Achievements under Component 3: Initiative for the Arab-GAP implementation

Fidele BYIRINGIRO
Food Security and Environmental Policies Section
Sustainable Development Policies Division
Outline

• Component 3: Objectives, activities & outputs;
• GAPs around the world: overview & characteristics;
• Arab-GAP scheme: overview, areas covered and control points;
• Setting up the Arab-GAP.
Component 3: Objective

**EA: Enhanced capacity for efficient, safe & quality food products in the Arab region**

- Encourage farmers to produce safe and quality products (esp. fresh fruits & vegetables);
- Encourage retailers to seek safe products;
- Lessen concerns from consumers
- Ensure food safety at local level
- Promote regional trade through implementation of common GAPs
- Enhance acceptability of Arab products in international markets
Component 3
Expected Activities & Outputs

- Mapping of available GAPs in the region
- Report outlining the suggested Arab GAP framework
- Consultative meetings with stakeholders to finalize the framework
- Development of training manuals
- Assist member countries to align or develop national GAPs schemes corresponding to the Arab GAP
- Training of trainers
- Awareness raising materials and campaigns (potential GAPs participants, general public, policy-makers, etc.)
Component 3
Progress Achieved

- Coordination meetings to introduce the concept
- Draft report mapping of GAPs and laying out options for an Arab-GAP framework
- Consultative meeting with experts to review the draft report (Cairo May-June, 2016)
- Meeting with selected stakeholders
GAPs

Background

- GAPs are a collection of principles implemented on-farm and post-production
- To improve food safety (reduce contaminations) which might arise at various stages of the supply chain;
- GAPs are preventive approaches such as GMP or HACCP
- Takes into account economic, social & environmental sustainability
GPs along the food supply chain
GAPs complemented by other good practices
GAPs around the world: Overview of Framework

- Government recognition
- International recognition
- Competence
- International standards
- Standards/ regulatory & scheme requirements
- Compliance
- Producers: Farms or farm groups
- Confidence
- Trust
- Assurance

AB

CBs & Labs

Government

Consumer

Purchaser
GAPs around the world

Tesco Natures Choice

LEAF

GAP guides

Mexico GAP

ChileGAP

GLOBALGAP

ChinaGAP

Japan GAP

ASEANGAP

SAARC-GAP

Kenya GAP

Freshcare

NZ GAP
### GAPs around the world: Major characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GAPs</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Major characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| GLOBALG.A.P.                  | Europe but expanding to become a global standard. Benchmarked with others: BRC, GFSI, CanadaGAP, ChinaGAP, etc. | • Started as EUROPGAP & changed to GLOBALGAP in 2007  
• Private sector-led (European supermarkets & major suppliers)  
• Governance: Board (producers & retailers), Secretariat, Technical Committees (crops, aquaculture, etc), Certification Body Committee, NTWG, Integrity Surveillance Committee |
| Freshcare                     | Australia                                                                                                                                                  | • Owned by up to 20 crop/agricultural associations/organizations (e.g., Apple & Pear Association, Banana Growers, etc.)  
• Provides administration, training, auditing & certification |
| ASEANGAP, SAARC GAP           | ASEAN Countries (South-East)  
SAARC countries (South Asia)                                                                 | • Modeled on Freshcare (Australia)  
• One regional (base document only) and national GAPs modeled on regional  
• Voluntary but managed by government services (administration, training, auditing & certification) |
| USDA/Canada                   | United States, Canada: GAPs/GHPs                                                                                                                           | • Administered by Dep't of Agriculture at federal & state levels  
• Voluntary: US linked to Good Transport Practices which is mandatory; Canada linked to funding assistance  
• Governance: e.g., USDA-AMS is accredited as a certification body and provide administration, training, auditing & certification |
There is a need to develop & implement a credible Regional GAP; an Arab regional standard and certification system.

However, ............
at a pace acceptable for local stakeholders and especially farmers
Arab-GAP Scheme

Overview

3 Areas covered
- Food Safety
- Environment Protection
- Health, Safety & Workers Welfare

Certification given to
- Individual Farmers
- Group of Farmers

3 Level of Control Points
- Major Must 100% is required
- Minor Must 95% is required
- Recommendations 50% is acceptable

Certification process identical to GlobalG.A.P.

214 Control Points
# Arab-GAP Scheme

## Control Points grouped in 14 sub-areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control Point</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Traceability</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Record Keeping and Self Inspection</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Varieties and Rootstocks</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Site History and Site Management</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Soil and Substrate Management</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Fertilizer Use</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Irrigation / Fertigation</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Crop protection</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Harvesting</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Produce Handling</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Waste Management and Pollution Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Worker Health, Safety and Welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Environmental Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Complaint form</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Arab-GAP Scheme

### Distribution of GAPs in the 3 areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Food Safety and Quality</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Social</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traceability</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record Keeping and internal self inspection</td>
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<td>Varieties and RootStocks</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Arab-GAP Scheme

### Distribution of GAPs by level of CPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Major Must</th>
<th>Minor Must</th>
<th>Recommended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traceability</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Complaint form</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>99</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arab-GAP Scheme

Distribution of GAPs by sub-areas & level of CPs

![Bar chart showing distribution of GAPs by sub-areas and level of CPs.

- Quality and Safety:
  - Recommendations: 40
  - Minor Musts: 120
  - Major Musts: 40

- Environment:
  - Recommendations: 80
  - Minor Musts: 120
  - Major Musts: 80

- Social:
  - Recommendations: 20
  - Minor Musts: 20
  - Major Musts: 20]
Arab-GAP Scheme
Control Points grouped in the 14 sub-areas

4.1 Site History

- 4.1.1 Is there a risk assessment for the agricultural sites, i.e. is the site in question suitable for food production, with regards to food safety, operator health and the environment? (Major Must)
- 4.1.2 Is there a corrective action plan that sets out strategies to minimize all identified risks in new agricultural sites? (Minor Must)

12.1 Risk assessments
12.2 Training
12.3 Facilities, equipment and accident procedures
12.4 Crop Protection and Product Handling
12.5 Protective Clothing /Equipment
12.6 Welfare
12.7 Visitors’ safety
Setting up the Arab-GAP
Options

• Arab-GAP may be:
  ✓ Private sector driven – buyers/retailers coming together as an association or inter-professional body (collective organization or group);
  ✓ Public sector driven – housed within a governmental department (agriculture/food or health or both); OR
  ✓ A mix of both private-public partnership
## Setting up the Arab-GAP

### Public vs. Private Arab-GAP: Pros & Cons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GAPs</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Private sector-led association or inter-professional body | • Owned by farmers & retailers  
• Flexible & able to respond to new risks  
• Promote compliance better than regular food safety inspections because they provide market incentives & management-based regulations  
• Possibility of being sued or prosecuted in case of negligence is a good incentive | • No public mandate  
• Lack of transparency  
• Reliability of third party certifiers  
• Limited enforcement as no government oversight  
• System can be hacked/stolen/defrauded |
| Public sector-led (dep't of food, agriculture or health)   | • Might be mandatory through an appropriate legislation  
• More reliable funding, staffing and other resources  
• Compliance ensured by the inspection department and non-compliance could result in fines | • Inefficient in globalized markets  
• When mandatory participants might cheat or cut corners  
• Might result in inefficiencies (e.g. overstaffed, slow, underfunded, etc.)  
• Blurred line with enforcement and extension services  
• Might be subject political pressure |
Setting up the Arab-GAP

Structural setup at regional level

• Board & secretariat: standalone or in regional institution or at national level (roving every few years)??
• representatives by country
• Criteria for Certification bodies
• Accreditation body
• Technical Committees (for standards)
• Decision on other functional modalities
• Design of Arab-GAP logo or mark
## Setting up the Arab-GAP

### Potential roadblocks in the Arab region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness &amp; knowledge on/about GAPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of pressure from consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of supporting regulations or not enforced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small holdings, high costs and market uncertainty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent update of standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficiency of experts on GAPs and no continuous training and awareness raising</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting up the Arab-GAP

Best practices

• Promote sharing experiences and exchange visits among countries
• Allow a transition period for new GAPs participants
• Prominent use of logo or statement indicating that produce comes from a GAP certified farm
• Attract big retailers paying membership fees to keep costs low for farmers
• Keep it in line with international GAPs to facilitate future harmonization
Setting up the Arab-GAP

Key questions for the national level

• What leadership: public, private or a mix?
• If private, what would be the role of the government? And what kind of governance structure?
• Would countries establish their own bodies (Certification, Labs, etc.) or would they rely on regional ones?
• What kind of governing rules and certification processes?
• Who would bear the costs (esp. if private) and how to sustain it financially?
• What support would be required from a regional GAP?
THANK YOU!