



GLOBALG.A.P.

FAQs

IFA v6 in the smart era





INTRODUCING IFA V6



IFA v6 is **GLOBALG.A.P.**'s flagship standard in a new and improved format. It has a simplified structure and language, extended criteria on key issues such as sustainability and animal welfare, and – for the first time – continuous improvement at producer level. Overall, it's a smarter standard, fit for the future.

Elmé Coetzer-Boersma
Managing Director





TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for producers

Additional rules for *individual producers* in IFA v6 GFS:

- Zero hours advance warning for unannounced audits
- Four months certificate extension is only possible with additional conditions



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for producers

Additional rules for *producer groups and multisite producers with QMS in IFA v6 GFS:*

- Four months certificate extension is only possible with additional conditions
- Zero hours advance warning for the 10% QMS unannounced audits
- No sampling for producer groups/multisite producers/PHU with members/sites/PHUs classified as high-risk
 - High-risk products include fresh herbs, leafy greens, berries, cantaloupe melons
 - High-risk processes include post-harvest use of water/ice/steam, preharvest and/or harvest activities where water touches the edible part of the product, preharvest use of raw organic manure applied less than 60 days before harvest
- The internal QMS auditor, the internal farm auditors, and the QMS manager must be independent from the members/sites



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for producers

- Annual management review and food safety policy declaration
- At least 25% of the audit sample shall be random
- Minimum 20% of members/sites that shall be audited during the certification cycle shall be audited unannounced
- The certification body may additionally issue GLOBALG.A.P. certificates to producer group members if those producers were audited as part of the sample



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Which is right for me as a producer?

How does a producer know which edition to use?

What role do buyer requirements play in the decision?

- Customer requirements normally determine the standard or edition that a producer will implement. Therefore, communication between the producer and their customer(s) is key. If a producer is not clear on customer requirements, the best approach would be to directly ask the customer regarding topics such as which edition is required, which standard, which version, etc.

Can a producer obtain certification for Smart and GFS editions for different products?

- Yes, it is possible to have IFA v6 Smart for one product, and IFA v6 GFS for another. This can be done in one audit.

Is switching between the two editions possible?

- Yes, switching between the IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS editions is possible.



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for certification bodies

Additional rules for *certification bodies* in v6 GFS:

- **Additional requirements for initial training** (before sign-off) and **maintenance of competency** by the certification body.
- Certification bodies must **provide the final CB audit report to the producer**, including the completed audit checklist generated by Audit Online Hub if requested by the producer, within 5 working days of its completion.
- Additional rules for **defining high-risk products and high-risk processes** for producer group members.
- At least 25% of the square root sample of the actual number of members/sites shall be **randomly selected**.



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Consequences for certification bodies

Have the requirements changed?

- There are **no new requirements** for certification bodies/auditors to be qualified for the **IFA v6 GFS** edition in comparison with **IFA v5.4-1-GFS**.

When certification bodies apply for accreditation, are they accredited for both editions?

- The two accreditations (IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS) can be gained **simultaneously**.



GLOBALG.A.P.

FAQs

Smart farm assurance solutions





WHERE DOES IFA V6 FIT IN THE BIG PICTURE?



With IFA v6 we are not just offering a revised checklist. We are hailing a new era of processes which will eventually connect all our products and services in a **smarter, more intuitive, and simplified way.**

As the landscape changes, we must ensure that our infrastructure evolves with it. The IFA v6 update is just the first step of a new journey towards **digitalized, impact-driven farm assurance solutions.**

Kristian Moeller
Managing Director





SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS

How do we get there?



THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS



Smarter standards and add-ons

New and improved products, beginning with IFA v6 and GRASP v2.0.



Smarter systems and services

Audit Online Hub and Validation Service linked to improve the integrity of GLOBALG.A.P. certificates.



Smarter approach to sustainability

Continuous improvement requirements and stronger environmental criteria in IFA v6, a new biodiversity add-on, and the Impact-Driven Approach expanded to other sectors.



Smarter integration of data

For conformance, transparency, and evaluation of the whole assurance system.



SMARTER STANDARDS AND ADD-ONS

FAQ

Will there be any major changes to the current portfolio of standards and add-ons?

- No, the current portfolio of standards and add-ons will still exist but will begin to interact differently to support streamlined checklists in the future.
- All GLOBALG.A.P. add-ons are **combinable** with IFA v6, but **GRASP**, **NURTURE**, and **FSMA PSR** add-ons will be updated first to combine with IFA v6 in the smarter checklists. They will be available in Audit Online Hub.
- Add-ons which have not yet been updated for IFA v6 will be processed separately.
- The move to update the **remaining add-ons** to the smarter approach will follow from 2022 onwards.
- Add-ons with no reference to food safety elements are **applicable to both IFA v6 editions**. For add-ons that build on food safety elements, GFSI recognition will contribute to the decision on which IFA v6 edition it should accompany.



SMARTER STANDARDS AND ADD-ONS

FAQ

How will benchmarking work?

- Schemes and standards will be able to be benchmarked against the **IFA v6 Smart edition only**.
- If a scheme or standard fully conforms with the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations and principles and criteria, it is classified as a **benchmarking scheme or benchmarking standard**.
- Benchmarking for IFA v6 Smart will commence in **September 2022**, following the launch of the final version of IFA v6. It shall be completed by September 2023.
- **Approved modified checklists** will need to be added to Audit Online Hub once they have been approved, as the general regulations mandate the use of Audit Online Hub for v6 audits.
- **Benchmarking schemes** must send aggregated audit data as a minimum and may decide whether to use Audit Online Hub or not.



SMARTER SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

FAQ

What is Audit Online Hub?

- Audit Online Hub is a tool that GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification bodies use to **gather and submit audit data**. GLOBALG.A.P. began implementing this system in 2019.



Will Audit Online Hub become mandatory for all GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons?

- For IFA v6 Smart and v6 GFS, **this is mandatory** according to the new smart process. All other standards and add-ons will move towards this process step by step after the launch of IFA v6. GRASP v2.0 will be the first add-on to move to this process.

Why is Audit Online Hub obligatory for certification bodies?

- Audit Online Hub is already in use for IFA v5 and other standards and add-ons. However, the new IFA v6 process has been updated to reinforce certification integrity via a closed loop between Audit Online Hub and Validation Service.



SMARTER SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

FAQ

Is there a fee for the use of Audit Online Hub?

- No, Audit Online Hub is **free of charge** for certification bodies and there are no associated costs for producers.
- There are **APIs** available which can connect the Audit Online Hub to a certification body's own audit management system or an approved software provider solution to be used by certification bodies. Certification bodies can choose to use an API which links to their system and saves time.
- The fees for the approved software provider solutions are set by the providers themselves. A list of approved software provider solutions can be found on [the GLOBALG.A.P. website](#).



SMARTER SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

FAQ

What is Validation Service and how does it result in better certification integrity?

- Previously, each paper certificate was created individually by certification bodies based on a set of information required by GLOBALG.A.P. Validation was provided via the GLOBALG.A.P. database. Now, however, certification bodies must issue certificates via Validation Service. **Certificates can only be generated in Validation Service if there is corresponding audit data in Audit Online Hub** – i.e., the data has been validated. This strengthens the integrity of GLOBALG.A.P. certificates since fraudulent or invalid certificates (e.g., due to missing audit data) cannot be generated.
- Validation Service will also result in **uniform certificates**, which means that traders will no longer need to compare the different certificates from each certification body.



SMARTER SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

FAQ

Will Audit Online Hub and Validation Service result in more data sharing?

- Audit Online Hub is designed as a “data in” system only, and access (to audit results or anything else according to the data access rules) is managed in Validation Service by the certification bodies. Going forward, we will explore whether further data insights on certification and audit data are relevant for stakeholders, based on our data policy.



SMARTER APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

FAQ

What is the Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability?

- The Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability is an **add-on**, currently active in the floriculture sector. It will be expanded to fruit and vegetables as well as aquaculture in IFA v6.
- The Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability involves the **collection of farm metrics via a farm management system (FMS)**. The raw input consumption data – e.g., nitrogen use per ha and per kg – is shared with GLOBALG.A.P. In return, GLOBALG.A.P. shares corresponding data for other producers of a similar size and production with the FMS. With the collected data, the FMS can compile historical reports and trend graphs, offering a level of anonymous comparison to a producer's peers. All data that the FMS shares with GLOBALG.A.P. is treated confidentially and shared only back to individual producers in agglomerated and anonymized form.





SMARTER APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

FAQ

How does the Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability help sustainability measures?

- Comparisons of input consumption data within a peer group can help identify areas needing improvement. It is a key tool within continuous improvement plans.
- Aggregated data may be used to demonstrate the impact of implementing IFA – i.e., showing how farm assurance affects sustainability measures.



SMARTER APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

FAQ

What will the new biodiversity add-on cover?

- It is an **on-farm audit of biodiversity measures** for conventional agriculture.
- It builds on topics within the IFA audit by demanding a higher level of compliance.
- It introduces new concepts such as on-farm biodiversity representatives and farm areas dedicated to biodiversity.

For whom is it relevant?

- It is intended primarily for producers in the European Economic Area, but is available for anyone else interested.
- It will be introduced for fruit and vegetables producers.



SMARTER INTEGRATION OF DATA

FAQ

How will data sharing reduce audit time?

- Submitting data via the Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability add-on can help to reduce the audit burden for producers, since auditors will need to spend less time reviewing criteria on the farm if data is submitted in advance. Shorter audits result in lower costs for producers.

Why demonstrate compliance with data?

- Producers are already collecting a lot of data, either for personal use or for compliance with other requirements. Often this data can also **directly prove compliance with a GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v6 principle**, and therefore save producers the time and effort of demonstrating compliance in alternative ways.