

**[ BAFPS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 25, S.  
2005, August 02, 2005 ]**

**GUIDELINES ON THE CERTIFICATION OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL  
PRACTICES (GAP) FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLE (FV) FARMING**

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) created pursuant to Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (AFMA) is mandated to formulate and enforce standards of quality in processing, preservation, packaging, labeling, importation, exportation, distribution and advertising of agriculture and fisheries products.

Recognizing liberalization of fruit and vegetable trade and the incessant need to compete in the international market, it is important that safety and quality of fruits and vegetables, which are consumed fresh, are ensured. The best approach to maintain the wholesomeness nature and safe consumption of edible horticultural produce is to systematically identify and establish management practices that minimizes chances of external and internal contamination from the farm-to-fork chain. Consequently, the government has to develop and enforce the Code of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) throughout the country in close collaboration with stakeholders. To assure that agricultural farms are adhering to GAP, there is an imperative need to provide specific guidelines in GAP Certification.

1. Objectives of Certification - The certification of agricultural farms is aimed to attain the following:

1.1 To increase the market access of horticultural products both in the local and foreign markets

1.2 To empower farmers to respond to the demands of consumers that specific criteria to achieve food safety and quality be met

1.3 To facilitate farmer adoption of sustainable agricultural practices

1.4 To uplift GAP-FV farmers profile as member of the nationally recognized list of vegetable farmers who are setting the benchmark for the production of safe and quality fruits and vegetables.

1.5 To enable consumers exercise the option of buying quality fruits and vegetable from traceable and certified sources

2. Scope of Guidelines - This establishes the rules applied by the Department of Agriculture (DA) for granting, maintaining and withdrawing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certificate to individual growers or farms in the fresh fruit and vegetable sector or to their Produce Marketing Organizations (PMOs) that market and or trade the produce.

3. Administrator -

3.1 Composition - The Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification Committee shall be composed of the Directors of attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA), representatives from the private sector, non-government organization, and academe.

Chairperson: Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Product Standards (BAFPS)

Co-Chairperson: Bureau of Plant Industry

Members: Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)  
Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)  
Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM)  
GMA-High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC) Program  
Representative, Private Sector  
Representative, NGO/PO  
Representative, Academe

3.2 Tasks. The Committee shall be tasked to:

- 3.2.1 Review and approve applications
- 3.2.2 Endorse to the Secretary a list of applicants to be issued a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certificate
- 3.2.3 Review and approve any changes in standards and fees
- 3.2.4 Hear appeals
- 3.2.5 Annually review investigations of complaints about abuses in the production and sale of products that do not adhere to GAP
- 3.2.6. Determine penalties for abuse of standards or mark
- 3.2.7 Negotiate satisfactory settlement of complaint and reimbursement for the investigation cost
- 3.2.8 Designate qualified National and Regional Inspectors

3.3 Secretariat. The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) shall act as secretariat of the GAP Certification Committee.

3.4 Inspectors. The National Inspectors based in the Central Offices shall be composed of identified technical personnel duly designated by the Directors of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) and the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS). Regional Inspectors replicating the composition of the National Inspectors duly recommended by their respective Regional heads, if any, shall be constituted as the need arises

#### 4. Application

4.1 Nature of applicants. The Department of Agriculture (DA) Certification Scheme shall be based on three (3) options, depending on the type of organization that is requesting certification.

4.1.1 Individual grower

4.1.2 Produce Marketing Organization (PMO)

4.1.3 A company/corporation that applies a national or company scheme

4.2 The applicant shall submit the completed application form to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification Committee.

4.3 Supporting Documents. Accompanying the accomplished form are:

4.3.1 Farm/Organization profile

4.3.2 Company/corporation Certificate of registration

4.3.3 Track record of the farm or company/corporation

4.3.4 For Produce Marketing Organizations (PMOs). The PMOs must illustrate that it has 100% control of the registered growers of the group requesting for certification, all individual growers operate under the same management systems and adhere to the Department of Agriculture (DA) Code of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

4.4 Fees

4.4.1 The Certification Committee shall establish the guidelines to fix reasonable fees and charges to cover the administrative expenses to be incurred during the evaluation, inspection and audit.

4.4.2 The charge for the first certification will cover administrative expenses incurred by the Committee during evaluation and audit expenses of inspectors.

4.4.3 Re-certification requires the re-audit of farm on the GAP-FV guidelines and will be conducted one (1) month prior to the expiry of the existing certification.

## 5. Certification

### 5.1 Audit/Inspection

5.1.1 After the Certification Committee has evaluated the application, the Committee will notify the farm within thirty (30) days on the farm audit date prior to the certification or the renewal of the application

5.1.2 The inspector may take samples of water, soil, plant tissue, plants etc. for testing. A receipt will be given to the producer; the producer will not charge the GAP Program for the sample taken. The applicant will pay the cost of testing, and the applicant will receive a copy of the analysis.

5.1.3 Inspectors shall conduct an "exit" interview with the applicant or authorized representative upon completion of the inspection process. The inspector shall cover all potential problem areas noted on the inspection form.

### 5.2 Issuance of GAP Certificate

5.2.1 The awarding of GAP-FV Certification is based upon compliance set in the Code of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) pertaining to farm structure, environment and maintenance, farming practices and farm