum:

FV 20 Worker's health, safety and welfare

FV 22 Biodiversity and habitats

FV 23 Energy efficiency

FV 27 Genetically modified organisms

FV 32 Plant protection products

All the P&Cs on the "QMS" tab of the IFA v6 Smart and the IFA v6 GFS QMS checklists shall still be audited (including section QMS 06, "Product traceability and segregation," which is implemented for the QMS and for the central PHU), regardless of any GFSI-recognized post-farm gate food safety certification of the PHU.

For Option 1:

The P&Cs of the IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables CB audit checklist that the CB auditor shall audit, as a minimum, are the following:

FV 06 Traceability

FV 07 Parallel ownership, traceability, and segregation

FV 08 Mass balance

FV 18 GLOBALG.A.P. status

FV 20 Worker`s health, safety and welfare

FV 22 Biodiversity and habitats

FV 23 Energy efficiency

FV 27 Genetically modified organisms

FV 24 Greenhouse gases and climate change

FV 32 Plant protection products"

Please keep in mind that scope BII "Farming of grains and pulses" is not included in "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for plants" anymore.

In the aquaculture scope, all PHUs and all the P&Cs applicable to PHUs shall be audited. In the IFA v6 Smart standard for flowers and ornamentals, sampling of the central PHUs is possible as described in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, and all the P&Cs applicable to central PHUs shall be audited.

2.5 About the reference to the food safety policy declaration in IFA v6 (New)

AQ 15.01 and FV 14.01 in IFA v6 for aquaculture and fruit and vegetables, respectively, make reference to the completion and signing of the food safety policy declaration.

Please note that the food safety policy declaration was updated and the new version published in November 2024. This document can be downloaded from the GLOBALG.A.P. document center in English and other major languages. It is a policy declaration that addresses elements of a food safety management system and underpins the requirements in the respective P&Cs in IFA v6.

The use of this document as a template is strongly recommended. If this is not feasible, the use of a document similar in terms of content and structure can be used.

2.6 About the reference to laboratory testing in IFA v6 (New)

In IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables, FV 12.01 makes reference to laboratory testing that shall occur in a manner consistent with the industry requirements. Please note that this P&C relates to the analysis of only the parameters impacting food safety. Where the analysis of samples may relate to parameters other than food safety (e.g., soil analysis for soil fertility programs), the requirement in FV 12.01 does not apply.

This P&C remains valid for the analysis of samples conducted by a laboratory for physical, chemical, and microbiological contamination related to the food safety of the product. This could include e.g., water, soil, product, and environmental monitoring samples.

2.7 Origin of products grown in Western Sahara (New)

Our attention was recently brought to GLOBALG.A.P. certifications in Western Sahara. We would like to share the results of our evaluation related to identifying the origin of products grown in the area.

According to Article 73 of the United Nations Charter, Western Sahara remains classified as a "non-self-governing territory," and recent European Court of Justice (ECJ) rulings have confirmed that trade agreements between the European Union and Morocco do not extend to Western Sahara without the explicit consent of the Sahrawi people.

The ECJ has also ruled that products originating from Western Sahara must be explicitly labeled as such and must not be presented as Moroccan products.

2.8 GLOBALG.A.P. solutions to cover all three FSI "Basket of Standards" scopes (New)

In the floriculture sector, the Floriculture Sustainability Initiative (FSI) plays a key role in some supply chains.

Producers in the Global North are required by FSI to be certified to:

a) A standard for good agricultural practices (G.A.P.), e.g., IFA v6 Smart for flowers and ornamentals

AND

b) An environmental registration solution, like the IDA add-on for plants v1.1.

Producers in the Global South are additionally required to be certified to a social standard.

This year in Q3, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will launch the new Social Responsibility standard for flowers and ornamentals to meet the requirements of the FSI "Basket of Standards."

For more information, see GLOBALG.A.P. solutions soon to cover all three FSI "Basket of Standards" scopes.

2.9 For RMS operators (New)

As part of our ongoing commitment to quality and compliance, we want to provide some friendly guidance on sample size requirements for residue monitoring. We kindly ask CBs to address this topic with all relevant parties. Our IFA v6 standard (Smart and GFS editions) requires verification of the maximum residue limits (MRLs). The producer (group) can take its own MRL samples or make use of an approved residue monitoring system (RMS). Furthermore, collecting MRL samples shall follow best practices and legal requirements. On a global level, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has published the guideline CAC/GL 33, "Recommended methods of sampling for the determination of pesticide residues for compliance with MRLs." In the European Union, this guideline is implemented in the EU Commission Directive 2002/63/EC, establishing sampling methods for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin within the European Union.

Why is this important?

Lately, we have had to reject a large number of MRL results due to insufficient sample weight. This causes frustration and additional costs for producers, traders, and RMS operators. In order to prevent these additional costs and resulting frustration, we want to remind all parties about the sampling regulations stipulated by the FAO and the European Union.

Accurate sampling ensures that our residue monitoring is both reliable and consistent. By adhering to the specified sample sizes, we can confidently assess pesticide residue levels, ensuring they meet safety standards and maintain consumer trust.

Key points to remember:

1. **Sample weight:** For most crops, the **aggregate sample** should weigh at least **1 kilogram**.

   Please familiarize yourself with Table 4 of EU Commission Directive 2002/63/EC.

   You can find it in English, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch, French, and other European languages.

   This aggregate sample is composed of several **primary samples** taken from different points within a lot to provide a representative assessment.

2. **Documentation:** To maintain transparency and accuracy:

   o **Clearly state the total weight of the aggregate sample** in your lab results.

   o Alternatively, **include a photograph** of the sample.

A practical example:

Imagine you're sampling apples:

- **Primary samples:** You might collect 10 apples from various parts of a shipment.

- **Aggregate sample:** These apples together form your aggregate sample. If each apple weighs approximately 150 grams, your total sample would be 1.5 kilograms, meeting the requirement.

By following these steps, we ensure that our sampling methods align with the directive's guidelines, leading to more robust and trustworthy results.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out.

3 PRIMARY SOLUTIONS UPDATES

3.1 Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability module version 1.1

Previously communicated on 19 December 2024

The Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability (IDA) module (previously known as the "localg.a.p. IDA module") assists flower and ornamental producers with the digital registration and analysis of their input consumption data and other farm metrics. It is a standalone standard for producers whose production processes have not been certified to any other GLOBALG.A.P. solution.

Normative documents

Please find the IDA module v1.1 normative documents here. Currently, the IDA module v1.1 normative documents are available in English, Spanish, German, and Dutch. Hebrew will follow soon.

What is new in the IDA module v1.1

The goal and main focus of this update is the simplification of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations specifications for the IDA module and alignment with the IDA add-on v1.1 and the IFA v6 Smart standard for flowers and ornamentals. The solution functions with the new API for IDA for plants, which links the farm management software and the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform, and which was deployed in Q3 of 2024. This API includes the registration of precipitation events and differentiates between the whole farm and the production sites (fields and greenhouses). All changes to the IDA module v1.0 that were communicated in previous technical news issues have been implemented in the P&Cs and the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations specifications for the IDA module v1.1.

Transition period from the IDA module v1.0 to the IDA module v1.1

The IDA module v1.1 was published on 16 December 2024 and will follow a four-month transition period, from December 2024 to April 2025. The IDA module v1.1 is valid from 16 December 2024 and replaces the IDA module v1.0 from 1 April 2025. This means that assessments against the IDA module v1.0 can still be conducted until 31 March 2025, with resulting IDA module letters of conformance valid for one year from their date of issue.

Approval of CBs for the IDA module v1.1

CBs already approved for the IDA module v1.0 will receive an invitation from the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat soon to extend their approval to the IDA module v1.1. This requires the in-house trainer (IHT) to participate in a self-paced course which will highlight the differences between the IDA add-on v1.1 and the IDA module v1.1. The course will also be available for all IDA CB auditors to complete voluntarily. The information on this course will be embedded in future IDA trainings, and future IDA IHTs will be required to attend only one training for both IDA solutions.

For any technical questions about IDA, please contact standard_support@globalgap.org.

For any CB related questions, please contact CB_admin@globalgap.org.

3.2 Reminder and correction – Primary Farm Assurance version 6

As communicated in TN 3/2024, Primary Farm Assurance (PFA) version 6 (scheme IDs: 357 – Entry Level, 358 – Intermediate Level, 359 – Advanced Level) was published on 11 September 2024, and the six-month transition period expired on 1 March 2025. PFA v6 replaced PFA v5 as of 1 March 2025. This means that assessments against PFA v5 are no longer possible.

Also, in the PFA v6 general rules, section 9.3.2, "Subsequent CB/VB assessments," point b) shall be corrected as follows:

"For Option 1 multisite producers with QMS/Option 2 producer groups **that change CB/VB**, the sample size shall not be reduced by the number of members/sites assessed during the last surveillance CB/VB assessment."

4 ADD-ON-RELATED UPDATES

4.1 GRASP add-on

4.1.1 GRASP v2 national interpretation guidelines (New)

We would like to remind you that the exception for not using the GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP) add-on version 2 national interpretation guidelines (NIGs) has expired. The NIGs correctly submitted to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat are already available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

CBs can conduct assessments against GRASP v2 using the country-specific GRASP v2 NIGs that are already available in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

Assessors conducting GRASP v2 assessments in countries without a GRASP v2 NIG in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center shall use the process described in the GRASP v2 general rules, section 5.3, "Special registration of assessors in countries without a NIG."

If a CB conducts a GRASP assessment in a country without an NIG and does not implement section 5.3, the CB will be sanctioned as described in "GLOBALG.A.P. certification body sanction catalog": "The conducted GRASP CB audit is invalid. The CB without official approval for the add-on is fined €500; only a CB auditor who is approved to conduct CB audits in the country without an NIG for the CB is allowed to repeat the GRASP CB audit."

4.1.2 About comments in GRASP v2 audit reports (New)

After a year of implementation of GRASP v2 we noticed that quite often CB auditors do not add comments in all P&Cs they assess during the GRASP assessment. Furthermore, sometimes comments are not site-specific, but are very general, or even copied among all the assessed producers.

We would like to remind all CBs of the requirement to include comments for every P&C they assess during the GRASP v2 assessment. These comments must be site-specific, as described in the GRASP v2 general rules, section 6.2 g): "Due to the social nature of GRASP, **remarks and comments shall be given in all cases (Yes/No) for every P&C assessed in all external assessments**. Remarks and comments (e.g., which document was/which documents were sampled) shall be **site-specific** and included in the checklist, showing that all the P&Cs have been properly assessed. Responsibility for a lack of included remarks rests with the CB."

4.2 Tesco Nurture Module add-on

4.2.1 Announcement of the new Tesco Nurture Module add-on version 13

Previously communicated on 4 March 2025

Nurture Module v13 was published on 28 February 2025 and will replace v12 as of 1 June 2025 for IFA v6 Smart and for IFA v6 GFS combined audits.

Nurture Module v13 is combinable with IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables under the 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 Nurture Module audits in combination with IFA v6 Smart or IFA v6 GFS will be done using Nurture Module v13 and that they shall use the new checklists for self-assessments.

2. What is new in Nurture Module v13?

- The goal and main focus of this update is to improve the approval and maintenance requirements of the Nurture Module.

- The P&Cs for Option 1 and Option 2 remain the same as in Nurture Module v12.

3. About Nurture Module v13 CB auditor and IHT training

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

- **CBs and CB IHTs previously approved for Nurture Module v12**

  All CBs currently approved for Nurture Module v12 will be automatically approved for Nurture Module v13. All already approved Nurture Module v12 IHTs shall register and complete the Nurture Module v13 IHT update training (live online session).

- **CB auditors previously approved for Nurture Module v12**

  All CB auditors currently approved for Nurture Module v12 shall be trained by the IHT on Nurture Module v13.

- **New CBs: IHT and CB auditor training requirements**

  CBs not yet approved for the Nurture Module can send their request to customer_support@globalgap.org. The conditions for being approved by Tesco are available on the Nurture Module webpage on the GLOBALG.A.P. website. The annual CB scope extension fee applies.

  The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will evaluate your application, but the final decision on approval is made by Tesco.

  The CB IHT shall attend the Nurture Module v13 IHT training (full training) offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and successfully pass the IHT test for Nurture Module v13. The IHT shall train the relevant CB auditors on this add-on. These CB auditors then have to complete and pass the Nurture Module v13 online test as offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy. 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.

  If a CB auditor fails the test twice, they shall retake the test in a proctored setting. If they fail the test a third time, the CB auditor shall attend a Nurture Module v13 IHT training and pass the respective test.

4.3 FSMA PSR add-on

4.3.1 Launch of FSMA PSR add-on v2.1

Previously communicated on 7 February 2025

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) add-on version 2.1 was published on 7 January 2025 and will replace the FSMA PSR add-on v2.0 as of *7 April 2025.*

The FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 can be combined with IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS for fruit and vegetables as the base standard. The FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 normative documents are available in the [GLOBALG.A.P. document center](#) in English and Spanish.

What actions must be taken?

1. Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming FSMA PSR add-on audits that are conducted together with IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS for fruit and vegetables audits shall be conducted using the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 and that the new checklist and forms for self-assessments shall be used.

2. About FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 CB auditor and IHT training

In addition to the IFA for plants CB auditor qualifications, CB auditors require training in order to be able to conduct audits against the FSMA PSR add-on.

- **CBs and CB IHTs previously approved for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.0**

  All CBs currently approved for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.0 will be automatically approved for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1. CBs shall send their FSMA PSR add-on IHTs to the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 IHT update training offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, and the IHTs shall successfully complete and pass the online test for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1. This online test shall be conducted *within one month* of it becoming available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the IHT. IHTs can search for all available CB trainings in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy by registering with their credentials.

  Failure to attend the IHT update training for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 will result in the CB being blocked in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform and they will not be able to conduct audits against the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1.

- **CB auditors previously approved for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.0**

  All CB auditors currently approved for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.0 shall be trained by the IHT and successfully pass the online test for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1. This online test shall be conducted *within one month* of it becoming available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

- **New CBs: IHT and CB auditor training requirements**

  The CB's IHTs shall attend the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 IHT training offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and successfully pass the online test for the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1. This online test shall be conducted *within three months* of it becoming available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor. The IHT shall train the relevant CB auditors on this add-on. These CB auditors shall then complete and pass the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 online test as offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy. This online test shall be conducted *within three months* of it becoming available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

  If a CB auditor fails the test twice, they shall retake the test in a proctored setting. If they fail the test a third time, the CB auditor shall attend a FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 IHT training and pass the respective test.

  For new CBs:

  CBs not yet approved for the FSMA PSR add-on may apply by uploading a signed letter of intent to CB-AT. A precondition for approval is that the CB shall have final approval for IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables and submit evidence of Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training for at least one person who has completed the 16-hour PSA training for trainers

(IHT for the FSMA PSR add-on) or two persons who have completed the 8-hour PSA grower training (at least one shall be the IHT for the FSMA PSR add-on). These persons shall also have the farm auditor qualifications for IFA v6 GFS for fruit and vegetables and at least one of these persons (or at least one person on the decision-making committee) shall have the CB QMS auditor qualifications required to make certification decisions. The annual CB scope extension fee applies.

3. What is new in the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1?

Version 2.1 of the FSMA PSR add-on includes updates to the preharvest agricultural water section to align with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) publication "FSMA final rule on preharvest agricultural water." Additional updates include correction of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations specifications for the FSMA PSR add-on, updated terminology in the P&Cs, and alignment of the guidelines with the new agricultural water rule.

Changes to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations specifications for the FSMA PSR add-on:

- Inclusion of the FSMA PSR add-on v2.1 IHT PSA training requirements, as required and reinforced in previous issues of technical news

Changes to the P&Cs and checklist:

- Section 5 – includes updated records requirements
- Section 6 – removed preharvest water testing
- Section 6 – added preharvest agricultural water risk assessment and corrective action requirements
- All P&Cs were updated to Major Musts.

Changes to the guideline:

- New definitions for agricultural water, agricultural water risk assessment, and agricultural water system
- Added FDA's agricultural water risk assessment table
- Added FDA's outcomes and mitigation procedures table

4.4 AH-DLL GROW add-on

4.4.1 New annex for the AH-DLL GROW add-on v3.1 (New)

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

A new product was added: Romanesco broccoli.

4.5 GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS add-on

4.5.1 Clarification of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations specifications for the GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS add-on version 2.1, section 6.2 (New)

We would like to clarify the description of the audit duration that appears in section 6.2 of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations specifications for the GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS (PLUS) add-on version 2.1.

It currently reads: "The duration of the CB audit against the add-on depends on the size of the farm and the complexity of the production activities and will be in the range of approximately three to eight hours."

This means that the above-mentioned audit duration (three to eight hours) refers to the total duration of the combined IFA audit with the PLUS add-on audit.

5   PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (NEW)

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

The GLOBALG.A.P. product list v6.0_Nov24 and the GLOBALG.A.P. product list v5.21 have been combined into one GLOBALG.A.P. product list. Products that are only available under IFA v5 (or older versions of standards) are clearly indicated.

The latest version of the GLOBALG.A.P. product list (April 2025) is available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website: GLOBALG.A.P. product list (April 2025).

Gherkin (scientific name *Cucumis sativus*) is to be certified under the product name "cucumber" (ID 37). The product name "gherkin," will be changed to "West Indian gherkin" (scientific name *Cucumis anguria*) and will keep ID 133 (for the fruit and vegetables sub-scope/product category) and ID 609 (for the plant propagation material sub-scope/product category). Products that are already registered or audited before the release date of this technical communication do not have to change to the new allocation of gherkin. However, any registrations done after the release date of this technical communication must follow the new allocation of this product.

The product name "tea (plants in pots)," will be changed to "tea (fresh)" (scientific name *Camellia sinensis*) and will keep ID 100144 (for the fruit and vegetables sub-scope/product category).

Clarification has been given on the differences between radicchio, sugar loaf, and witloof (notes added at the end of Table 1, "GLOBALG.A.P. product list for plants"). The scientific names of radicchio and sugar loaf were updated.

A correction has been made in the PDF version of the GLOBALG.A.P. product list: lupin (ID 305) was moved to the combinable crops sub-scope/product category.

In Table 2, "GLOBALG.A.P. product list for aquaculture," the product category of "finfish" was changed to "fish."

The scientific name *Rubus allegheniensis* was added to blackberry (ID 14).

The scientific name for Pacific cupped oyster (ID 380) was changed to *Magallana gigas.*

6   OTHER TOPICS

6.1   Change in the Integrity Program team reporting structure (New)

The reporting structure of the Integrity Program team has changed. Brian Windsor has been appointed as Team Leader External Systems Monitoring, overseeing the Integrity Program team and the CB Quality team. For any questions related to this change, please contact customer_support@globalgap.org.

6.2   Technical difficulties with certification cycles – your support needed (New)

Since 25 February, we have been experiencing technical difficulties with our database related to the expiration of certification cycles that have resulted in "damaged cycles." Damaged cycles occur when the system does not recognize that the certification cycle or certificate has expired (e.g., the product status is displayed as "certified" even though the certificate or extension has expired).

Our team is actively working to resolve this issue and return the system to normal functionality as quickly as possible. Because we have to manually adjust each product cycle, additional time to respond and implement the necessary corrections is required.

To avoid further damaged cycles, we have decided to **disable the possibility of reacceptance**.

- **What this means for CBs:** For all currently active cycles that you wish to recertify/reaccept we kindly ask you to wait until the cycle has expired. You can then reaccept the respective products the next day. **Reminder**: Reacceptance means that the date of acceptance shall be in the previous cycle.

To help prevent damaged cycles for producers, we kindly request your support with the following:

- **GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN) transfers:** If you need to transfer a GGN to another CB, please ensure that the certification cycle remains valid and does not expire. To facilitate this, kindly contact us in advance so we can proceed with deacceptance and trustee changes.

- **Recertification requests:** If a producer's certificate has expired and you are unable to recertify them, please submit the certificate draft along with the audit date GGN. These requests should be submitted on a case-by-case basis for better traceability.

No KPI will be recorded at this time for late database uploads of documents or certificates.

Finally, we would like to remind you to keep all documentation proving that the certification decision was taken in accordance with the deadlines set out in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations. This is necessary for you to be able to demonstrate compliance in the event of an audit by the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program or your accreditation body.

Important: We kindly ask you to refrain from sending the same e-mail twice to avoid double work which inevitably results in a slower response.

We understand the critical importance of certifications for producers and are fully committed to finding a solution. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and cooperation.

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Sincerely,
GLOBALG.A.P. Research and Development team