



**GLOBALG.A.P.**

## **IAF and GLOBALG.A.P. MLA AGREEMENT**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 FoodPLUS is the scheme owner of the world-wide operated **GLOBALG.A.P.** Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) certification scheme *including a recognition (benchmarking) system of other IFA equivalent certification schemes*. GlobalG.A.P. has sought and received endorsement of their IFA scheme as a sub-scope of the IAF MLA in accordance with IAF PL3 and this Agreement.

1.2 **FoodPLUS**, *from now on referred to as GLOBALG.A.P.*, requires Certification Bodies (CBs) operating in its IFA certification scheme to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) with a main scope of product certification and a sub-scope of GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certification scheme (IAF MLA signatories).;

1.3 GLOBALG.A.P. sets voluntary standards for the certification of agricultural products around the globe. The aim is to establish ONE standard for Good Agricultural Practice (G.A.P.) with different product applications capable of fitting into the whole of global agriculture. GLOBALG.A.P. is supported by 45 Retail and Food Service Members; more than 100 Supplier members and more than 100 Associate members.

1.4 GLOBALG.A.P. contracts at the time of this Agreement with over 130 CBs Worldwide, the supervision of which is carried out by the ABs that are IAF MLA signatories.

1.5 The GLOBALG.A.P. certification process is performed by more than 1500 inspectors/auditors. Requirements for the professional competence of personnel (inspectors and auditors) are defined in Annex III.1 and III.2 of the GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations.

1.6 GLOBALG.A.P. delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CBs it contracts with to the corresponding IAF Accreditation Bodies, noting that harmonization of criteria applied by the different ABs is increasingly important to ensure consistency of that supervision.

1.7 GLOBALG.A.P. provides the standard and framework for independent, recognized 3rd party certification of farm production processes (the certificate covers the process of the certified product from farm inputs such as feed or seedlings and all the farming activities until the product leaves the farm) based on ISO/IEC Guide 65 or ISO/IEC 17065.

1.8 The **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)** is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

1.9 IAF is responsible for the harmonization and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CBs and to support its IAF MLA.



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1.10 The IAF MLA is established and maintained on the basis of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which IAF contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of certificates issued by accredited CBs.

## **2. Administration and Cooperation**

2.1 Both IAF and GLOBALG.A.P., by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organizations to ensure harmonization in the accreditation practices performed by IAF members in the GLOBALG.A.P. owned IFA certification scheme and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the IFA certification scheme with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the GLOBALG.A.P. owned IFA certification scheme's accredited CBs.

2.2 IAF and GLOBALG.A.P. shall comply with the respective requirements of IAF PL3 IAF Policies and Procedures for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CBs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.

2.3 Both IAF and GLOBALG.A.P. shall appoint a liaison person of each organization to act as contact persons.

2.4 The GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certification scheme will be open to all CBs that are accredited by IAF MLA signatories. The accreditation bodies will be signatory members of the IAF MLA for Product (ISO/IEC Guide 65 or ISO/IEC 17065) and have agreed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between GlobalG.A.P and IAF (MoU). A list of IAF ABs that have agreed to implement the MoU shall be maintained on the GLOBALG.A.P. Website.

2.5 GLOBALG.A.P. will only work with IAF MLA signatories and who have agreed to implement the MoU. GLOBALGAP will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the IAF MLA or has not implemented and maintained the MoU.

## **3. Information Exchange**

In order to achieve such goals both organizations have agreed upon the following:

3.1 GLOBALGAP shall inform the IAF of the following:

- (a) Any changes to the GLOBALG.A.P. system that may impact on compliance of the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certification scheme with IAF PL3;
- (b) Any revision/extension of GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certification scheme standards/documents;
- (c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by GLOBALGAP;
- (d) Any findings GLOBALGAP may have regarding IAF MLA signatory ABs.





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3.2 IAF shall inform GLOBALG.A.P. of the following:

- (a) Whenever an IAF MLA signatory with a sub-scope of GLOBALG.A.P. IFA scheme has been suspended or had their IAF MLA signatory status withdrawn;
- (b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the GLOBALG.A.P. standards/documents;
- (c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have impact on the IAF MLA and GLOBALG.A.P. sub-scope;

#### **4. Mandatory Interpretations on GLOBALG.A.P. Documents**

4.1 GLOBALG.A.P. documents and modules shall be prepared using the GLOBALG.A.P. Procedure for the setting and revision of GLOBALG.A.P. Standards;

This shall include a public review phase comprising two rounds of comment submissions by interested parties, each lasting 60 days. The second round of comment may generally be conducted following completion of two trial audits in the field with feedback being provided to organizations that made the comment. A summary of comments shall be available on the GLOBALG.A.P. Website.

4.2 The IAF will be considered as a stakeholder and invited during any public consultation period of the standard revision process.

4.3 The review period for the GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents shall be four (4) years. GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents shall be available free of charge on the GLOBALG.A.P. website ([www.globalgap.org](http://www.globalgap.org)).

4.4 The need for the development of specific IAF application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the IAF MLA shall be proposed by the IAF Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the IAF MLA Committee as specified in IAF PL3.

#### **5. Implementation**

5.1 IAF and GLOBALG.A.P. shall each bear their own costs.

5.2 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MLA Peer evaluation to the IAF Product MLA signatories working in the IFA certification scheme that have agreed to implement the MoU.

#### **6. Confidentiality**



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6.1 IAF shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of GLOBALG.A.P..

**7. Term**

This Agreement shall commence from the Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 10, continue for a period of 3 years.

**8. Cancellation**

This Agreement between GLOBALG.A.P. and IAF can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

**International Accreditation Forum, Inc.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Moeller", written over a faint circular watermark.

Signature of authorized person

**GLOBALG.A.P.**

P/O Fekete Andras

Signature of authorized person

**Chairman of IAF**

**Dr. Kristian Moeller  
Secretary GLOBALG.A.P., Managing  
Director FoodPLUS GmbH**

**Date of Agreement: 25 October 2013**