

GRASP – GLOBALGAP Risk Assessment on Social Practices

Cooperate social responsibility has become an emerging issue in global food supply chains. Partners involved in the food sector are challenged to find innovative and meaningful approaches to ensure that their agricultural products are produced in line with internationally agreed labour requirements

THE SITUATION

Millions of rural workers worldwide, among them seasonal and migrant workers, are active in agricultural production. Lacking viable economic alternatives, workers in many cases agree to work under poor social conditions. Improving working conditions of farm workers is on the agenda of various actors and has presented itself as a complex area.

THE INITIATIVE

From 2005 to 2007, GLOBALGAP, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and Coop Switzerland conducted a common project to develop a Module covering basic social criteria, applicable to all agricultural production systems and different farm sizes. Discussions and trials on five continents indicated that by using synergies with the GLOBALGAP auditing system, assessment costs can be kept low, which makes the Module affordable to the mainstream production.

THE APPROACH

The developed GRASP Module is a tool to support farmers to demonstrate their compliance with international as well as national labour legislation. The GRASP Assessments are no complete social audits with in-depth investigations, but focus on the review of an implemented social management system. For its successful implementation, farmers are supported with guidelines providing background information and practical examples.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Legal labour requirements differ from country to country. Stakeholder round tables are held to locally interpret and validate the GRASP requirements. Outputs are local interpretation guidelines.

THE ONGOING PROJECT

In autumn 2008, a second project phase has been launched. Together with GTZ and the GLOBALGAP Secretariat, different retailers have joint forces to implement the GRASP Module in selected pilot countries. Farmers and assessors are supported through training programmes to learn about the GRASP requirements, their implementation and assessment. In order to evaluate the effectivity of the GRASP Module, a special focus is set on impact monitoring.

INTERESTED?

GLOBALGAP invites interested members to participate in these pilot implementation projects. For more information, please contact Kerstin Uhlig: uhlig@globalgap.org or Jenni Heise: grasp@jenni-heise.net.

THE PARTNERS



Download the the project report of the first GRASP-Phase at: www.globalgap.org - Ressources - Publications