



Dear 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@agrava.com.

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 IFA v6.0-1 FV guideline (New)

We would like to inform you that we have updated the Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) guideline for fruit and vegetables (FV) from v6.0 to v6.0-1.

With this change we are also introducing two new annexes:

Annex I – Mitigating microbial risks during production and handling

Annex II – Product identification, traceability, and recall

These guidelines are documents for consideration to support producers in implementing both IFA v6 Smart FV and IFA v6 GFS FV standards.

The new guidelines were published in the document center on the GLOBALG.A.P. website on 2 April 2026.

2.2 Newly published IFA v6 GFS FV national implementation guideline for Colombia (New)

We are pleased to inform you that the IFA v6 GFS FV national implementation guideline (NIG) for Colombia has been published in the document center.

If you have any questions regarding this NIG, please contact us at: standard_support@agrava.com.

2.3 Emergency procedure for CBs operating in Israel, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Iran, and Ukraine now extended for audits in Middle East countries (New)

Due to the wars in Ukraine, Israel, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories, Agraya had made it possible to activate the emergency procedure for certificate validity extension for a maximum period of six months.

In addition, CBs that are not able to conduct on-site 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 still allowed to conduct audits remotely following the GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote v6 audit procedure (for IFA v6 Smart audits).

Due to the recent wars in the Middle East we extend this procedure for countries in that area and in particular for Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Abu Dhabi, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote procedure is valid for these areas until further notification.

In all cases CBs shall contact Agraya (standard_support@agraya.com) to get approval for a remote audit.

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

Agraya will continue to communicate updates on this topic and remains available to respond to questions or concerns.

3 ADD-ONS

3.1 SPRING add-on

3.1.1 Parallel ownership in the SPRING add-on v2 (New)

We would like to inform you that after a long consultation period with stakeholders, it was decided to allow parallel ownership (PO) for Option 1 individual producers in SPRING v2 and revoke any relevant communication sent out in previous technical news issues about this topic.

After the release of the last technical news issue (TN 3/2025), *we allow PO as described below*, including for Option 1 individual producers.

The SPRING add-on v2.0 general regulations specifications, section 5.2.1, is amended for PO in the case of Option 1 individual producers (single site and multisite, with and without QMS) as follows:

<p>Additional requirements regarding the registration process</p>	<p>PO is allowed for Option 1 individual producers (single site and multisite, with and without QMS) <i>when producers buy the same products originating from producers with IFA-certified production processes without holding a SPRING add-on letter of conformance for these production processes.</i></p> <p>But it is <i>not allowed</i> for Option 1 individual producers to produce in parallel one type of product partially registered for the SPRING add-on and partially not registered for this add-on.</p> <p>PO is allowed in the case of Option 2 producer groups – but only with regard to producer group members, not products.</p>
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Accordingly, SPRING v2 P&C 5.1.1 is amended to:

<p>5.1.1</p>	<p>An effective system is in place to identify all products grown by producer group members/producers registered for the SPRING add-on and segregate them from products grown by other producers.</p>	<p>Producer groups/producers shall have a system in place to ensure that products from producer group members/producers registered for the SPRING add-on are segregated from products originating from other producers.</p> <p>An annual mass balance calculation for products from producer group members/producers registered for the SPRING add-on shall be available for each product.</p> <p>Communication with clients about producer group members registered and not registered for the SPRING add-on shall be available.</p> <p><i>In the case of Option 1, producers shall inform their direct clients if they buy products originating from IFA-certified procedures without a SPRING add-on letter of conformance.</i></p> <p>In the case of producer groups, products shall be identified with each producer group member's GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN). <i>Using the producer group's GGN is not enough for traceability in this case.</i> Random controls of pallets dispatched during the last 12 months shall show that only products from producer group members registered for the SPRING add-on were delivered to clients demanding it. The quality management system (QMS) manager shall communicate to their clients if not all of the producer group members are registered for the SPRING add-on.</p> <p><i>In the case of Option 1 producers with PO (buying products originating from IFA-certified procedures without a SPRING add-on letter of conformance), the products shall always keep the GGN of the external producer/producer group (the supplying source) in the case of individual finished units, or always include the GGN in the transaction documents in the case of bulk packaging.</i></p> <p>This principle and the relevant criteria are not applicable for Option 1 individual producers without parallel ownership or for Option 2 producer group in which 100% of the producer group members are registered for the SPRING add-on.</p>	<p>Major Must</p>
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The SPRING normative documents are currently under review and will soon be updated to include this change.

4 PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (NEW)

There have been updates to the [GLOBALG.A.P. product list](#):

- The scientific name of gourd (edible) (ID 46) has been updated to “various spp.”
- Clause 1.1.1.4 has been clarified to confirm that *only* industrial hemp is included under the IFA v6 plants scope.
- Plants scope – Table 1: Rice paddy herb has been added to:
 - Fruit and vegetables (ID 102472)
 - Plant propagation material (ID 102473)
- Cacao fruit (*Theobroma cacao*, ID 416) will move from IFA plants scope (fruit and vegetables) to the Crops for Processing (CfP) standard (new ID 200021).
- A three-month transition period applies. Therefore, it will be possible to certify cacao fruit (ID 200021) under the CfP standard from 1 May 2026, and doing so shall be obligatory from 1 August 2026. Cacao fruit under the FV product category (ID 416) will expire by 31 July 2026. Cacao fruit (PPM) (ID 787) is not affected. Fermentation is currently out of scope for CfP.
- Under CfP, green coffee (ID 172) will be renamed “coffee cherry.” The ID code remains unchanged. Processing, including fermentation, remains excluded.
- Addition of products to the Chain of Custody standard for plants:
 - Chain of Custody for plants – combinable crops (ID 200019)
 - Chain of Custody for plants – plant propagation materials (ID 200020)
- The scientific name *Colocasia antiquorum* was added to taro (ID 191) and taro (PPM) (ID 654).
- The scientific name *Fragaria moschata* was added to strawberry (ID 112) and strawberry (PPM) (ID 590).

5 OTHER TOPICS

5.1 CB online training rules procedure (New)

Here we would like to remind CBs of the rules for CB participants taking online proctored exams in the CB Academy.

a) Attempts allowed

Standard/ Add-on	Included attempts	Additional attempts
In-house trainer (IHT) test	1 attempt (proctored)	<p>The second attempt of the failed part* will be proctored, and an additional fee will be charged.</p> <p>Failing the test a second time will require re-attending the CB IHT training and successfully passing the proctored IHT test for the part failed.</p> <p>Failing the test a third time leads to blocking of the IHT candidate and a new IHT shall be named and trained.</p>
Farm auditor online test	2 attempts (both non-proctored)	<p>The third attempt will be proctored.</p> <p>The fourth attempt requires the candidate farm auditor to attend the IHT training and successfully pass the IHT test (proctored) for the part* failed.</p> <p>Failing the test a fourth time leads to blocking the farm auditor for the whole current version.</p>
IFA QMS auditor online test	1 attempt (proctored)	<p>The second attempt will be proctored, and an additional fee will be charged.</p> <p>Failing the test twice will require re-attending a GLOBALG.A.P. QMS auditor training and successfully passing the QMS auditor test (proctored).</p> <p>Failing the test a third time leads to blocking the QMS auditor for the whole current version.</p>
TR4 auditor online test	2 attempts (both non-proctored)	<p>The third attempt will be proctored.</p> <p>The fourth attempt requires the candidate farm auditor to attend the full training and successfully pass the online test (proctored) for the part* failed.</p> <p>Failing the test a fourth time leads to blocking the farm auditor for the whole current version.</p> <p>Passing the TR4 add-on online test is also sufficient for approval for the TR4 standard (in the case of CBs).</p>
IHT test (PFA self-paced module)	2 attempts (both non-proctored)	<p>The third attempt will be proctored for the applicable part*, and an additional fee will be charged.</p> <p>If the IHT fails the third attempt, they will be blocked for the whole current version.</p>

Standard/ Add-on	Included attempts	Additional attempts
Auditor online test (PFA self-paced module)	2 attempts (both non-proctored)	<p>The third attempt will be proctored for the applicable part*.</p> <p>If the auditor fails the third attempt, the candidate shall take the PFA self-paced course available in the CB Academy and successfully complete the course including the test.</p> <p>Failing the test a fourth time leads to blocking the farm auditor for the whole current version.</p>

* “Part” refers to the exam section covering either the general regulations/rules (Part I), the principles and criteria/control points and compliance criteria (Part II) or both (Part I and Part II).

b) Misconduct of IHTs during proctored IHT tests

In such cases, the result of the test is invalid.

The IHTs are blocked from retaking the respective IHT test. If and when the standard/add-on version changes, they will be allowed to participate again in an IHT training with the IHT test.

In the meantime, they may maintain their role as a CB farm auditor for the corresponding standard/add-on (as long as they comply with the competence requirements). The rest of the standards/add-ons for which they are approved as IHTs are not affected.

If the IHTs are caught again in any GLOBALG.A.P. tests in the future for similar violations, they will be blocked as GLOBALG.A.P. auditors and IHTs and excluded from taking tests for any other standard/add-on in the future.

c) Misconduct of scheme managers during proctored IHT tests

In such cases, the result of the test is invalid.

The scheme managers are blocked from all GLOBALG.A.P. trainings/tests as offered by the CB Academy regardless of the standard/add-on or the CB.

Due to the significant role of scheme managers, such cases will be sent to the Integrity Surveillance Committee (ISC) for further evaluation to define the extent of the sanction. Sanctions may be applied to the CB as well.

5.2 Scheme Manager Update (SMU) training in 2026

Previously communicated on 29 January 2026

We would like to remind you that the annual Scheme Manager Update (SMU) training will take place on Monday, 26 October 2026, in Bologna, Italy, one day prior to the AGRAYA SUMMIT event (27–29 October 2026).

The training is a *mandatory in-person* event for all scheme managers and will be held at UNA Hotels Bologna Fiera. Please note that this will be the *only* SMU training offered in 2026.

The SMU training requirement is defined in the updated License and Certification Agreement (LCA) (clauses 3.2.7 and 6.4), which was communicated to all approved CBs on 16 January 2026.

Kindly note that travel and accommodation costs are not covered by Agraya GmbH.

5.3 CB contact details and address in CB-AT (New)

CBs are kindly requested to ensure that their addresses and contact details in the Certification Body Administration Tool (CB-AT) are kept up to date. They are also requested to inform Agraya of any changes made to their contact information in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform (CertifierOS), in order to ensure that our records remain accurate and up to date.

5.4 CB auditors working in more than one CB (New)

If auditors who are already approved by one CB intend to conduct audits on behalf of another CB, they must also be witnessed by the second CB before approval can be granted. This witnessing forms part of the initial training and qualification process prior to sign-off and must be completed separately by each CB for which the auditor intends to perform audits.

5.5 CB auditor status in CB-AT (New)

The statuses “Approved” and “Submitted to GLOBALG.A.P.” trigger the synchronization of auditor approvals for farm assurance products (FAPs) between CB-AT and the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform, CertifierOS. Consequently, an auditor may conduct an audit as long as the status of the respective FAP in CB-AT is set to either “Approved” or “Submitted to GLOBALG.A.P.”

In contrast, FAPs with the statuses “Review by CB required,” “Open,” or “Temporarily approved” require action by the CB before an audit against the respective FAP can be carried out in CertifierOS.

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Sincerely,

Agraya GmbH