INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE (IFA)
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

WHAT'S NEW?
INTRODUCING IFA V6

IFA v6 is GLOBALG.A.P.'s flagship standard in a new and improved format. It has a simplified structure and language, extended criteria on key issues such as sustainability and animal welfare, and – for the first time – continuous improvement at producer level. Overall, it’s a smarter standard, fit for the future.

Elmé Coetzer-Boersma
Managing Director
GLOBALG.A.P. standards are developed by the industry, for the industry.

To develop IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables, four public consultation periods took place over two years. All stakeholders from the industry were invited to participate and give feedback.

There were 79 virtual World Consultation Tour meetings on fruit and vegetables topics.

We received over 2,300 comments on the IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables documents.

The revised standard addresses the needs and demands of the market.
IFA v6 is the latest revision of GLOBALG.A.P.’s flagship standard, IFA.

It takes a holistic approach to farm assurance through the following topics:

- **Food Safety**
- **Legal, Management, Traceability**
- **Production Processes**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Animal Health and Welfare**
- **Workers’ Well-Being**

**RESPONSIBLE FARMING PRACTICES**
IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables covers the entire primary production process.

Principles and criteria include topics such as:

- Executive Summary – What is IFA V6?
- Fertilizers and Biostimulants
- Management and Traceability
- Workers’ Health, Safety, and Welfare
- Biodiversity and Habitats
- Water Management
- Management and Traceability
- Energy Efficiency
- Food Safety
- Waste Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Plant Protection Products
- Hygiene
- Traceability
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – WHAT IS IFA V6?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Continuous integration of site-specific knowledge and practical experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traceability</td>
<td>Reconcile products with the implemented practices and distinguish certified from noncertified products*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ health, safety, and welfare</td>
<td>Ensure safe working conditions and competence developed through training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Enhance biodiversity on the farm to benefit from ecological services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene and food safety</td>
<td>Mitigate risks associated with primary production processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizers and biostimulants</td>
<td>Protect soil and promote efficient plant nutrition in a way that minimizes negative environmental impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water management</td>
<td>Promote the efficient use and protection of water sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated pest management</td>
<td>Protect the crop while minimizing the risk of toxicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant protection products</td>
<td>Complement plant protection through the proper and safe use of authorized products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste management</td>
<td>Avoid pollution, ensure that waste is disposed of properly, and that recycling practices are in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy efficiency</td>
<td>Optimize energy use, minimize nonrenewables and greenhouse gas emissions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The term "certified products" refers to products originating from a farm with GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes.
### EXPECTED LAUNCH DATES

- **26 April 2022:** Launch of IFA v6 (interim version)
  - Publication of English documents

- **Q2 2022:**
  - Launch of IFA v6 (interim version) in further languages
    - German and Spanish

- **September 2022:** Launch of IFA v6 (final version)
  - German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, French, Japanese

- **Date TBC:**
  - Launch of further scopes/product categories TBC
THE MAIN CHANGES
Compared to version 5

- Certificates issued at scope level
- Some key changes to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations
- Transition from a prescriptive to an outcome-oriented approach
- Streamlined, customized checklists
- Stronger focus on environmental/sustainability issues
- Introduction of a continuous improvement plan for producers
- Two IFA v6 editions: one adapted for GFSI recognition
SCOPES AND PRODUCT CATEGORIES

An explanation

- IFA v6 is available for **multiple scopes and product categories**.
- Each product category has its own **checklist**.
- The crops scope is now called **plants**.
- Sub-scopes are now called **product categories**.
- IFA v6 was published on 26 April 2022 for the **following scopes and product categories**:

  - **Fruit and vegetables** (plants scope)
  - **Hops** (plants scope)
  - **Flowers and ornamentals** (plants scope)
  - **Finfish, crustaceans, molluscs, and seaweed** (aquaculture scope)
SCOPES AND PRODUCT CATEGORIES
Changes to certificates and accreditation

- For IFA v6, certificates are issued at scope level.

  For example, if a producer gets certified for both fruit and vegetables and flowers and ornamentals, they will receive one certificate for plants – with fruits and vegetables and flowers and ornamentals listed as product categories.

- Certification bodies (CBs) will need to get accreditation on scope level.

  There will be one bigger training and test per scope, and no product category (sub-scope) limitation later. There is no registration, approval, witness, maintenance of competency, or minimum number of audits per product category (sub-scope).

  Product categories that are not part of the initial launch in April 2022 will not form a part of the expanded training and will therefore have to be completed at a later date when the relevant product category becomes available.
Self-assessment contains comments for all not applicable and non-compliant Major Must and Minor Must principles and criteria (i.e., no comments for all Recommendations and Major/Minor Musts that have been complied with).

10% of audits by CBs must be unannounced. This 10% no longer counts as additional audits, but is included in the original number of certification audits.

Three-year cycle rule (with annual on-site audit) further reduces the content of the checklist to the applicable points and shortens the on-site audit duration.

- Initial audit (for v6): All requirements are included in the applicable checklists (quality management system (QMS) and farm).
- Subsequent 2 (operational items, as identified in the checklist)
- Subsequent 3 (operational items, as identified in the checklist)
The IFA v6 approach focuses on the outcomes achieved, rather than the specific measures. This provides greater flexibility as it allows producers to demonstrate compliance in a way that is most appropriate for their production practices.

“Control points” and “compliance criteria” from IFA v5 are therefore replaced by “principles” and “criteria” in IFA v6.

Principles are graded as Major Musts, Minor Musts, or Recommendations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Rules</strong> that set the foundation of a GLOBALG.A.P. requirement.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Statement</strong> instead of question form.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describe the <strong>outcome</strong> to achieve.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Methods</strong> that producers can use to demonstrate a principle to be true.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Compliance can be evidenced by <strong>data</strong>, a <strong>procedure</strong>, a <strong>record</strong>, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**STREAMLINED, CUSTOMIZED CHECKLISTS**

How is this achieved?

- **Reduced number** of principles and criteria in IFA v6 compared to IFA v5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>V5</th>
<th>V6 Smart</th>
<th>V6 GFS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Musts</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Musts</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>222</strong></td>
<td><strong>190</strong></td>
<td><strong>191</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Principles and criteria which are not applicable due to the **producer’s risk assessment of the production practices** will already be labeled as N/A in the checklist. This means that the **checklists are now customized** to some extent, according to a producer’s specific situation.
Risk
Irrigation system on farm

Accompanying principles and criteria
E.g., “Tools are routinely used to calculate and optimize crop irrigation” and “Restrictions indicated in water/permits are complied with.”

Reason for being not applicable
The producer only uses rainwater on their farm and no irrigation system.

Solution
Principles and criteria related to irrigation systems are marked as not applicable on the checklist for this producer.
A STRONGER FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

How?

Environmental sustainability is a major focus of IFA v6.

While some principles and criteria have been developed based on the control points and compliance criteria from IFA v5, some topics are new or more rigorous.

New sustainability topics in IFA v6:
• Greenhouse gases and climate change
• Ecosystem restoration
• Food waste management
• Plastics management
• Carbon neutrality
• Deforestation prevention
• Animal welfare
• The farm as an agricultural ecosystem
• Continuous improvement

Updated sustainability topics in IFA v6:
• Biodiversity
• Integrated pest management
• Soil management and conservation
• Water management
• Energy efficiency
• Waste management
• Fertilizers
• Plant protection products
“Continuous improvement” used to mean updating farm assurance standards regularly to get better and better. In IFA v6, for the first time, continuous improvement will be relevant on an individual producer level.

- Producers are required to implement a plan to analyze current practices.
- They then identify “hot spots” and set clear, measurable goals for improvement in this area, e.g., improve energy efficiency, reduce use of plant protection product X.
- Year-on-year, producers demonstrate their efforts towards improving sustainability, food safety, and workers’ well-being.
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AT FARM LEVEL
New for IFA v6

1. Producer analyzes current practices using real data
2. Reporting is used to identify areas that can be improved
3. Producer sets measurable goals for improvement
4. New measures are implemented in farm practices
5. Implementation is checked and progress reviewed at annual CB audit
6. The continuous improvement plan is revised based on progress
There is evidence that the provided **personal protective equipment** (PPE) is used by the workers.

**Workers are informed of their rights** related to the standard and there is a grievance mechanism available and implemented through which workers can file concerns in a confidential way and without fear of retaliation.
TWO IFA v6 EDITIONS
An explanation

- IFA v6 will be available in **two editions**:
  - IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS
- They are available **in parallel** and are **equally valid**.

When referring to IFA v6:
If an edition is not specified by name (Smart/GFS), both IFA v6 editions are meant.
• Until now, all IFA versions have been GFSI recognized (for fruit and vegetables and aquaculture).
• GFSI has requirements that are not relevant for all producers, and which change frequently. The requirements restrict the ways in which GLOBALG.A.P. standards can be written and implemented.
• It is not possible to offer IFA v6 checklists that are simplified, outcome-oriented, and customized and which also fulfill GFSI requirements perfectly.
• Feedback from stakeholders during public consultation – including producer and retailer members in the GLOBALG.A.P. technical committees – showed a preference for flexible IFA options, rather than reducing v6 ambitions to retain GFSI recognition.
• To continue providing options for all producers, GLOBALG.A.P. is offering two IFA v6 editions. IFA v6 Smart will not be submitted to GFSI benchmarking. This flagship edition is appropriate for most producers. The second edition (IFA v6 GFS) has been adapted for GFSI requirements.
**TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS**

**An overview**

**IFA v6 Smart**

Flagship edition, broadly applicable

By stakeholders, for stakeholders

Six topics for responsible farming practices

100% outcome-oriented, customized checklists; accepted for BRC and IFS certified post-farm gate product handling units

**Why Smart?**

The name resulted from a need to differentiate between the two different editions. “Smart” is a commercial name. Since this edition fully embodies our vision of GLOBALG.A.P. smart solutions for the coming years*, using “Smart” as the name for our flagship edition felt like the natural choice! The other edition is distinguished by the GFSI elements and is identified with the “GFS” tag.

*See our vision for the future in the download entitled “Smart farm assurance solutions”
TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS
An overview

IFA v6 GFS

- Applicable for smaller number of producers
- Driven largely by US markets
- Six topics for responsible farming practices
- Adapted for GFSI recognition (not 100% outcome-oriented); accepted for BRC and IFS certified post-farm gate product handling units

The application for **GFSI benchmarking** for IFA v6 GFS will take place in mid 2022.
TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS
Scopes and product categories

• Producers who do not require certification with GFSI recognition

IFA v6 Smart

IFA v6 GFS

• Producers who require certification with GFSI recognition (mostly US markets)
## TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS
### A comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both have <strong>evolved from IFA v5</strong> with full support from GLOBALG.A.P. technical committees.</td>
<td>V6 Smart is intended for the majority of producers, v6 GFS is specifically <strong>adapted for GFSI</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Same six topics</strong>, same holistic approach.</td>
<td><strong>GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations</strong> for the GFS edition have a few extra requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The topics of <strong>environmental sustainability</strong>, <strong>animal health and welfare</strong>, and <strong>workers’ well-being</strong> are covered in the same way in both editions.</td>
<td>The principles and criteria relating to the topics of <strong>legal, management and traceability, food safety, and production processes</strong> are <strong>more prescriptive</strong> to accommodate GFSI benchmarking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content and user experience</strong> have been aligned as closely as possible.</td>
<td>Less than 15% of the principles and criteria in the GFS and Smart editions differ from each other. <strong>There is one extra principle and respective criteria</strong> in the GFS edition for fruit and vegetables (190 vs. 191 total).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both editions are accepted for <strong>BRC and IFS certified post-farm gate</strong> product handling units</td>
<td><strong>Compliance levels</strong>: The GFS edition has 15 more principles and criteria graded as Major Musts, while the corresponding points in the Smart edition are Minor Musts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recertification audit: <strong>Remote audit</strong> (fully remote) is included as an emergency procedure for the Smart edition only. Initial certification based on a fully remote audit is not possible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS
### A comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFA v6 principle</th>
<th>Difference in level/principle and criteria wording*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FV 01.01</td>
<td>Level; principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 01.02</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 01.03</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 02.02</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 03.01</td>
<td>Level; principle and criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 05.01</td>
<td>Level; principle and criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 05.02</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 11.01</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 12.01</td>
<td>Level; principle and criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 13.01</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 13.03</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 14.01</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 15.01</td>
<td>Level; principle and criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 16.01</td>
<td>Level; principle and criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 19.01</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 19.07</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 25.01</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 30.01.01</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 32.07.02</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 33.01.03</td>
<td>Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>FV 33.01.04</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 33.02.02</td>
<td>Principle and criteria wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 33.03.01</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 33.05.01</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 33.06.01</td>
<td>Level; principle and criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV 33.07.01</td>
<td>This principle and its respective criteria does not exist in IFA v6 Smart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where differences in level exist, the principles and criteria are Major Musts in IFA v6 GFS and Minor Musts in IFA v6 Smart.
IFA V6 AND THE new ERA OF SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS
How will it impact you?
ELIGIBILITY

• Covers **hundreds of products**

• Covers **all types of production systems**, e.g., hydroponics and covered or uncovered production areas

• Get certified in **any country** where a GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB is willing to conduct an audit

• **Smallholders and large-scale producers** – certification options for every size and type of farm
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Streamlined, customized checklists

Outcome-oriented approach

Digital, data-driven certification

Certificates issued at scope level

Flexibility with choice of two editions

Higher level of integrity behind GLOBALG.A.P. certificates

Stronger focus on sustainability and animal welfare

Continuous improvement plan
Benefits for producers

- **Streamlined, customized checklists**
  Removal of irrelevant and duplicated principles and criteria reduces audit burden. Simpler, more efficient, and customized for the producer – reduced audit time.

- **Transition from a prescriptive to an outcome-oriented approach**
  Focus on outcomes over measures means flexibility in demonstrating compliance. Enhanced standards and sustainability requirements are more attractive to buyers.

- **Introduction of a continuous improvement plan**
  Aids the identification of target areas to improve by analyzing practices. Improves farming practices holistically and reduces environmental impact.

- **Choose the IFA v6 edition that best suits your needs**
  Two parallel editions with the option of GFSI recognition for producers who require it.
IFA V6 AND SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS
Benefits for supply chain stakeholders

- **Stronger focus on sustainability issues**
  New and updated requirements on topics such as plastics, waste, carbon neutrality, etc.
  Reduced environmental impact increasingly important to consumers.

- **Simplified benchmarking for clarity in the market**
  Only equivalent approved modified checklists or benchmarked schemes.
  Removal of “resembling” option.

- **Greater integrity**
  Uniform certificates are generated in a closed system and validated online.
IFA V6 AND SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS
Benefits for CBs

• **A more digital, data-driven certification experience**
  Use of Audit Online Hub to upload audit data and generate reports.
  Electronically issued certificates through Validation Service.
  Reduced audit time and environmental impact from less paper use.

• **Certificates issued at scope level**
  Streamlined process with listed product categories rather than multiple certificates.
  Stronger integrity of certificates through Validation Service.

• **Easier accreditation and auditor qualification**
  Expanded initial training and test without product category limitation later.
  Removal of minimum number of audits per product category (product categories are merged into scopes)
FAQs
IFA v6 in the smart era
WHAT IS THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM IFA V5 TO V6

IFA v5.4-1-GFS replaces v5.3-GFS

Publication of IFA v6 interim version

CB training

Publication of IFA v6 final version

IFA v6 Smart becomes obligatory

IFA v6 GFS receives GFSI recognition, estimated Q1 2023*

IFA v6 GFS becomes obligatory*

22 January 2022

26 April 2022

May 2022

September 2022

30 April

1 May 2023

+ 3 months

Date

TBC*

IFA v5.2 audits possible (non GFSI recognized)

IFA v5.2 certificates valid

IFA v5.4-1-GFS audits possible* (FV, AQ)

IFA v5.4-1-GFS certificates valid*

IFA v6 audits possible

*V5.4-1-GFS remains valid until three months after IFA v6 GFS receives GFSI recognition. The exact date for this is still unknown.
Additional rules for *individual producers* in IFA v6 GFS:

- Zero hours advance warning for unannounced CB audits
- Four months certificate validity extension is only possible with additional conditions
Additional rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS in IFA v6 GFS:

- Four months certificate validity extension is only possible with additional conditions
- Zero hours advance warning for the 10% unannounced CB QMS audits
- No sampling for producer group members/multisite producers/product handling units classified as high-risk
  - High-risk products include fresh herbs, leafy greens, berries, cantaloupe melons
  - High-risk processes include postharvest use of water/ice/steam, preharvest and/or harvest activities where water touches the edible part of the product, preharvest use of raw organic manure applied less than 60 days before harvest
- The internal QMS auditor, the internal farm auditors, and the QMS manager must be independent from the producer group members/production sites
TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS
Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for producers

- Annual management review and food safety policy declaration
- At least 25% of the audit sample shall be random
- At least 20% of producer group members/production sites that are audited during the certification cycle shall be audited unannounced
- The CB may additionally issue GLOBALG.A.P. certificates to producer group members if those producers were audited as part of the sample
How does a producer know which edition to use?

What role do buyer requirements play in the decision?

- Customer requirements normally determine the standard or edition that a producer will implement. Therefore, communication between the producer and their customer(s) is key. If a producer is not clear on customer requirements, the best approach is to ask the customer directly regarding topics such as which edition is required, which standard, which version, etc.

Can a producer obtain certification for Smart and GFS editions for different products?

- Yes, it is possible to have production processes certified to IFA v6 Smart for one product, and IFA v6 GFS for another. This can be done in one CB audit.

Is switching between the two editions possible?

- Yes, switching between the IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS editions is possible.
Combine add-ons and assurance as required. For example:
Certification status is visible in the **GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems**. Additional audit information may be visible depending on data access rights.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate expiration date</th>
<th>Countries of destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audit information
Additional rules for CBs in v6 GFS:

• Additional requirements for initial training (before sign-off) and maintenance of competency by the CB.

• CBs shall provide the final CB audit report to the producer, including the completed audit checklist generated by Audit Online Hub if requested by the producer, within five working days of its completion.

• Additional rules for defining high-risk products and high-risk processes for producer group members.

• At least 25% of the square root sample of the actual number of producer group members/production sites shall be randomly selected.
Have the requirements changed?

- There are **no new requirements** for CBs/auditors to qualify for the **IFA v6 GFS** edition compared to **IFA v5.4-1-GFS**.

When CBs apply for accreditation, are they accredited for both editions?

- The two accreditations (IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS) can be gained **simultaneously**.
FIVE STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

1. Download the documents from the GLOBALG.A.P. website
   GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations and the IFA principles and criteria for fruit and vegetables

2. Implement the standard requirements and perform a self-assessment
   Registered Trainers can provide assistance during audit preparations

3. Contact a GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB and request an audit
   Search the full list of approved CBs by region, country, scope, and status

4. CB performs on-site audit and uploads results to Audit Online Hub
   All non-compliances must be corrected within 28 days and verified by the CB

5. Receive a GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certificate for the relevant scope
   Certification status is visible in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems