Introduction to G.A.Ps. and Experience from SAARC countries: Introduction and Initiation

at

The First Meeting of Arab-GAP Stakeholders for Jordan
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Overview

• Introduction
• Scenario on GAP – Globally/ in Asia/ in SAARC
• GAP framework and its implementation in a country
• Establishment of Governing Structure – Scheme Owner
• Project outputs of GAP implementation in SAARC countries
Introduction

• Food safety gaining increasing importance – both health & trade perspectives- also reduces losses/wastes– overall economic impact

• Hazards may arise at different stages of food chain right from PP

• Preventive approaches - Good practices – GAP/ GMP/ HACCP

• Implementing GAP during on-farm and post production processes leads to safe agri produce while taking into account economic, social and environmental sustainability

• GAP basically deals with GPs or collection of principles to apply for on-farm production and post-production processes - applicable till the farm gate.

• Implementation of GAP risen recently – food scares, rejections, consumer demand

• Many buyers also require GAP certified products

• GAP may be Private sector or government driven
SCENARIO ON GAP:
GLOBALLY/ IN ASIA/ IN SAARC
ASEAN GAP

- ASEAN GAP is voluntary standard for ASEAN countries on production of fresh fruits & vegetables adopted in 2006

- ASEAN GAP regulates the procedures of planting, care, harvesting & post harvest include packaging (not regulate for sprouts and fresh cut produce)

- Four modules - Food safety; environmental management; worker health, safety & welfare; produce quality
GAP in ASEAN Countries

- Thailand Q GAP (2003)
- Myanmar GAP (2014)
- Malaysia MyGAP (2013)
- SALM (2003)
- Indonesia GAP (2004)
- Lao GAP (2014)
- CamGAP (2010)
- VietGAP (2008)
- PhilGAP (2006)
- Brunei GAP (2014)
- Singapore GAP-VF (2004)
GAP in SAARC Countries

- **In SAARC** – no common standard adopted – countries too had not adopted National GAPs – for exports implemented GlobalGAP

- **FAO initiative**: Regional TCP - Development of Standards and scheme for GAPs Implementation and Certification in Countries of SAARC - TCP/RAS/3501

- **Objective**: to support the countries of the Region in establishing a system for GAP & its implementation

- **Countries**: All SAARC; **Pilots** - Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Afghanistan

- **Dates**: March 2014 – June 2016 (extended till October)
Objectives of Implementing GAP

• Ensure **safe fruits & veggies** in domestic markets

• To **facilitate regional trade** through implementation of common GAP standards in the region

• To ensure **acceptability** of fruits and vegetables in **global markets**

Through development of a credible GAP system

- Standard
- System for certification following international accreditation criteria

Addressing food safety also helps farmers including women farmers
GAP in SAARC Countries

AfghanGAP-2016 (under development)

NepalGAP (2016)

BhutanGAP (2016)

BDGAP (2016)

INDGAP (2016)

MGAP (2016)

SLGAP (2016)

Bangladesh GAP (2016)
GAP Scheme: The process steps

- Development of draft scheme – FAO
- Regional inception WS - scheme discussed, pilots selected
- Inception WS – pilot countries
- Support pilot countries set up national infrastructure
- Trainings in country – 3 groups (SO/CB, auditors, stakeholders)
- Study visit to India
- Finalizing regional documents
- Regional Concluding workshop to share experiences
GAP framework and its Implementation in a country
What does GAP Implementation Involve

- **GAP standard** – requirements to be fulfilled by the producer/farmer - different modules (food safety; quality; environment; workers health, safety and welfare) and **Checklists**

- **Verification/Conformity Criteria** – 100% compliance not possible, requirements classified into Cr/Maj/Min, & deviations acceptable

- **Governing structure** – decision making and supervision for implementing GAP – Scheme Owner, Committee structure

- **Certification structure & process**
  - CBs operating GAP certification & complying with ISO/IEC 17065
  - procedure for evaluation, verification and certification - uniformity in certification when multiple CBs – individual farmer/ group certification

- **Accreditation Function** – Competence of CB - AB and its selection - in absence of AB, SO may perform this function - ISO/IEC 17011.

- **Rules for use of Certification Mark/Logo.**

- **Trainings**
GAP Framework & Players in a GAP system

**Scheme owner** – owns standard & scheme & logo; responsible for implementing scheme; may operate system for approval of CB or authorize AB to accredit CBs based on scheme

Accreditation Body – to testify competence of CBs – under the aegis of IAF – ABs comply with ISO 17011 – Peer evaluation – sign MRA for each scheme – ISO 17065 relevant to product/process/service certification

CB - Evaluate process/product against specified requirements – comply with ISO 17065

Impelementing standards/ICS

Certification Body

Producer/Producer group

Accreditation Body

Certification Body

Certification Body

Lab

Lab

Lab

Labs - testing of pesticide residue, microbiology, heavy metals etc and comply with ISO 17025
Decisions needed by Country

1. Whether market driven or regulatory intervention - voluntary or mandatory implementation

2. Structure to be established for implementing GAP in country

3. Decision on SO & Department/ Secretariat responsible

4. Decision on the CB – government/ private; single/ multiple

5. Decision on approving mechanism for CB – SO/AB

6. Constitution of multi-stakeholder Committees to develop and oversee operation of Scheme
Steps for Implementing GAP in Countries

1. Country GAP standard prepared
2. SO established and Scheme developed
3. CB established/ strengthened for GAP certification
4. Producers prepared for certification
5. Decision on approval system (AB/SO)- and procedures developed
6. CB approved/ accredited
7. Producers certified
Establishment of Governing Structure - Scheme Owner
**Concept of Scheme and Scheme Owner**

**Scheme** consist of criteria/standards to be fulfilled, conformity assessment infrastructure and process, governing structure for decision making, certification mark....

**Scheme Owner**

An organisation or body identified by country responsible for setting up and operationalizing the system/scheme in a country (to be nominated by the government of the country)
Scheme Owner (SO) - Options

• Government
  – Ministry directly or regulator if has agriculture in its domain (other suitable organization engaged in activities relating to agriculture especially quality issues in agriculture);
  – also referred to as Competent Authority; and
  – Positive – government endorsement of scheme automatic – incentivizing by government easier

• Alliance /association/ inter-professional body - collective agreement between independent economic units sharing certain objectives – some form of collective organization or group;

• Others - NSB, Accreditation Body; New organization may be established for setting up & implementing Scheme
Requirements of SO

- Be a legal entity – Govt bodies legal entity by virtue of status
- Have a mandate for introducing, upgrading and/or internalizing quality in agriculture and/or horticulture
- Ideally be a non-profit body; no conflict of interest
- Able to maintain confidentiality of information
- Capacity and arrangements to be appropriate, e.g. for range of activities undertaken & in geographic regions
- Adequate arrangements (e.g. insurance or reserves) to cover liabilities arising from its activities
- Financial stability with adequate resources to run Scheme
- Capacity to maintain scheme & provide guidance as required
Roles & Responsibilities of the SO

- Establishment of Governing Structure and decision making mechanism for implementing – SC/ TC/ CC
- Development, review, maintenance and updating the Scheme;
- Adopt a “GAP Certification Mark”/Logo and its registration
- Approve AB/ CBs to accredit/certify under scheme
- Supervision – including monitoring, evaluation – ABs, CBs, certified farmers/ groups – surveillance plan – Integrity audits
- Organise regular meetings of Committees
- Complaints and appeals handling – as per ISO 10002
- Capacity Building of resources
- Publicise/ promote scheme - transparency, understanding and acceptance
- Updating information on the SO website.
Governing Structure

Composition & TORs of Committees – Steering, Technical, Certification:

General Principles:

– **Quorum**: at least “50”% members of the Committee

– **Representation** of a balance of interests

– **Key interests** - rep. of regulatory bodies/other government agencies, NSB, user/producers/industry associations, AB & CB, laboratories, academic/research, consumer organisations etc.

– **Individual experts** – avoid any conflict of interest

– **Principal/ Alternate** members

Meetings: frequency at least once in every six months.
Accreditation & Criteria to Select AB

- Accreditation process ensures that **CB certification practices are acceptable**, ie they are **competent to test & certify** third parties, behave **ethically** & employ suitable QA.

- Criteria for selection
  - First preference to AB of own country.
  - If AB cannot set up accreditation for GAP, the SO may itself approve CB (based on ISO 17065/ additional requirements) **OR** engage foreign AB.
  - Factors to be considered by SO in selecting AB - member of IAF; signatory to MLA for product certification; service delivery of AB (time availability, reputation)
  - The SO to maintain list of ABs meeting above requirements
  - Change in AB - Country establishes own AB; SO has delivery/other issues with AB
Logo or Certification Mark and its Usage

• The GAP certification mark or logo is a **protected mark** owned by the SO.

• There **may be more than one Mark(s)** approved by SO - distinct for each standard/criteria used by SO for certification

• All certified producer or producer groups approved by SO of a country are eligible to use the Scheme Certification Mark – **need formal approval by SO**.

• The Mark to be used in a manner that implies that farm produce has been produced using good practices. It shall not imply that the produce itself is certified i.e. **not be applied on produce**.

• SO shall frame the rules for use of certification mark
PROJECT OUTPUTS OF GAP IMPLEMENTATION IN SAARC COUNTRIES
Outputs Delivered for SAARC Region

• **A Scheme and training manual** on Good Agriculture Practices for Fruits & Vegetables
  - Volume 1 The Scheme
  - Volume 2 Training manual

• **GAP System developed in identified countries** (Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Nepal + Sri Lanka + Afghanistan) – standards and certification

• Scheme owner, certification body staff and others **trained** and stakeholders made **aware** of system

• Pilot farms + validation by testing (limited)
Structure of GAP Scheme

- **Part I** - GAP standard for fruits and vegetables
- **Part II** Establishing national implementation structure for GAP
  - Section 1 – Options and structure for implementing GAP
  - Section 2 - Guidance for establishing a Scheme Owner
  - Section 3 – Rules for use of certification mark.
- **Part III** Certification and accreditation for GAP
  - Section 1– Certification criteria (basis standards & CB reqts)
  - Section 2– Certification Process
  - Section 3– Requirements for Certification Bodies
  - Section 4 - Rules for Accreditation Bodies for GAP.
- **Annexes** – Documentation needed under the GAP scheme – Producer and producer group; SO, CB, AB
### Structure of the Manual (5 Modules, 18 Sessions)

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GAP Scheme: The process steps and progress in SAARC

- Development of draft scheme - FAO
  - Mar '14

- Inception WS – pilot countries
  - Sept '14 – Mar '15
  - 2015-16

- Trainings in country – 3 groups (SO/CB, auditors, stakeholders
  - Sept '14
  - 2015 - 16

- Finalizing regional documents
  - Jan '16
  - May '16

- Regional Inception WS - scheme discussed, pilots selected
  - May '16

- Support pilot countries set up national infrastructure
  - May '16

- Study visit to India
  - May '16

- Regional Concluding workshop
THANK YOU

Any Questions?