

**MEETING ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP)
FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
PHILEXPORT BOARDROOM
July 2, 2008 * 1:30 – 5:00pm**

I. Attendance:

UN Resource Persons:

Ulrich Hoffman	UNCTAD
Miguel R. Bautista	Phil. Mission to the UN

Private Sector:

Lolita Baligad	AAMC Foods Corporation
Carlos V. Cabochan	Philippine Association of Supermarkets
Larry Fernandez	Agri-Fruit Freezing Corp.
Renato Francisco	You Trading Corp.
Roy Ortiz	DOLE Asia Company, Ltd.
Mitsuru Obucho	Greenstar Produce Phils.
Roland Sarte	Greenstar Produce Phils.

Government Sector:

Arriane Aldeza	DA-HVCC
Jallyne Remoquillo	DA-HVCC
Clarence Augustine	BAPFS
Wilfredo Cabezon	Bureau of Soils & Water Management
Rosemarie G. Castillo	BETP/DTI
Larry Lacson	BPI
Garce Mandigma	BAPFS
Roberto Masabay	DA-ATI

PHILEXPORT:

Roberto C. Amores	Trustee
Leonor D. Abella	VP-Promo
Ma. Flordeliza C. Leong	Sr. Manager-PSACD
Ann Hazel Javier	Sr. Officer-PDMD
Cherry DV. Agoyaoy	Sr. Officer-EF
Kathleen Marie T. Dimayuga	Officer-PSACD
Ferdinand Javier	Trainee-PSACD

II. Highlights of the Opening Remarks by Mr. Roberto C. Amores

<i>Issues/ Subject Matter</i>	<i>Discussions</i>	<i>Action Points / Agreements</i>
1. Growing population has increased demand for food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Mr. Amores stated that with increase in the demand for food comes the increase in awareness for food and environment safety, bio-terrorism, food-borne illness and goal for sustainable agriculture. ●He added that developed countries impose stricter environmental and health regulation which developing countries is having a hard time coping up with 	
2. Maximum residue levels of chlorpyrifos for mangoes to Japan is lowered to .05 ppm from .5 ppm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Through researches, it was found out that other fruits, even those consumed without peeling, have higher MLR than that of the Philippine mangoes ●Since most mango growers are backyard farmers, they do not have sufficient information regarding good agricultural practices. The pesticides these mango growers use might not be accredited by the exporting countries. ●There seems to be a bias against mangoes which can possibly hinder the export growth of the industry. 	
3. In 2001, fresh okras exported to Japan were found to have chlorpyrifos residue of 0.17ppm, which is above the allowable MRL of 0.1 ppm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The okras were inspected and detained for 48 hrs. which decreased its marketability since its shelf life was reduced as a result. ●Export dropped drastically in 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Mandatory accreditation of farms and packaging stations of all exporters and growers was implemented. ●BPI assigned production codes for each farmer, now termed as traceability code. ●BPI Quarantine Inspectors were assigned to monitor the proper use of accredited chemicals and a phytosanitary

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<p>4. Early in 2008, 16 cases of okras exported to Japan were found to have exceeded the MLRs of the following chemicals: Fluazifop, Metamidophos, Difeconazole and Tebufenocide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The okras were subjected to chemical residue test which takes about 5-6 days excluding fumigation if okras are found to have pests. ●Marketability was decreased since the shelf life was also lessened. ●Inspection cost was shouldered by the exporters. ●Philippine okras might be banned in Japan if drastic measures are not immediately implemented to convince the Japanese government that there are no more chemical detections in local okras. 	<p>certificate was issued after.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●POPEA adopted stricter protocols and controls on the use of pesticides or chemicals in collaboration with BPI National Pesticides and Analytical Laboratories and Pesticides and Fertilizers. Authority for attaining full compliance to Japan's food safety rules and regulations. ●Examples of these polices are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Pesticides/ Fungicides with MRLs of below 1.0 ppm and Herbicides with MRL of below 0.2 ppm absolutely will not be used 2.Only authorized skilled, trained and properly equipped spraying teams will be allowed to undertake spraying. During spraying, farmers presence will be required at all times. 3.Resellers of chemicals will be accredited and screened to ensure that chemicals are not adulterated or tainted. ●POPEA will require all okra growers to adopt GAP.
<p>5. Four Pillars of GAP</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Economic Viability 2.Environmental Suitability 3.Social Acceptability 4.Food Safety and Quality <p>These four pillars of GAP are commonly included in Private and Public Sector standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GAP implementation should start with export crops like okra, pineapples, banana and mangoes. ● Government should provide enough resources to monitor compliance of farmers planting such crops. The program should also include those planting other crops adjacent to these export crops to avoid contamination.

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6. Challenges towards GAP certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●GAP certification will increase production cost for exporters and farmers since it entails record-keeping and other quality standards. ●It can also result to confusion if it is not harmonized with existing GAP standards. ●It can be used to serve competing interest of specific stakeholders in agri-food supply chain by modifying supplier-buyer relationship. ●Since most of the farmers are small-scale, there is a risk of them not able to seize export market opportunities unless they are adequately informed and technically prepared. ●Compliance with GAP does not always result to environmental and social benefits. ●Awareness is needed for the practice to lead to improvements in terms of yield and production efficiencies as well as environment, health and safety of workers. This is called Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) 	DA is communicating and working with stakeholders to address issues.

III. Highlights of the Presentation on Conceptual Framework on GAP by Mr. Ulrich Hoffman

<i>Subject Matter</i>	<i>Discussions</i>
1. Definition and concept of GAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●According to FAO, GAP address environmental, economic and social sustainability for on-farm processes, and result in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products (FAO COAG2003 GAP paper). ●There is no point in creating a GAP system which is not in line and does not respond to market requirements. ●GAP is an opportunity to integrate technical advice to farmers to include good agronomy, food safety and quality and business

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	<p>skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●GAP should be seen as a building block in the national food chain approach to food safety. ●There are different types of GAP standards for different objectives and conditions. ●Their should be a clarity on trust and focus of National GAP approaches. ●National GAP program should address requirements of most or several sustainability standards in both the commercial context and the non-commercial sustainability aspects.
2. Different GAP approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●There is no “one size fits all” approach. The strategy depends on the national objective, market strategy and opportunities. ●Any approach should be coherent and should assure integrity, cost-effectiveness and must be based on existing capacity. ●The first important task in any GAP approach is to know the target markets and other objectives, before analyzing the compliance requirements. ●Clarify the focus. Should not only concentrate on export requirements. Think also of the farmers, the national requirements and the domestic market. • The GAP approach should come from industries. They should take the lead. • JGAP and China Gap are two-tier systems. They have silver and gold standards. Silver is for the national market, while Gold, which is benchmarked to Global GAP, is for the export market. • Another option is the modular approach which combines government-sponsored GAP schemes with commercial GAP standards. • Don't rush implementation. Consider impact on small stakeholders.
3. Role of Government in National GAP Programs	<p>The role of the government is more a supportive and facilitating role on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Analysis • Facilitating Investment • Devising support policies • Assuring policy coherence • Facilitating stakeholder dialogues
4. National GAP Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Stakeholders coordination and mechanism ●Concerted strategy and policy ●Standards & documentations ●Reliable Inspection/Certification/ Laboratory ●Infrastructure and capacity building ●Market Demand & Sector Support

IV. Philippine GAP Program by Ms. Grace Mandigma

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Discussions</i>
1. The Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandated to create and develop standards for agriculture and fishery products.
2. Philippine GAP Code for Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic code of GAP that pertains only to the practices and not the quality system. • It is voluntary and a government initiative. • From this code, the industry clamored for other specific codes specifically for mangoes and corn farming.
3. Signing of Administrative Order No. 25 – Certification Scheme of GAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The standard of certification is based on the Philippine code. • The certification scheme is voluntary. • The scheme is subsidized. The farmer shoulders the cost of analysis for pesticides and microbial analysis and the rest of the services are borne by government. • Intensive trainings for promotion of the program is done in every region. • Inspectors are trained regarding sampling methods for pesticides and microbial analyses and inspection procedures • There is a need for accreditation of speakers, lectures and trainers.
4. Benchmarking of Philippine GAP against Global GAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA is trying to harmonize the Philippine GAP with the Global GAP. • Sec. Yap approved the proposal for the benchmarking, although the budget is yet to be approved.
5. Next step of action with regards to GAP in the Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downloaded five training programs for 5 key regions in the country. • Training the small partners on how to put up the internal control systems.

IV. Open Forum

Issues	Discussions	Action Points / Agreements
1. Local workers vs. DA	The coordination of the local agricultural extension workers with the DA brought more confusion rather than useful coordination. The producers are confused as to which agencies to direct their concerns.	
2. Confusion on the two GAP standards or the two-tier system	Mr. Hoffman explained that the two-tier system used by Japan or China should not cause any confusion in implementation, since what a particular country imports responds to the needs of	

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	this country, its capacity and processes involved.	
3. Sectoral GAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Ms. Mandigma explained that mango and corn were provided with specific codes, since it has an export potential and has encountered numerous problems. These products were also identified based on exporter requests. ●However according to Mr. Hoffmann, it is not advisable to go for specific product GAPs since this is tedious and costly. 	Ms. Mandigma appreciated the wisdom of the suggestion and promised to bring this up with the BAFPS technical Committee.
4. Laboratories used for certifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Ms. Mandigma clarified that all samples are sent to National Pesticides Analytical Laboratory and UP for microbial analysis. However, Ms. Castillo noted that there are no GAP-accredited laboratory in the Philippines so far. ●Laboratories should be accredited internationally and ISO 65 certified to be for results to be acceptable under Global GAP standards, noted Mr. Hoffmann. 	
5. Problem with benchmarking approach of the Philippine GAP with Global GAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●In comparing the local and Global GAP, Mr. Hoffmann mentioned that the Philippine version tackles very limited issues in 54 criteria, while Global GAP has 244. He added that Global GAP requires a private owner and this can never be the government because there would be no check and balance. ●Ms. Mandigma invited other stakeholders and GAP practitioners to comment on the Philippine GAP by participating in the technical working group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Rather than focus on benchmarking with Global GAP, it is more practical to address the immediate needs of a particular market. At the moment, the issue is safe agro-chemical management.
6. Outside inspectors, Third party certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Global GAP requires third party inspectors and certifiers. This cannot be government because 	

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	<p>of the conflict in the regulatory and developmental functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●As per Ms. Mandigma, getting a third party certifier is only feasible if the number of application increases. So far, there are only four. 	
8. Role of Government in GAP standard setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Mr. Hoffmann further explained that the role of the government is more on the supportive side rather than standard setting. ●Standards should not be confused with a policy package. A standard is a commercial working requirement. A policy requirement is set by or facilitated by the government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●He suggested that the government should develop the system through stakeholder consultations. The process should start with an analysis of the common and prevailing problem rather than create a program or standard which will not be of use to the market.
8. Modular approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Mr. Lacson noted the very low interest for GAP certification. ●In response, Mr. Amores said that the interest will depend on market demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Mr. Lacson's suggestion for farmers to try the modular certification approach was welcomed by the participants, since this is also acceptable under Global GAP standards. This way, they can manage the costs and implementation better.

Prepared by:

Ma. Flordeliza C. Leong

Noted by:

Mr. Roberto C. Amores