



# EurepGAP

## Good Agricultural Practices

Food safety, as well as environment protection, starts with agriculture and the primary production. EurepGAP is the globally recognised standard specifically designed for farms.

The products covered by this standard include crops, commodities, and foods of animal origin, so the Good Agricultural Practices can be applied both on the crop farm and wherever animals are reared.

Consumers are more and more concerned about food safety and quality, as well as with the environmental and social impact of the food production processes. Sustainability is the key word for the agriculture development. Most of the European retailers, responding to consumer expectations, ask for "sustainable" products. It is often a mandatory requirement to enter the supply chain.

What is the standard?

EurepGAP was issued by European retailers in cooperation with fruit and vegetable producers. Today it is the globally recognised standard for ensuring the quality and safety of a final product in the agricultural sector.

The first standard issued was EurepGAP Fruit and Vegetables, which was complimented with EurepGAP IFA (Integrated Farm Assurance), a modular standard covering combinable crops and breeding, and EurepGAP IAA, covering aquaculture.

The EurepGAP standards promote:

- High priority to farmers' and consumers' safety and wellness
- Traceability
- Reduction of pesticide use to the minimum
- Animal welfare
- Minimisation of agrochemical and medicinal inputs
- Integrated Crop Management (ICM)
- Efficient resources utilisation
- Environmental awareness

### Why is certification good for my business?

Consumers are demanding to have confidence in the food they eat, and agriculture needs to produce affordable food in a sustainable way. The retailers – the direct link to the consumers in the food chain – are responding to the consumers' desires.

Sharing the food production guidelines with growers, food producers and retailers – specifying how food is grown and what was used to produce it – is an important contribution to the harmonisation needed to achieve clear and transparent processes. This will give farmers several benefits:

- Better and easier access to the market
- Clear agreements with retailers
- More opportunities for fair competition
- Possible increase in quality and quantity
- Possible reduction of production costs long-term

### How can I prepare for certification?

It is important that you and your company are positive, committed, and set clear target dates for implementation and assessment. Being prepared will help you with the following:

- A clear dialogue with buyers: consultation between growers and buyers on quality and quantity will facilitate cooperation, and support compliance with specified requirements.
- Knowing what knowledge is required: using the support of experts and consultants when needed (irrigation, fertilisation, soil laboratories, crop protection).
- Planning of production: developing a written plan (including crop protection products when appropriate) and undertaking a risk assessment for all new fields.
- Management of input: variety choice, pesticide and fertiliser storage and disposal, water sources, machinery.
- Care of produce on the farm: to maintain quality.
- Investments in farm: to keep equipment well maintained, maintain an appropriate and efficient irrigation system, manage waste disposal, provide training for employees, maintain a high-quality and safe working environment.
- Record keeping: a milestone for implementing GAP and a prerequisite for traceability.