

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 Advisory Committee, to the technical working groups and focus groups, to Registered Trainers, to the hosts of the national technical working groups, to the accreditation bodies (ABs) 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](mailto: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 Integrated Farm Assurance version 6 Smart for plant propagation material and combinable crops published

*Previously communicated on 8 July 2025.*

The normative documents for Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) version 6 for the plant propagation material (PPM) and combinable crops (CC) product categories were published on 8 July 2025 on the GLOBALG.A.P. website and will become valid (i.e., it will be possible to audit and certify against this new version) from **1 December 2025**. PPM and CC are only available in IFA v6 Smart. The normative documents are available in the [GLOBALG.A.P. document center](#) in English. Spanish translations are forthcoming. The new IFA v6 PPM and CC standards shall only be combined with the add-on versions that are linked to IFA v6.

There will be a transition period until **30 April 2026** during which audits against IFA v5.2 PPM and CC can still be conducted. However, individual producers and producer groups seeking certification against IFA PPM and/or CC with audits planned after 1 December 2025 are advised to register **only** for IFA v6 Smart.

IFA v6 PPM and CC will replace IFA v5.2 PPM and CC from **1 May 2026**. After this date, it will **no longer be possible** to audit against IFA v5.2 PPM and CC. All IFA v5.2 PPM and CC certificates issued during the transition period will remain valid up to 30 April 2027 (including any extensions taking place).

Where the purpose of the audit/inspection is the extension or maintenance of valid existing IFA v5.2 PPM and CC certificates, further audits/inspections against this version will be allowed after 1 May 2026 only in the following situations:

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

In all the above cases, the certificate cannot have a valid to date later than 30 April 2027. It is not possible to extend the validity of IFA v5.2 PPM and CC certificates later than 30 April 2027.

## Notify your clients

Please inform your clients that upcoming IFA PPM and CC audits after 1 May 2026 shall be against IFA v6 Smart. Please also inform them that they can already start using this new version from 1 December 2025 for their internal audits/self-assessments or for their CB audits.

## CB approval and accreditation for IFA v6 Smart

There will be no new extension of the current license and certification agreement v5, as IFA v6 Smart for plants already covers PPM and CC.

CBs do not need additional accreditation for IFA v6 PPM and/or CC, as IFA v6 Smart accreditation is at **scope level**, here for the plants scope.

CBs shall be accredited for the IFA v6 Smart plants scope at the time they start CB audits against IFA v6 PPM and/or CC.

However, some ABs may ask you to submit evidence about how the changes related to the new IFA v6 PPM and CC standards are addressed.

- CBs and in-house trainers (IHTs) already approved for IFA v6 Smart for plants  
All CBs currently approved for IFA v6 Smart for plants, shall send their IHTs for IFA v6 for plants to the additional IFA v6 for plants IHT training offered by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, and the IHTs shall successfully complete and pass the additional IHT test for PPM and CC.  
This additional IHT training and passing the additional IHT test shall take place *before the replacement date, that is, 1 May 2026*.  
These additional IHT trainings for IFA v6 for plants, will become available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy by the end of 2025. IHTs can search for all available CB trainings in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy by registering with their credentials.
- CB auditors already approved for IFA v6 Smart for plants  
All CB auditors currently approved for IFA v6 Smart for plants, shall be trained by the IHT internally in their CB and successfully complete and pass the additional online test for IFA v6 for plants focusing on the PPM and CC product categories. This online test shall be conducted *within one month* of its becoming available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy in the working language of the CB auditor.

**Failure to attend the additional IHT training for the IFA v6 Smart plants scope PPM/CC will result in the CB being blocked in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform and not being able to conduct audits against IFA v6 PPM and CC.**

- New CBs: IHT and CB auditor training requirements  
CBs and CB auditors that are approved for IFA v5.2 PPM and/or CC but who are **not** approved for IFA v6 Smart for plants shall follow the CB approval process and the CB auditor sign-off process as described in version 6 of “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for certification bodies.”

## What is new in IFA v6 PPM and CC?

### Plant propagation material version 6

IFA v6 PPM is now in general alignment with other product categories of the IFA v6 Smart standard in terms of updated environmental topics and metrics and workers' health and safety. The PPM product category has been delinked from food safety, which means there are no principles and criteria (P&Cs) to ensure food safety. As a consequence, products originating from production processes that are certified to IFA v6 PPM cannot claim food safety, and where this was the intention, IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables (FV) should be used together with IFA v6 PPM.

In addition to good agricultural practices which address environmental protection and workers' health and safety, the PPM product category specifically focuses on the traceability of the propagation material and the plant health of the propagation material obtained.

Most P&Cs in IFA v6 PPM are shared with IFA v6 Smart FV and IFA v6 for flowers and ornamentals (FO). IFA v6 PPM has 33 propagation-specific topics not contained in IFA v6 Smart FV and 26 propagation-specific topics not contained in IFA v6 FO.

Similar to IFA v6 Smart FV and IFA v6 FO, IFA v6 PPM sees a reduction in the number of P&Cs originating mainly from merging P&Cs and from deletions.

A new P&C is introduced and opens the P&C document, requiring producer awareness of the risks (not necessarily a documented risk assessment) and critical production steps for controlling the traceability, origin, and plant health of the propagation material.

Overall, the specific propagation P&Cs were updated and adjusted based on input from stakeholders, e.g., the IFA PPM certificate holders.

### **Combinable crops version 6**

IFA v6 CC is now in general alignment with other product categories of the IFA v6 Smart standard and mostly with IFA v6 Smart FV. Topics such as environmental responsibility and workers' health and safety have been brought in line, as well as other elements such as food safety, production processes, traceability, etc.

P&Cs specific to the postharvest handling and long-term storage of combinable crops have also been addressed in this new version.

## **2.2 Update to “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for plants scope” (New)**

We would like to make you aware of an amendment in “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for plants scope” regarding the audit timing of initial audits. For combinable crops, the initial CB audit may take place either during harvest or as close as possible to the harvest, even after it, but only if the product is still on the farm where there is storage on farm.

The respective section 3.1.1 a) of “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for plants scope” is adapted to:

*“The initial CB audit shall cover harvesting activities of each product to be included for certification, as well as product handling, if included. Other field work can be audited at a different time where feasible, but this is not obligatory. For combinable crops, the audit may take place either during harvest or as close as possible to the harvest, even after it, but only if the product is still on the farm where there is storage on farm.”*

## **2.3 Clarification for “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for parallel ownership” (New)**

According to version 6 of “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for parallel ownership,” having IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS certification at the same time is not considered parallel ownership.

However, we would like to clarify that whenever the GLOBALG.A.P. identification number is used for products originating from production processes certified to IFA v6 GFS the **GFS extension shall be used** (e.g., GGN\_1234567890123\_GFS).

## **2.4 Clarification for “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for certification bodies” (New)**

In “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for certification bodies,” sections 12.3.3 a) and 13.3.3 a), there is reference to the use of a translator: “This shall include the locally used specialist terminology in the respective working language or **the use of a translator.**”

Here the reference is to competent translators, not auditors.

Any other case, e.g., the use of local auditors (not necessarily approved for the audited standard/add-on) to facilitate the communication during the audit shall be handled as an exception according to “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for certification bodies,” sections 12.3.3 b) and 13.3.3 b), and CBs shall contact the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat before the audit.

## 2.5 Water analysis in IFA v6 FV (New)

After feedback we received from our stakeholders, we would like to issue clarifications on FV-Smart 30.01.01 and FV-GFS 30.01.01 about the need and frequency for water analysis.

This analysis, taking into account physical, chemical, and microbiological contamination, shall be based on a risk assessment as described in the respective P&Cs.

The required frequency for water analysis is at least once per year for preharvest water **that comes into contact with the edible part of the registered product.**

This means that, based on a documented risk assessment, it could be acceptable to omit water analysis for microbiological parameters, for e.g., potato under drip irrigation that is peeled and always cooked prior to consumption. This being said, depending on, e.g., the water source, other parameters such as heavy metals or other contaminants, might still be relevant.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat does not specify thresholds for microbiological/physical/chemical parameters for preharvest water. However, water that makes contact with the edible part of the product **during harvest and postharvest**, shall be analyzed and shall meet microbial standards equivalent to drinking water.

## 2.6 Producer group definition (New)

As communicated in TN 3/2024, a producer group is a “group of three or more producers (see definition of producer) that apply for GLOBALG.A.P. certification organized under a 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.”

We would like to clarify here that this definition applies for **all** GLOBALG.A.P. solutions, meaning the add-ons as well.

# 3 GLOBALG.A.P. CHAIN OF CUSTODY

## 3.1 CoC scope clarification (New)

GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) general regulations, section 4.4.1 c)

For fruits and vegetables and for combinable crops, the CoC certification scope may include products that undergo processing methods **such as** cutting, slicing, dicing, freezing, and/or quick freezing (IQF), deshelling and drying so long as the original product remains visibly recognizable.

We would like to clarify that the activities listed in the CoC general regulations are examples, not an exhaustive list. Other processes, such as hulling nuts, drying, or removing pomegranate arils, are also included within the CoC scope, provided the original product remains **visibly recognizable.**

### 3.2 About CoC auditor qualifications (New)

We offer here a summary of activities, along with the corresponding auditor qualification requirements, to provide greater clarity to all parties involved in CoC certification:

Activities of unit of certification of aquaculture products	Postharvest activities, including transport from grow-out up to slaughter steps (P&Cs under section CoC-SC 6 applicable)	Postharvest activities, after slaughter steps (P&Cs under section CoC-SC 6 <b>not</b> applicable)	Postharvest activities, after slaughter steps (P&Cs under section CoC-SC 6 <b>not</b> applicable)
Standard	CoC	CoC	CoC through IFS
Auditor qualifications	a) CoC auditor qualifications, independent of scope b) IFA aquaculture auditor qualifications	a) CoC auditor qualifications, independent of scope	a) CoC auditor qualifications, IFS approved

## 4 ADD-ON-RELATED UPDATES

### 4.1 AH-DLL GROW add-on

#### 4.1.1 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:

Two new products have been added: parsley root and witloof.

The risk classification for both of these products is as follows:

- Modules 1, 3, 4, and 5: Not applicable; there is no need to complete these modules.
- Module 2: Applicable; module 2 shall be completed.

## 5 PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (NEW)

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

- Grooved carpet shell (*Ruditapes decussatus*) (ID 102466) has been added to the aquaculture scope under molluscs.
- Katuk (*Phyllanthus androgynus*) has been added to the product categories FV and PPM - ID 102467 (for FV) and ID 102468 (for PPM).
- The list of species covered under wormwood (herb) - ID 916 (for FV) and ID 978 (for PPM) - have been deleted and are now listed as *Artemisia* spp.

## 6 GLOBALG.A.P. FEE TABLE (NEW)

There is an error in both the GLOBALG.A.P. fee table and the GLOBALG.A.P. North America fee table. Sections 1.6.2 and 1.7.2, respectively, refer to the Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) certificate license fee of USD 125/EUR 125 that is applicable for each site. This is incorrect; the fee applies per certified company.



This means that a multisite operation obtaining a PHA certificate would be charged the certificate fee of USD 125/EUR 125 only once, plus the registration fee of USD 75/EUR 75 for each site in the scope of the certificate.

## 7 OTHER TOPICS

### 7.1 GLOBALG.A.P. certificates to producer group members (New)

As described in “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations - Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS,” section 9.1, 7.2.e):

“The CB may additionally issue GLOBALG.A.P. certificates to producer group members if those members were audited as part of the sample. Such certificates shall be **clearly distinguishable** from certificates that are issued to individually certified producers (Option 1) and shall state explicitly that the recipient is part of a certified producer group. Any limitations to the scope of certification shall be transparent to customers.”

We would like to remind CBs that the above-mentioned documents must be developed by the CBs and are not generated by the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.

### 7.2 Registration of branches (New)

If a CB needs to register a new branch that shall appear on the GLOBALG.A.P. website, please provide the following information about the branch to [cb\\_admin@globalgap.org](mailto:cb_admin@globalgap.org):

- Name of the branch
- Full address
- Main contact
- Phone number
- Website (optional)

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Sincerely,  
GLOBALG.A.P.