



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

27 March 2013

- 1. Project Code:** 13-AG-26-GE-TRC-B
- 2. Title:** e-Learning Course on the GLOBALGAP Standard for Greater Market Access
- 3. Duration:** Session 1: 18–20 June 2013
Session 2: 10–12 September 2013
- 4. Venues:** Session 1: Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam
Session 2: Bangladesh, India, IR Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan

- 5. Implementing Organizations:** APO Secretariat and the following NPOs:

Session 1:

- 1) Cambodia: National Productivity Centre of Cambodia, Phnom Penh
2) Fiji: National Training and Productivity Centre, Fiji National University, Suva
3) Indonesia: Directorate General of Training and Productivity Development
Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, R.I., Jakarta
4) Philippines: Development Academy of the Philippines, Metro Manila
5) Vietnam: Vietnam Productivity Centre, Hanoi

Session 2:

- 1) Bangladesh: National Productivity Organisation, Ministry of Industries, Dhaka
2) India: National Productivity Council, New Delhi
3) IR Iran: National Iranian Productivity Organization, Tehran
4) Mongolia: Mongolian Productivity Organization, Ulaanbaatar
5) Nepal: National Productivity and Economic Development Centre, Kathmandu
6) Pakistan: National Productivity Organization, Islamabad

(Note: To maximize project benefit, the local venue may change depending on the level of interest, participant type, and suitability of the venue as advised by the concerned NPO.)

- 6. Number of Participants:** More than 20 participants from each participating country
- 7. Closing Date for Nominations:** Session 1: 24 May 2013
Session 2: 12 August 2013

8. Objectives:

- a) To enhance participants' understanding of the importance of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification in increasing access to the EU, Japan, USA, and markets in major cities of the emerging economies with GLOBALGAP requirements;
- b) To familiarize participants with the requirements of benchmarking national GAP against the GLOBALGAP standard; and
- c) To share critical success factors in GLOBALGAP implementation.

9. Background

With international trade in food booming, consumers are increasingly concerned about food safety, how food is produced, and how it is handled within the supply chain. New pressures from consumers, retailers, and legislation have placed additional demands on farmers and producers. They are increasingly required to use production methods that reduce the impact of agricultural practices on the environment, to reduce their use of agrochemicals, and to make efficient use of natural resources (land and water), while safeguarding the welfare of both workers, and farm animals. GAP could be the solution for producers seeking to address consumer concerns in domestic and foreign markets.

GAP addresses two distinct issues: ensuring food safety during onfarm and postproduction processes; and building consumer confidence and managing risk by putting traceability mechanisms in place. The adoption of GAP has become increasingly important in light of increasing regional and international trade in agrifood products, and producers, particularly small farmers, may miss market opportunities unless they are certified as GAP compliant. GAP standards and the certification systems were developed in various countries. However, the lack of harmonization between GAP schemes among countries and scarcity of affordable certification systems have often led to increased confusion and higher certification costs for farmers and exporters. Those with contractual relations with several retailers also complain about multiple audits against different criteria set by different groups of retailers every year. GAP certification with GLOBALGAP could address these issues.

The GLOBALGAP standard serves as a practical manual for GAP worldwide. It is a single integrated standard with modular applications for different product groups, including crops, livestock, and aquaculture. The standard can directly be applied by all parties in primary production and associated operations. As many other onfarm quality assurance systems were in place prior to the development of GLOBALGAP, harmonization is being pursued, and most countries have successfully completed their benchmarking process and now have systems recognized as equivalent to GLOBALGAP. The harmonization and benchmarking process encouraged the development of regionally adjusted management systems such as the ASEANGAP to protect farmers and producers from having to undergo costly multiple audits.

The implementation of GAP and compliance with the requirements of GLOBALGAP for certification are not easy, especially for small farmers, because of the diversity of codes, guidelines, and definitions for various forms of agricultural produce. The GLOBALGAP

system has various rules (general regulations) and requirements to be implemented on farms (control points). An understanding of all these concepts of GAP, benchmarking of national GAP against GLOBALGAP, following the rules and requirements of GLOBALGAP standard, and becoming GLOBALGAP certified can help producers and exporters improve agricultural practices, facilitate exports, and reduce the cost involved in multiple audits.

This e-learning course is designed to address these needs of various stakeholders with emphasis on GLOBALGAP certification for fresh fruit and vegetables in APO member countries.

10. Modality of Implementation

This course is offered through videoconferencing using the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) platform. GDLN centers in participating countries will be used for this purpose. In countries where World Bank facilities are not available, other service providers will be tapped. *Professional experts from Japan, Malaysia, the EU, and Australia/USA will conduct the training course.* The course will be implemented in two sessions as described above. Each participating country team will make videoconferencing presentations to share their experience in GAP/GLOBALGAP which will be moderated by a local coordinator. On the last day, a written examination will be conducted to test the participants' learning from the course. Performance in the examination will be one of the criteria for selection of the participants for the subsequent follow-up training course.

Follow-up face-to-face course

The APO will organize a multicountry face-to-face program on GAP in 2014. One or two of the best-performing participants in this e-learning course from each country may be selected to attend through the concerned NPO.

11. Scope and Methodology

Scope:

The tentative main topics to be covered are:

- a) Overview of country performance and issues in trade in agricultural products;
- b) GAP and GLOBALGAP and their importance in the global trade in agrifood products;
- c) Trends in implementation of GAP and GLOBALGAP in Asian countries;
- d) Overview of the GLOBALGAP Integrated Farm Assurance Standard;
- e) GLOBALGAP implementation and key critical success factors;
- f) The GLOBALGAP audit and certification system;
- g) The Japanese GAP audit and certification system;
- h) The US Department of Agriculture GAP and Good Handling Practices program and audit system;
- i) Small farms' GAP certification;
- j) Mechanism for harmonization and benchmarking of national GAP with GLOBALGAP; and
- k) Critical success factors of GLOBALGAP implementation.

Methodology:

The distance-learning course will consist of a combination of videoconferencing and offline sessions such as online lectures, online discussions, online presentation of case studies, offline group exercises, offline individual assignments, and written examination.

12. Qualification of Participants

- (a) Age: Preferably between 30 and 45 years.
- (b) Education: University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.
- (c) Present position: Officers or consultants of research and training institutes, quality assurance/certification bodies, and NPOs; or academics directly involved in consultancy services, training, and extension for farm producers, retailers, and exporters of agricultural products interested in furthering their knowledge of GAP and how the GLOBALGAP certification system operates.
- (d) Experience: At least two years of experience in a related field.
- (e) Language Proficiency: Proficiency in written and spoken English is essential.

13. Financial Arrangements

(a) To be borne by the APO

- i) All assignment costs for resource speakers to prepare presentation materials and deliver presentations.
- ii) Rental and other charges of the GDLN/videoconferencing centers in participating countries and Japan.
- iii) Honorarium for a local coordinator in each participating country.

(b) To be borne by participating countries

- i) Any other local implementing costs not covered by the APO.

14. Actions by Participating Member Countries:

The NPO of each participating country is requested to nominate more than 20 participants and submit a list in the format to be provided later by the APO Secretariat. Please adhere to the nomination deadlines given in section 7 of this document and ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications prescribed above.

Each NPO will identify an appropriate local coordinator. The coordinator is expected to have good knowledge and understanding of GAP and GLOBALGAP and the ability to coordinate and facilitate all course activities at the local level. The coordinator will moderate all technical sessions including group exercises/individual assignments in consultation with the NPO and chief resource person identified by the APO. The offline group exercises will include experience sharing, views of participants on GAP/GLOBALGAP, and review of online sessions. The coordinator will also make all necessary arrangements with the local GDLN/videoconferencing centers prior to commencement of the training course to ensure that the facility is ready for the training sessions.



Ryuichiro Yamazaki
Secretary-General