



Technical News for Certification Bodies

Issue 02/2026

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@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 IFA v6.1 Smart (New)

The new version of the Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Smart standard, version 6.1, was published on 1 September 2026.

The update includes:

- Splitting the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations into two different sets (one specific to GFSI-recognized GLOBALG.A.P. standards) and removing the separate section on GFS amendments/additions
- Correcting the compliance level for aquaculture
- Updating the definition of “producer group” (at least 3 members)
- Adapting the “Rules for plants scope” to clarify principles and criteria (P&Cs) that shall be audited in product handling units (PHUs) which hold a BIII GFSI-recognized certificate
- Deleting the 3-year cycle for CB audit content organization
- Renaming “surveillance audits” to “monitoring audits”
- Changing in the audit sample requirements for recertification audits where no non-conformances were raised during the previous monitoring audit (sample is at least 80% of the square root of number of sites)
- Adapting the sanction catalogue to refer to all standards/add-ons, not just GRASP, for late checklist uploads in the IT platform
- Improving the wording in plants scope P&Cs for laboratory accreditation, handwashing water, and preharvest water risk assessment, and adding a reference to the mandatory decision tree
- Adding reference to heavy metals in MRL tests
- Clarifying points about wastewater disposal
- Adding all content previously adapted through technical news issues



For the aquaculture scope, the update includes:

- Correcting section AQ 4, “Workers’ well-being”: level harmonized (considering GRASP is compulsory for the aquaculture scope; this section was meant to be in full compliance since the launch of version 6, so the level had to be corrected).
- Expanding requirements for toilets
- Adapting criteria for environmental safety of holding areas for diesel and other fuel oil tanks
- Adding information communicated through previous technical news issues
- Extending several P&Cs based on re-recognition processes of GFSI and GSSI
- Clarifying calculation of feed conversion ratios (FCRs)
- Removing all instances of “No N/A” under section AQ 28
- Correcting level requirements for certification: Since the launch of IFA v6 for aquaculture, all Minor Musts had to be marked as compliant in addition to Major Musts for the producer to receive certification for their production processes. Therefore, in all current IFA v6 for aquaculture certificates, respective producers are in compliance with all Major Musts and Minor Musts. In IFA v6.1 for aquaculture, there are no Minor Musts, so all Major Musts and Recommendations (that is, all aquaculture P&Cs) must be marked as compliant for the producer to receive certification for their production processes.

Detailed changes are recorded in the version/edition update register of each document.

The documents can be accessed via the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

Details with regard to valid from dates and replacement dates for IFA v6.1 Smart will be communicated in due course.

- **CB approval for IFA v6.1 Smart**

All CBs already approved for IFA v6.0 Smart will automatically be re-approved for the respective scope of IFA v6.1 Smart.

- **CB training for IFA v6.1 Smart**

In-house trainers (New)

All in-house trainers (IHTs) already approved for IFA v6.0 Smart will automatically be re-approved for the respective scope of IFA v6.1 Smart. No additional training is required.

Quality management system auditors

All CB QMS auditors already approved for IFA v6.0 Smart will automatically be re-approved for the respective scope of IFA v6.1 Smart. No additional training is required.

Farm auditors

All CB farm auditors already approved for IFA v6.0 Smart will automatically be re-approved for the respective scope of IFA v6.1 Smart. No additional training/test is required.

- **Benchmarking information for IFA v6.1 Smart**

Re-benchmarking is required for schemes that are already benchmarked to IFA v6 Smart. The timeline will be announced in due course.



- **Audit method and justification guidelines for IFA v6.1 Smart**

The audit method and justification guidelines for IFA v6.1 Smart for fruit and vegetables (FV), flowers and ornamentals, and aquaculture will be soon updated and published in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

The minor changes planned in these documents aim to facilitate the risk-based approach introduced in IFA v6.

2.2 About the GFSI-recognized schemes (IFA v6 GFS, HPSS v1.2, and PHA v1.2) (New)

After the recent GFSI office assessment, we would like to remind CBs to clearly document all requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and IAF MD4 relating to personnel and make them known to their staff. This shall include systems and procedures to ensure that all auditors conducting assessments against GLOBALG.A.P. standards meet the capabilities described in ISO/IEC 17065, and the requirements of IAF MD4.

2.3 GFSI application process for IFA v6.1 GFS, HPS v2, and PHA v2 (New)

We would like to inform you that Agraya has submitted IFA v6.1 GFS, Harmonized Produce Safety (HPS) version 2, and Product Handling Assurance (PHA) version 2 to the GFSI re-benchmarking process in order to continue GFSI recognition. This update was prompted by the release of the GFSI v2024 benchmarking requirements.

IFA v6.1 GFS, HPS v2, and PHA v2 will not be released to the public until recognition is obtained. The current versions – IFA v6 GFS, HPSS v1.2, and PHA v1.2 – remain valid until the GFSI benchmarking process is completed. Once new versions are published, there will be a transition period before they replace IFA v6 GFS, HPSS v1.2, and PHA v1.2.

Agraya will automatically grant provisional approval for IFA v6.1 GFS, HPS v2, and PHA v2 for the respective scope to every CB approved for the respective standard as soon as the benchmarking process is completed successfully. HPS v2 and PHA v2 will require additional CB training.

2.4 Emergency procedure for CBs operating in Israel, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Iran, and Ukraine (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 to Iran, as well.

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 for phasing out this exception.

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



3 GLOBALG.A.P. CHAIN OF CUSTODY

3.1 Countries of destination in CoC certificates in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform (New)

Countries of destination are no longer included on GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates because they are outside the scope of the CoC standard and are not verified during the audit.

Under the CoC general regulations, only information that is assessed and verified during the audit is displayed on the certificate and in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform. Any listed destination countries would be based solely on company declarations, can change over time, and would not demonstrate compliance with destination-country requirements.

During a CoC audit, the auditor does not verify compliance with the legal requirements of individual destination countries; instead, the audit assesses whether the company has effective procedures in place to identify and comply with those requirements. If those procedures are functioning correctly, the company can sell products to any destination country.

Including countries of destination on certificates would therefore create the misleading impression that the countries and compliance with their requirements have been verified, while also generating unnecessary administrative work, as every new market would require a certificate update despite no additional assessment taking place.

NOTE: For compliance with CoC SC 2.1, verification of destination countries applies only if the supplier is a producer/producer group with IFA-certified production processes.

4 ADD-ONS

4.1 GRASP add-on

4.1.1 About GRASP v2.1 (New)

We would like to inform all our stakeholders that the GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP) add-on has also been updated to version 2.1 to align with the changes introduced in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations v6.1.

The update includes:

- Rewording and corrections of mistakes communicated through previous technical news issues
- Alignment of sampling rules for members/sites with GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations v6.1
- Correction of G3 criterion to refer to the subcontractors and the timing of the self-assessment
- Corrections in criterion of P&C 14.1
- Deletion of reference to family farms from P&Cs 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, and 12.1

The GRASP v2.1 documents can be accessed via the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

Details with regard to valid from dates and replacement dates for GRASP v2.1 will be communicated in due course.

All CBs, IHTs, and GRASP assessors already approved for GRASP v2.0 will automatically be re-approved for the new add-on version. No additional training is required.

The GRASP v2.0 NIGs do not need to be updated to v2.1, as the changes are only wording corrections in the P&Cs.



4.2 AH-DLL GROW add-on

4.2.1 AH-DLL GROW add-on v3.1 annex changes

The [AH-DLL GROW annex v3.1](#) has been updated to include a new product, namely prickly pear (ID 99).

The risk classification of this product will be as follows:

Module 1 (residue monitoring) (NL/BE; within EU; outside EU): NO

Module 2 (general hygiene check): NO

Module 3 (product hygiene): NO

Module 4 (handling hygiene): NO

Module 5 (foreign bodies/substances): YES

4.3 IDA add-on (New)

4.3.1 Changes in IDA add-on for QMS audits

As internal QMS audits are not required for the Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability (IDA) add-on, we have removed the P&C IDA QMS 2. This has already been stipulated in the IDA add-on general regulations specifications, and the P&Cs have been modified accordingly.

5 PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (NEW)

The GLOBALG.A.P. product list has been updated, and you can find it [here](#).

Changes:

- The product name “coriander” (ID 33 for FV; ID 521 for PPM) has been updated to “coriander/cilantro.”
- “Hemp (herb)” has been removed from the PDF version of the product list, as this is no longer available under IFA FV.
- “Endive” (ID 41 for FV; ID 528 for PPM) and “escarole/broad-leaf endive” (ID 285 for FV; ID 726 for PPM) have been upgraded to high-risk categories.
- The certification scope of nuts has been extended to also refer to drying. It also applies to the drying of garlic:
 - *Hulling* means to remove the outer softer or leafy part of, e.g., nuts. Alternatively, this process is also called *husking*. This is covered by IFA because it can be seen as a similar activity to trimming.
 - *Shelling* means to remove the hard brown shell (e.g., of nuts), and this process is *not* covered by IFA.
 - *Drying* (sun-drying and drying in a facility) is considered part of the production process under the IFA scope, as long as the nuts are dried while still in their shells and no shelling takes place.
 - These interpretations are similar to the interpretation for products like rice, which fall under the product category combinable crops, and garlic, which falls under the FV product category.
 - However, hulling, husking, and shelling are covered under the pre-processing scope of the PHA standard.



- Table 1 (plants scope)
 - Updated table title to clarify that all product categories related to the plants scope are available under IFA v6, except for tea, which is still available under IFA v5.
- Table 2 (aquaculture scope)
 - Updated table title to remove reference to IFA v5

6 OTHER TOPICS

6.1 Reminder for certificates issued after CB transfer (New)

We would like to remind CBs that under the “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for CBs,” the certification decision can only take effect once the previous certificate expires, and this rule shall be observed by CBs.

6.2 Reviewer role in CB-AT (New)

We would like to remind you that when the reviewer role is assigned in CB-AT, the relevant farm assurance product role (farm auditor or QMS auditor) for the corresponding standard or add-on shall also be assigned.

Agraya GmbH cannot approve a reviewer role on its own. The reviewer must still comply with the requirements of either the farm auditor to review farm audits or the QMS auditor to review QMS audits of the respective standard/add-on.

6.3 SMU training in 2026

Previously communicated in TN 01/2026

We would like to remind you again 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.

This requirement is defined in the updated Agraya GmbH 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.

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Sincerely,

Agraya GmbH

