

# **Implementation of GAP Standards in Malaysia**



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**APO e-Learning Course on  
Good Agriculture Practices and GLOBALGAP for  
Greater Market Access for Agrifood Products**

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# Something about Standards \*

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*Standards are rules designed to provide communities a basis to compare and measure desired quality level, a guide to alternative approaches of achievements, and a criteria to judge good decisions*

*Standards are man made,  
standards are subjected to change with time and social values*

*Many people hate to follow standards and hate to be standardized*

*Yet when you do get rid of one standard,  
man will replace it with another.*

# Sustainable Agriculture

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.... a farming system that provide the needs of safe nutritious and affordable food for the world population, in a way that progressively conserve the natural environment and natural resources, by seeking to optimize the skills and technologies to achieve long term productivity and profitability of the stakeholders of the agriculture enterprise, to ensure that future generations can also experience the **same** satisfactions that we enjoy today.

# Sustainable Agriculture

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From the definition above, 3 major concerns have emerged –

- Ecological concerns
  - Soil productivity (Erosion, depletion of top soil, desertification)
  - Water (Depletion, groundwater usage, contamination)
  - Pest and Disease resistance to pesticides
  - Greenhouse effect and Climate Change
- Economic and social concerns
  - Price of food
  - Income of the small and rural farmers
- Impacts on human health
  - Food safety and food hygiene
  - Farm workers health and welfare

# Farm Business Sustainability

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Why do farmers pursue farming in the first place ?

- They might have inherited the land identified for farming only.
- They might have inherited the business from the elders.
- They might have believed that farming business is profitable.

There are 2 persistent constraints of small and rural farmers in Asia Pacific countries –

- Market Access
- Low ex-farm gate prices

# Food Safety

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- Historically, food safety concerns involved only the food processors.
- Food safety responsibilities now affect all stakeholders of the food chain.
- Food safety regulators traditionally focused on enforcement mechanisms to remove unsafe food from the market instead of a more efforts in the prevention of food safety problems.
- Exporters are now warned to take prevention of hazard contaminations at every critical control point of the food chain from pre-production stage.
- In the past, regulators are responsible to monitor and control food safety.
- The adoption of a food chain framework now facilitates a consumer driven, monitor and control approach in production and food safety system.

# The Globalized Food Economy

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## Concerns

Food insecurity, low farm productivity, environmental sustainability, food safety, rural poverty, farm economics, market access, lengthening food chain,

## Stakeholders

Farmers, collectors, food processors, retailers, exporters, importers, consumers, regulators, transport and logistics

## Objectives

Food security, conserve resources for future for cultivation, food quality, food safety, agribusiness competitiveness,

## Trends

Globalization, trade liberalization, income, urbanization, consumption trends, climate change

# Good Agriculture Practice - GAP

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GAP is a production pathway that identifies critical control points and establish compliance standards at varying degrees to eliminate hazards and prevent accidents in order to progressively promote safe and hygienic fresh produce at the farm with minimum negative impacts to the environment.

The good practices proposed in GAP are universally established science - based rationales and justifications.

The close monitoring and specific control system provides assurances of safety to the consumers of GAP produce.

# Good Agriculture Practice - GAP

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- GAP has been developed in many countries all over the world, ThaiGAP, ChinaGAP, JGAP, IndoGAP, IndiaGAP, KenyaGAP, GlobalGAP, etc.
- Each country seeks to develop GAP Schemes to focus in accordance to their own specific needs and agriculture constraints.

# SALM – GAP Scheme Malaysia

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SALM is a certification program to recognize farms that adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), operate in a sustainable and an environmentally friendly way, considering farm workers welfare and yield produces that are of quality and safe for consumption



***Ref. Document : Malaysian Standard MS 1784:2005 – Crop Commodities – Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)***

# SALM – GAP Scheme Malaysia

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- 1<sup>st</sup> GAP Scheme for food crops introduced –  
Farm Certification Scheme for Good Agricultural Practice (SALM)
- Developed by DOA
- Launched in 2002

## STATUS

1159 farms registered and 282 awarded the SALM Certificate.



# Implementation Approach of SALM Standard

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*The SALM standard sets out performance levels of agriculture production which must be achieved and encouraged among producers.*

*SALM does not specify how the management of agriculture practices should be done*

*The rules of the standard are an approach aimed to combine defined performance targets with the freedom for users to decide for themselves how to achieve the targets.*

<b>8.1</b>	<b><i>Basic Elements of Crop Protection *</i></b>	
8.1.1	The use of pesticides to protect to crop shall be minimized	Minor Must
8.1.2	Wherever possible, crop producers shall apply recognized Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques	Minor Must
8.1.3	Non-chemical control measures are preferred over chemical treatments	Minor Must
8.1.4	Crop producers are encouraged to seek advice on IPM from competent authorities	Encouraged

\* *Extract from SALM, 2005 edition*

# Elements of SALM

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1. Traceability
2. Record keeping and internal audit
3. Planting materials and rootstock
4. Site history and site management
5. Soil and substrate management
6. Fertilizer management
7. Irrigation and fertigation
8. Crop protection
9. Harvesting
10. Post harvest handling
11. Pesticide residue analysis of produce
12. Waste and pollution management, recycling and re-use
13. Workers` health, safety and welfare
14. Environment issues
15. Record of complaints
16. Legal requirements

## Strengths of SALM

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- SALM elements cover all the important criteria of Sustainable Agriculture
- Some of the CCPs may have low compliance level, but as the 1st GAP scheme in the country, some farmers might need the time and space to achieve the standard
- SALM allows producers the freedom to decide for themselves how to achieve the targets – this flexibility will help the more competitive producers accommodate to future benchmarking of higher standard.

# Weaknesses in SALM Implementation

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- Weak communication from scheme developers to the farmers have caused confusion and misconceptions
  - Initial costs of establishing GAP
  - SALM certified produce will fetch a higher farm-gate price
  - Basic concepts of GAP is not fully explained to farmers
  - Voluntary scheme - weak monitor and control over farmers
  
- Human resource capacity
  - Adequate training of farm extension officers needed
  - Officers need to be technically proficient and also business savvy

# Thank you



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