GlobalG.A.P.

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Where to provide feedback:
GFSIBM@theconsumergoodsforum.com

Before: 07 December 2026 at midnight CET

GlobalG.A.P

Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Fruit and Vegetables version 6.1

Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Aquaculture - Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs, Seaweed version 6.1

Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) Standard Version 2

Harmonized Produce Safety (HPS) Version 2

GFSI Benchmark Assessment Report

Final Version: 17.04.2026

Application information

Assessment team and date

Certification programme Name(s)	GlobalG.A.P Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Fruit and Vegetables version 6.1 Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Aquaculture - Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs, Seaweed version 6.1 Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) Standard Version 2 Harmonized Produce Safety (HPS) Version 2
Certification programme owner name and address	Agraya, Spichernstraße 55, 50672 Cologne, Germany
Certification programme owner name, email, contact number	Brian Windsor windsor@agraya.com +27790296566
Date of previous application if applicable	N/A
Benchmark Leader name and contact details	Karen Betts
GFSI Senior Technical Manager name	Karla Mijatovic
Observers name	Karla Mijatovic
Interpreter's name (if applicable)	N/A
Date of this office assessment	9th and 10th September 2026
Language (e.g. English or other)	English

Scopes including in this application

GFSI Scopes		Scopes applied for
AI	Farming of Animals for Meat/ Milk/ Eggs/ Honey	
AII	Farming of Fish and Seafood	
BI	Farming of Plants (other than grains and pulses)	
BII	Farming of Grains and Pulses	
BIII	Pre-process Handling of plant products	
C0	Animal Conversion	
CI	Processing of perishable animal products	
CII	Processing of Plant Perishable Products	
CIII	Processing of Animal and Plant Perishable Products (Mixed Products)	
CIV	Processing of Ambient Stable Products	
D	Production of Feed	
E	Catering	
FI	Retail / Wholesale	
FII	Food Broker / Agent	
H	Provision of Food Safety Services	
G	Provision of Storage and Distribution Services	
I	Production of Food Packaging	
JI	Hygienic Design of Food Buildings and Processing Equipment (for building constructors and equipment manufacturers)	
JII	Hygienic Design of Food Buildings and Processing Equipment (for building and equipment users)	
K	Production of (Bio) Chemicals (Additives, Vitamins, Minerals, Bio-cultures, Flavourings, Enzymes and Processing aids)	

Executive summary and recommendation to the GFSI Steering Committee

Executive summary

Overview of the Assessment Process

GlobalG.A.P applied for recognition against the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements (BMR) Version 2024 for scopes AII, BI and BIII. The benchmarking process was conducted as an integrated assessment to ensure a seamless transition from v2020.1 to v2024.

The purpose of the GFSI assessment was to evaluate the GlobalG.A.P Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Fruit and Vegetables version 6.1; Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Aquaculture - Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs, Seaweed version 6.1; Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) Standard Version 2; Harmonized Produce Safety (HPS) Version 2, issued by the CPO, in compliance with the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements 2024 version.

Desktop Review & Technical Verification

The benchmarking cycle commenced with a comprehensive preliminary Desktop Review of the GlobalG.A.P Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Fruit and Vegetables version 6.1; Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Aquaculture - Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs, Seaweed version 6.1; Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) Standard Version 2; Harmonized Produce Safety (HPS) Version 2, completed remotely by the BML (Benchmark Leader) Karen Betts (KLB) in June, August and October 2026, and was based on the review of the evidence provided by the Certification Programme Owner in the self-assessment excel files for GFSI part II and III to cover the scope of recognition applied AII, BI and BIII, ensuring that it contained sufficient objective evidence to proceed to the onsite assessment phase.

All findings raised, concerning the request of additional information and disagreements with the self-assessment of CPO, have been communicated in writing and discussed with the CPO during review calls on 26th June and 17th September. GlobalG.A.P added an additional two clauses to their General Regulations Rules for CBs part 5.4. as a result of these discussions.

Office Visit and Findings

An Office Visit (OV) was conducted on 9th and 10th September 2026, by Benchmark Leader KLB. The assessment did not identify any non-conformities.

Validation of Corrective Actions (Oct 20, 2026)

Following the Office Visit, there were no issues to correct. Review of the self-assessment resulted in GlobalG.A.P adding an additional two clauses to their General Regulations Rules for CBs part 5.4. to satisfy Part II requirements 4.2 and 4.3.

Final Approval: The Senior Technical Manager officially accepted the final reports, confirming that the GlobalG.A.P system is now in full conformity with BMR v2024.

Conclusion

The benchmarking process encountered no significant complexities that would impede recognition. The Senior Technical Manager concludes that the assessment was transparent, evidence-based, and compliant with GFSI protocols. The report is now deemed validated for the 4-week public stakeholder consultation.

Recommendation to the GFSI Steering Committee

Results of assessment and office visit

Time and location details

	Location	People present GFSI, consultant, CPO. Names and roles	Date and time
Self-assessment review	remote	Karen Betts BML	June, August, October 2026
Review calls	remote	Karen Betts BML; Brian Windsor Team Leader External Systems Monitoring; Javier García Ruiz Senior Technical Expert; Cornelia Wenhold Senior Technical Expert - Standards Development	26th June and 17th September
Office visit	Spichernstraße 55, 50672 Cologne, Germany	Karen Betts BML, Karla Mijatovic Technical Manager; Brian Windsor Team Leader External Systems Monitoring; Karin Botha Senior Technical Expert; Javier García Ruiz Senior Technical Expert; Valentin Pazachev Certification Body Administrator – Integrity; Oshin Abrami Database Reporting analyst; Cornelia Wenhold Senior Technical Expert - Standards Development; Georgia Tsolaki Senior Technical Expert; Serafeim Papadimitriou Complaint Manager assessor; Pham Viet Anh Technical Expert – Aquaculture; Anne Kafzyk CB Administration; Georgios Kimourtzakis CB Relations Manager; Rebecca Anderson Technical Manager – US; Valeska Weymann Senior Technical Expert; Magdalena Casás (Mandi) Brand Integrity –	9th and 10th September 2026

		Complaints; Vassilis Stamatis External Systems Monitoring – CIPRO;	

Overview of Certification Programme

GLOBALG.A.P. is a globally recognized standard for good agricultural practices that ensures food safety, environmental protection, together with animal and worker welfare managed by Agraya.
Founded in 1997 as EUREPGAP by European supermarket chains, it rebranded to GLOBALG.A.P. in 2007 following its global spread.
GlobalG.A.P is the world's leading farm assurance program covering crops, livestock, aquaculture, and floriculture across more than 130 countries.
GLOBALG.A.P. offer a number of Standards with Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA), the flagship standard covering farming processes from pre-harvest to post-harvest handling; together with add-on assessments of supplementary programs like GRASP (workers' social welfare) and SPRING (sustainable farm water management).
Their unique 13-digit GGN (GLOBALG.A.P. Number) identification numbers and consumer labels provide supply chain transparency for good farming practices.

Four of GlobalG.A.P certification programmes - IFA GFS - Fruit and Vegetables version 6.1; IFA GFS - Aquaculture - Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs, Seaweed version 6.1; PHA Standard Version 2; HPS Version 2 are seeking GFSI recognition. Designed to operate under product/process certification according to ISO 17065 accreditation and involves third party audit and certification of single and multisite farms and firms (group certification).

Quality of the audits by the 189 approved Certification Bodies is overseen by the Integrity Programme (CIPRO) based on CB Office Visits, certified site post-audit, and a six-month review of the performance of the CB through operational key performance indicators, the results of which are publicly available as a five-star rating on their website. GLOBALG.A.P. for certification bodies | GLOBALG.A.P.

General compliance, strengths and weaknesses

GlobalG.A.P undertook an internal gap analysis of the Programs, and these were updated to ensure alignment with GFSI BMR v2024 by technically competent industry representatives serving on their Technical Advisory Committee, participants are listed on the GlobalG.A.P website.

None of the new versions are yet published. The mandatory date for the new schemes is planned to be 6 months after the official notification from GFSI and Agraya that benchmarking of the new versions has been granted. The first audit against the new standard versions will be able to take place 2 months after notification to give CBs time to train auditors on the updates and Agraya to implement changes to the required systems.

The program changes have in any case been discussed at recent Accreditation Body and Certification Body conferences.

The review of the self-assessment documents and corresponding submitted evidence was carried out by the Benchmark Leader before concerns were discussed and clarified prior to the office visit on 9th and 10th September.

During the office visit, the Benchmark Leader interviewed the Certification Programme managers, reviewed documents, performance data and sampled certification records. The Integrity programme process was discussed and evaluated.

The main points of strength on the management of the Certification Programme are:

- Adequate resources and a well-structured organisation.
- Long experience in the development and management of farm assurance certification programmes.
- Strong and advanced integrity programme (CIPRO).
- Transparent communication with certification bodies, stakeholders and interested parties with annual conferences and regular technical newsletters.
- Supported auditor competence programme with training, webinar and exams.

No particular points of weakness have been recognised in the management of the Certification Programme.

Changes made to the certification programme following the GFSI assessment

GlobalG.A.P, following the GFSI assessment of their self-assessment files added an additional two clauses to their General Regulations Rules for CBs part 5.4. to satisfy Part II requirements 4.2 and 4.3

List of findings

Element reference	Non-conformity	Partly / no	Corrective action	Recommendation from Benchmark Leader	Decision from GFSI Senior Technical Manager
4.2	No requirement for Certification Bodies to ensure personnel sign contracts/agreements committing them to comply with requirements of the clause.	Partly	Addition of: GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations Rules for CBs part 5.4 f) CBs shall ensure that all personnel involved with the certification process sign a contract/agreement, which clearly commits them to complying with the rules of the CB, with particular reference to confidentiality, impartiality and independence from commercial or personal interests. Also, this contract/agreement shall declare any issues in relation to personal conflicts of interest.	Accepted for close out 7/10/2026 KLB	Accepted. The amendment to GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations effectively scope "all personnel involved with the certification process" and mandates all signed agreements commit to the BMRs requirements, fully aligning with the BMR 2024 requirements. Validated by KM 20/10/2026
4.3	No evidence presented of requirement for Certification Bodies to document all	partly	Addition of: GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations Rules for CBs part 5.4 e) CBs shall clearly document all	Accepted for close out 7/10/2026 KLB	Accepted The amendments to the general

Element reference	Non-conformity	Partly / no	Corrective action	Recommendation from Benchmark Leader	Decision from GFSI Senior Technical Manager
	requirements of ISO / IEC 17065 and make them known to their employees		requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and IAF MD4 relating to their personnel and make them known to their staff. This shall include systems and procedures to ensure that all auditors conducting assessments against GLOBALG.A.P. standards meet the capabilities described in ISO/IEC 17065, and the requirements of IAF MD4.		regulations for CBs, describing the requirements to document personnel-related requirements for both ISO/IEC 17065 and IAF MD4, and crucially, make them known to their staff. The corrective action fully satisfies the requirements of BMR 4.3. Validated by KM 20/10/2026

Root Cause Analysis (RCA) Summary

No RCA necessary as findings above were reflected on Self-assessment and fully closed and verified at the Office visit. Assessment conducted at the Office visit on Sept 09th & 10th, 2026 for the recognition of GlobalG.A.P programs: Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Fruit and Vegetables version 6.1; Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) GFS - Aquaculture - Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs, Seaweed version 6.1; Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) Standard Version 2; Harmonized Produce Safety (HPS) Version 2, had no findings identified.

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

List of findings – public stakeholder consultation

GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2024		Stakeholder Consultation Comments	CPO Answer	Recommendation from Benchmark Leader	Decision from GFSI Technical Manager