



GGFSA Joint Product

Principles for Managing GGFSA Certification within FSA Farm Management Groups

August 2019

Background

The agri-food sector worldwide is complex. The range of management and verification systems working in this sector is considerable and complexity increases when looking at the overlap among these systems.

The FSA system tackles this complexity with a very flexible implementation framework, which enables a combination of the 3 implementation options which leads to FSA claims. For GLOBALG.A.P. standard users there are 2 relevant FSA benchmarking options, namely the benchmarking option and the hybrid options via the “GGFSA add-on”.

The flexibility of the system has raised a few questions on how to audit and communicate different scenarios. This document aims to clarify some possible scenarios where producers with and without GLOBALG.A.P. certification aim to make FSA claims. In particular, it aims to give guidance on how to go about any scenario, which is not explicitly covered in the current documents.

This guidance is based on the three fundamental principles of the SAI Platform GLOBALG.A.P. partnership:

- **Simplicity.** The spirit of the collaboration between GLOBALG.A.P. and SAI Platform aims to simplify verification of farm performance in the agri-food sector.
- **Avoid duplication.** The GLOBALG.A.P. SAI Platform partnership aims to avoid duplications in the agri-food sector and the GGFSA joint product (add-on) is the first product that aims to avoid duplication of audits at the farm level.
- **Efficiency.** Through the accomplishment of both points above, we want to create a more efficient agri-food sector.

Questions

For any questions you might have, please contact standard_support@globalgap.org or fsatool@saiplatform.org.



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Guidance: General Principles

These are the general principles we apply to ensure that both the farm management system (FMS) and the farm management group (FMG) are audited in a simple and efficient manner.

- ⇒ Where a direct FSA benchmark is available, producers and producer groups can make FSA claims via that benchmark. No additional verification will be required to make the benchmarked claim.
- ⇒ Where a producer already holds GLOBALG.A.P. certification and there is no benchmark (or the GLOBALG.A.P. benchmark result does not achieve the desired performance level), producers are only required to complete the GGFSA add-on questionnaire and verification audit in order to demonstrate their FSA performance level.
- ⇒ When a producer (or producer group) with GLOBALG.A.P. (IFA) certification is receiving its first GGFSA add-on audit, this should be scheduled to take place alongside the yearly re-certification audit of the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA standard.
- ⇒ The FSA frequency applies to the GGFSA, meaning that the add-on is audited only once every 3 years.
- ⇒ Normally the GGFSA add-on should be verified by the same CB that carries out the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA recertification audit. However, it is possible for the GGFSA add-on to be audited by a different CB.
- ⇒ If individual producers have an IFA certification (without the GGFSA add-on) and are also part of an FSA farm management group supplying a company managing an FSA farm management system, then the outcome of the FSA assessment and verification audit, shall be respected for all the producers in the FMG.

In GLOBALG.A.P. terms, this means that a buyer (might be the first Chain of Custody certified entity) acts as a “virtual group”. In FSA terms, this may be the FMG coordinator, which group includes producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

Based on the results of that virtual group, all the producers with IFA certification in the FMG can make the FSA claim through the GGFSA add-on, regardless of which individual producers in the FMG were audited.

This does not affect the outcome for the other producers in the FMG. The FSA Letter of Attestation for the FMG is still owned by the FMG coordinator.



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Guidance: Typical Scenarios

Looking at the possible scenarios of FSA implementation among the overlap of GLOBALG.A.P. and SAI Platform members, we find many possible combinations. The rules for the most common scenarios are described below.

Scenario 1: FSA GLOBALG.A.P. Benchmark

Best for: Producers located in benchmarked countries.

SAI Platform has benchmarked 'GLOBALG.A.P. + legislation' in certain countries to be equivalent to certain FSA performance levels. Producers (or producer groups) with GLOBALG.A.P. certification located in these countries can claim the benchmarked FSA performance level (usually silver) without additional verification. An FSA Letter of Attestation is not necessary to make an FSA performance level claim within the FSA system in these circumstances.

If a producer with GLOBALG.A.P. certification in a benchmarked country wants to make their FSA performance level visible within the GLOBALG.A.P. database, their CB can add the GGFSA add-on as an attribute to their GGN.

If desired by the producer(s), a Letter of Attestation may be issued by the CB, but it is not an obligation in the FSA system.

If a producer with GLOBALG.A.P. certification in a benchmarked country wants to claim a *higher* performance level than the SAI Platform benchmark result (e.g., gold), they can use the GGFSA add-on to do this.

The list of countries with a "GLOBALG.A.P. + legislation filter" is currently (April 2019): Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, UK, France. SAI Platform is working to expand this list in 2019, and this guidance will be updated once the new list is available. This list will also be available from the FSA Resource Centre: <https://saiplatform.org/fsa/resource-centre/>

For more information on the FSA benchmarking options see Annex 2 below.

Scenario 2: GLOBALG.A.P. with GGFSA Add-on only

Best for: Producers or producer groups in non-benchmarked countries that already have GLOBALG.A.P. certification and want to make an FSA claim, or that currently have no certification and would benefit from having GLOBALG.A.P. certification as well as making an FSA claim.



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In this case the GLOBALG.A.P. group and the FSA FMG must be the same, and the QMS and the FMS should be the same (or related) systems.

The GGFSA add-on consists of 20 additional questions that the producer completes as a self-assessment. These answers are verified during the audit, and the outcome is calculated as part of the GGFSA audit and reflects the FSA performance levels bronze, silver or gold.

The GGFSA add-on must be audited once every three years, and at the same time as a GLOBALG.A.P. certification (or recertification) visit. For producer groups, the sampling strategy must follow the GLOBALG.A.P. sampling strategy.

The FSA Letter of Attestation is issued through the GLOBALG.A.P. system and then automatically entered into the FSA database.

In this scenario the same CB would usually carry out both audits, as they are being conducted at the same time and for the same FMG.

Scenario 3: FSA Self-Assessment and GGFSA Add-on Combination

Best for: A group of producers seeking FSA performance level verification as a single FMG under the FSA rules, in which some producers already have GLOBALG.A.P. certification, either as independent/individual producers (Option 1 in the GLOBALG.A.P. system), or as a result of combining two or more unrelated GLOBALG.A.P. groups (Option 2 in the GLOBALG.A.P. system) within an FSA FMG.

For example:

- *An FSA FMG includes both producers with and without GLOBALG.A.P. IFA (Option 1) certification.*
- *An FSA FMG includes both producers with and without GLOBALG.A.P. IFA (Option 2) certification.*
- *An FSA FMG combines producers with GLOBALG.A.P. IFA (Option 2) certification from different producer groups*

In all cases, the FSA FMG must be part of active FMS which meets FSA requirements and engages all the producers in the FMG.

In GLOBALG.A.P. terms, this is the 'virtual group' scenario.

In this case, the FSA self-assessment and verification sampling and audit rules should be followed for the whole group, including the timing and frequency



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of the audit. There is no requirement for the audit to coincide with GLOBALG.A.P. recertification audits.

The outcome of the FSA assessment and verification audit applies to all the producers in the FMG, regardless of whether they were included in the FSA assessment or audit sample. This means that all the producers with IFA certification in the FMG can make an FSA claim through the GGFSA add-on based on the outcome for the whole group, regardless of whether they were included in the self-assessment or audit sample. The Letter of Attestation will show the performance level(s) for the FSA FMG as a whole and will not give a performance level for the individual producer.

This does not affect the outcome for the other producers in the FMG. The FSA Letter of Attestation for the FMG is still owned by the FMG coordinator, or in GLOBALG.A.P. terms the chain of custody certificate holder.

If a producer with GLOBALG.A.P. certification is included in the assessment or verification sample, that producer only needs to complete the GGFSA questionnaire.

In the GLOBALG.A.P. database, the CB should set all the individual producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certification or producer group members (GGNs) as assessed under the GGFSA add-on attribute. Letters of Attestation may also be made available in the GLOBALG.A.P. database.

There is no need to follow the group certification rules (Option 2, QMS) of the GLOBALG.A.P. system since this is not a producer group in terms of the IFA standard. If applicable the buyer managing the FMS/FMG ("virtual groups") may be Chain of Custody certified.

In this case, the CB carrying out the GGFSA add-on audit may be different from the one that carried out the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA audit. For example, if the IFA certificate was issued by CB "A", then CB "B" can still make the audit of the FSA farm management system and the GGFSA add-on if the random sample draws producers with IFA certification.

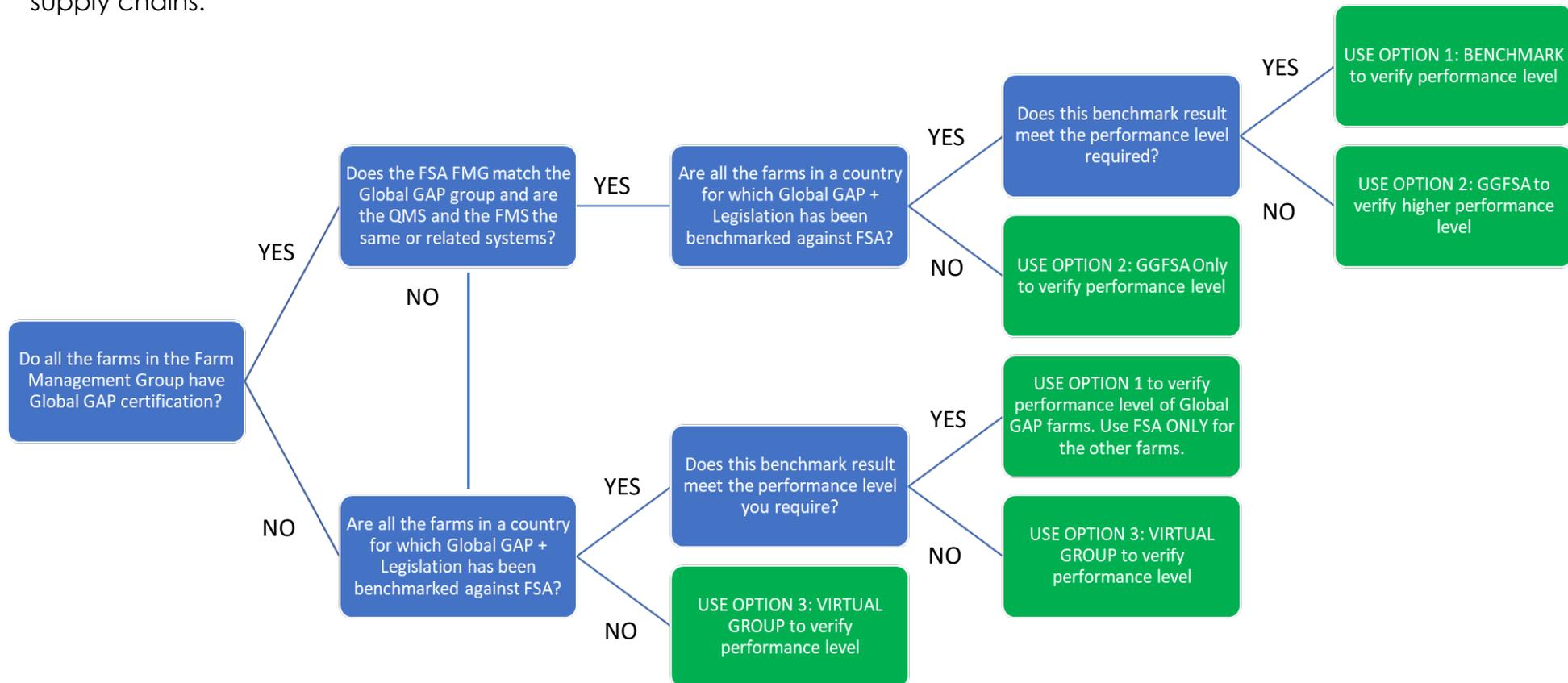
Other Scenarios

For other scenarios that are not covered by the guidance above, please contact fsatool@saipatform.org or standard_support@globalgap.org for assistance.



Annex 1: Decision tree

We have created the decision tree below to help you to determine which of these approaches will work best for your supply chains.





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Annex 2: About the FSA Benchmark Options

SAI FSA can be used as reference standard for benchmarking other codes and standards. Standards are assessed as equivalent to FSA bronze, silver or gold level, or as partially equivalent. As the GLOBALG.A.P. standards alone are only partially equivalent to FSA, the GGFSA add-on was developed to provide a simple set of additional criteria for producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certification to be assessed against in order to reach FSA silver level (the “GLOBALG.A.P. with GGFSA add-on” option).

In a small number of countries with strong legal frameworks and regulatory compliance systems, SAI Platform has determined that producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certification only may also claim FSA silver level (this is the “GLOBALG.A.P. + legislative filter” option).

More information on all FSA implementation options, including GGFSA, is available through the FSA Resource Centre: <https://saiplatform.org/fsa/resource-centre/>

More information on GGFSA is available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/sai-platform/