Brief Introduction to the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard

1. GLOBALG.A.P. ...

- …is a private sector body that sets voluntary standards for the certification of production processes of agricultural products around the globe.
- …is primarily designed to reassure consumers about how food is produced on the farm by reducing detrimental environmental impacts of farming operations, reducing the use of chemical inputs and ensuring a responsible approach to worker health and safety as well as animal welfare.
- …covers the controlled production process of primary products
- …is owned by FoodPLUS GmbH see http://www.globalgap.org
- …allows the use of trademark and QR code logo in business-to-business communication.

2. GLOBALG.A.P. covers:

- ✓ Food safety and traceability
- ✓ Environmental sustainability and biodiversity
- ✓ Workers' health, safety and welfare
- ✓ Mass balance/segregation including parallel ownership (PO)
- ✓ Water and soil management
- ✓ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Pest Control (IPC)
- ✓ Quality Management System (QMS)
- ✓ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)
- ✓ Produce Handling, Packing and Storage

3. The following certification options are available:

- ✓ Option 1: Individual producer and multisite producer with QMS or without QMS
- ✓ Option 2: Producer group

4. Normative documents:

- ❖ **GLOBALG.A.P. Sublicence and Certification Agreement**: contract between the CB and the producer. Determines the legal framework for the granting of GLOBALG.A.P. certification.
- ❖ **GLOBALG.A.P. License and Certification Agreement:** contract between the CB and GLOBALG.A.P. c7o FoodPLUS GmbH
- ❖ **GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations:** (with accompanying parts included, e.g. rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS, rules for certification body); map out the criteria for successful Control Points and Principles and Criteria (P&C) implementation as well as set guidelines for the verification and the regulation of the standard.
- ❖ **GLOBALG.A.P. scope - specific rules:** defines how the certification process works for each specific scope.
- ❖ **GLOBALG.A.P. Trademark use;** Policy and guidelines
- ❖ **Principles and Criteria (P&Cs):** Document that sets the compliance requirements for producers depending on the product category.
- ❖ **GLOBALG.A.P. Checklists (v6):** available for scopes Plants and Aquaculture in two editions (IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS)

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National Interpretation guidelines (NIG) **provide clarifications and adaptation of the P&C to the relevant country. Only available for countries where approved by the respective Technical Committees. These become obligatory for use as soon as they are approved and published.**

5. **Scoring system:**
   ❖ The GLOBALG.A.P. **Principles and Criteria** are divided into three categories
      ✓ Major Musts - 100% compliance with all applicable Major Must P&Cs is compulsory.
      ✓ Minor Musts - with all applicable Minor Must P&Cs is compulsory (excluding not applicable control points).
      ✓ Recommendations - no minimum percentage of compliance is required, but all elements are evaluated during the certification/ audit.

6. **The standard is based on a pass/fail system. Either the operator meets the above minimum criteria and CERES issues a certificate or not.Procedure summary:**

   ✓ *CERES* provides initial information and registration form.
   ✓ Registration form is submitted.
   ✓ Certification Contract and GLOBALG.A.P. Sublicense and Certification Agreement shall be signed by the operator.
   ✓ An initial quotation is transferred to *CERES.*
   ✓ The operator is registered by *CERES* in the GLOBALG.A.P. database no later than 28 calendar days.
   ✓ Inspection assignment is issued.
   ✓ The external /audit is planned, an audit plan is confirmed by the operator.
   ✓ The /audit is carried out.
   ✓ An in/audit report is written commenting compliances and non-compliances.
   ✓ The /audit report is reviewed by *CERES.*
   ✓ A final payment is made by the operator (incl. /auditor transport and accommodation costs).
   ✓ *CERES* updates the GLOBALG.A.P. databases information.
   ✓ A certification decision is taken within 28 days after closure of any outstanding non-conformances. If no non-conformances are detected during CB audit, CB shall make the decision no later than 28 days after the closing meeting of the CB audit.*.*
   ✓ The certificate will be sent to the operator and is valid for 12 months.

For further detailed information regarding the certification process, please see the *CERES* document "Steps to Follow for GLOBALG.A.P. Certification".

CERES is furthermore approved to carry out the following **GLOBALG.A.P. Add-Ons**:

❖ GRASP (Social rules). See: www.globalgap.org/grasp
❖ Tesco NURTURE. See: http://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/NURTURE-Module/
❖ FSMA PSR. See: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/globalg.a.p.-add-on/fsma/
❖ TR4 Biosecurity for Bananas. See: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/globalg.a.p.-add-on/tr4-biosecurity/
❖ AH-DLLGROW: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/documents/#q=(grow)%20OR%20%22grow%22&fq=con_locales:(%22en%22)
❖ SPRING. See: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/globalg.a.p.-add-on/spring/

For more information visit:
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http://www.globalgap.org
http://www.ceres-cert.com/portal/index.php?id=62&L=1