At the 11th edition of its GLOBALG.A.P. SUMMIT, which opened today in Madrid, 400 participants from 50 countries heard from major retailers and producers how the globalization of food retailing marches on at a pace that continues to bring valuable opportunities to producers worldwide.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Board outlined how the organization was transforming by acknowledging its role as more than just a certification scheme and providing new solutions to adapt to changes in global markets.

GLOBALG.A.P. introduced its new programs such as localg.a.p. for emerging producers as well as new add-on assessments in its GLOBALG.A.P.+ Add-On program that address specific concerns of more mature markets.

Thousands of producers are joining the “G.A.P. Upgrade” worldwide with GLOBALG.A.P. supporting their efforts through the localg.a.p. program and the GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurers: a global network of highly professional agricultural advisors who assist producers in implementing quality management systems and so get them on the road to safe and sustainable agriculture and into new markets.

GLOBALG.A.P. also announced the winners of the first-ever G.A.P. Awards. Nigel Garbutt, Chairman GLOBALG.A.P. said, “The standard of all the applicants has been outstanding and each are highly innovative. Not only do they all show a huge commitment to GLOBALG.A.P. Certification to improve their production techniques but how they link this to advance their sales and marketing.”
The winners were:

From Belgium: VBT Responsibly Fresh
From Japan: Farm Alliance Matsumoto Farm Co. Ltd
From Kenya: Kakuzi Limited
From Uruguay: MILAGRO S.A.

Pictures and profiles of the winners can be obtained from meifert@globalgap.org.

About GLOBALG.A.P.
GLOBALG.A.P. is a leading global certification program with a mission to bring farmers and retailers together to produce and market safe food, protect scarce resources and build a sustainable future.

For more information on GLOBALG.A.P. visit www.globalgap.org

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