



# GLOBALG.A.P. fruit & vegetables certification

## For safe and sustainable agriculture

Every generation has a right to safe food. To protect this right now and for future generations, the farms must produce safe food in socially and environmentally responsible and resilient ways. By obtaining GLOBALG.A.P. certification, you can join the community of farms that are recognised for their efforts to continuously produce enough safe food while safeguarding our environment and the welfare of farming communities.

The [GLOBALG.A.P.](#) brand began its journey as EUREPGAP in 1997. Over 200,000 producers are under GLOBALG.A.P. certification in 134 countries two decades later. Nearly 150 team members around the world are dedicated to the mission of spreading

responsible farming practices to ensure safe food for future generations.

The [GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance Fruit & Vegetables \(IFA FV\) Standard](#) covers all stages of production, from pre-harvest activities, such as soil management and plant protection product application to post-harvest produce handling, packing and storing.

The standard defines clear criteria to ensure good agricultural practices on farms. It is designed to help improve farm management, raise the efficiency of farm operations, protect environmental resources and enable access to international markets worldwide.



**Certified.  
Responsible.  
Transparent.**

The GGN label is a universal mark of good farming practices which can offer consumer guidance and assurance in their day-to-day grocery shopping.

You can make responsible farming visible with GGN label, the consumer label for certified, responsible farming and transparency.

The standards behind the GGN label cover food safety, environmental protection, animal welfare, workers' welfare and supply chain transparency. The GGN label looks out for all aspects of responsible farming.

The label can distinguish your product from others in a crowded market, offering the opportunity to raise awareness of your responsible agricultural practices and increasing consumer's trust in your brand.

The GGN label is applicable for all unprocessed fruit and vegetable products covered in the IFA FV standard, including fresh herbs.





## Certification process in brief



Based on the information shared, we will contact you, send the application form and provide you with a pricing proposal. Once approved, an assigned person will follow up to arrange audits.



After accepting our proposal and signing the [Certification Agreement](#), you need to prepare for the certification by ensuring compliance with all the requirements.



We will conduct an audit to evaluate whether your system functions well on the agreed date(s).



A written report describing the audit results is prepared. Any identified non-conformities are also described and these need to be corrected before the certificate can be issued.



Upon a positive certification decision, the certificate is issued and sent to your company.



## Global experience and local expertise for your sustainability goals

For nearly 30 years, Preferred by Nature has worked to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate in 100+ countries. We have certified over 2 million hectares of agriculture farms and over 800,000 farmers worldwide against international sustainability standards.

In 2018, the Rainforest Alliance certification unit joined Preferred by Nature. The combined expertise makes us the world's most experienced non-profit mission-driven certification body providing sustainability services in agriculture, forestry, responsible sourcing, biomass, climate and travel.

Our service delivery also draws on donor-funded projects and initiatives that develop new green solutions, conserve biodiversity or help buyers make sustainable choices. We service companies and organisations of all sizes and from multiple sectors.

## Your sustainable choice

We offer our services under well-recognised schemes, focusing on providing high-quality services. We are a certification/verification body approved to conduct audits for several certification programmes, including

agricultural schemes such as the [Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture](#), the [Union for Ethical BioTrade \(UEBT\)](#), the [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#), the [Sustainable Rice Platform \(SRP\)](#) and [C.A.F.E. Practices](#).

As a subscriber to the ISEAL Alliance, we are committed to creating credible social and environmental standards, such as the [Sustainability Framework](#), a universal set of principles and criteria representing the core aspects of sustainability across all commodities and supply chains.

Our work with certification systems extends far beyond auditing. With our expertise in conducting 5,000+ audits annually worldwide, we actively engage with eco-labelling schemes to advocate for ongoing improvement and increase credibility and impact.

We are mission-driven, reflected in our focus on delivering services with integrity and professionalism.

## Contact us



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GLOBALG.A.P. is the most widely accepted private sector food safety certification in the world. Through GLOBALG.A.P. IFA FV certification, you may obtain a cost-effective solution that can strengthen the integrity of your products and build trust in your business.

**GLOBALG.A.P.** is a brand of smart farm assurance solutions developed by FoodPLUS GmbH in Cologne, Germany, with cooperation from producers, retailers and other stakeholders from across the food industry. The solutions include a range of standards for safe, socially and environmentally responsible farming practices. Over 200,000 producers in 134 countries are under GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA FV programme includes a third-party verification process. Preferred by Nature is an independent third-party certification body approved to check compliance against the standards set by GLOBALG.A.P. IFA FV certification.



## GLOBALG.A.P. IFA FV Certification Q&A

### What are the scopes of services we provide?

We provide inspection and certification services for IFA V 5.2, for the following scopes (Option 1 & Option 2):

- Fruits and Vegetables
- Tea
- Combinable Crops

### What is the cost structure?

The auditing fee depends on the size and complexity of the verified company. Upon evaluating these aspects, your Preferred by Nature contact person will provide you with a proposal specifying the cost structure.

### What about impartiality and confidentiality?

Preferred by Nature's Quality Management System includes several [policies](#) and procedures that allow our organisation to provide assurance services in a credible way in compliance with accreditation requirements. These include the [Impartiality Policy](#), which ensures impartiality, transparency and independence in all of our activities, and the [Confidentiality Policy](#), describing our rigorous approach to safeguarding confidential data and information our clients provide.

### When is a certification refused?

Certification is refused when Preferred by Nature concludes that the audited company does not meet the standard requirements.

### How can I maintain my active certification status?

Certification is maintained when the company complies with the conditions and requirements of the certification. Preferred by Nature and/or the scheme owner may conduct additional audits without announcements, for example, if we have reason to suspect a major breach of the certification rules. We may also carry out random spot audits.

You need to undergo annual audits to verify your continued compliance during the validity period. The annual audits will focus on any weaknesses identified during previous evaluations and on your fulfilment of the certification requirements. We help you stay up to speed on the requirements between the audits by providing regular updates on any system changes. If we identify non-conformities in your system during the audits, you need to take appropriate and effective action to address them.

After completing a full certificate validity period, you need to undergo a re-assessment (a new full assessment) to remain certified. If the re-assessment results are positive, a new certificate is issued, including the same certificate registration code as in your previous certificate. Please note that the reassessments cannot be delayed and must take place prior to the anniversary date of your certificate issuance; otherwise, your certificate will be automatically terminated.

### When is a certification suspended?

Certification may be suspended for the following reasons:



1. One or more non-conformances against critical criteria are found during an audit, 2. Five or more major non-conformances are found during an annual audit, 3. Failure to address one or more major/critical non-conformances by the specified timeline, 4. Severe breaches of the certification requirements, 5. Lack of payment of applicable fees and invoices, 5. Lack of willingness to plan and undergo scheduled audits, 6. Force Majeure (e.g. natural disasters that affect the destination, political unrest that forces to operation shut down, etc.).

A suspended certificate may be reinstated when the company has addressed the issues that led to the suspension, and we have conducted an audit verifying the compliance within the required timeline.

### When is a certification terminated?

A certificate may be terminated for the following reasons: 1. Failure to sufficiently address the issues leading to suspension within the suspension period, 2. Failure to undergo renewed assessment within the suspension period after addressing the issues leading to suspension, 3. Failure to address one or more major non-conformances by the specified timeline, 4. Failure to comply with one or more zero-tolerance critical criteria, 5. Deliberate fraud or very serious breaches of the certification requirements, 6. Failure to undergo a renewed assessment prior to certificate expiration, 7. Failure to undergo reassessment once the suspension period has reached its deadline.

If a certificate has been terminated, the company needs to undergo a renewed assessment to have a new certificate issued. It is not possible to reinstate the previous certificate. After a certificate has been suspended or terminated, the company may not make any claims regarding the conformance with the certification standard(s) and may not sell previously labelled products until certification trademarks are removed.

### Can I change the scope of certification?

As a certificate holder, you may expand or change the scope of your certification in conjunction with your annual audit or in between audits. You need to notify Preferred by Nature about any of the following situations which may require formal changes in the scope of your certificate: • additional product lines which you wish to sell as certified, • use of new types of inputs not covered by your current scope of certification, • changes in the system used for controlling claims, • expansion or removal of sites or production areas covered by the certificate. An additional audit is usually required for scope changes outside the scheduled annual/certification audits. Depending on the nature of the change, the audit may be conducted as an on-site or desk audit.

### What are the rights and duties of applicants and clients?

Clients' rights and duties are referred to in the [Certification Agreement](#).

### What is the procedure for complaints and appeals?

For complaints management, all complaints and appeals will be processed using the [Preferred by Nature's Disputes Resolution Policy](#).

### What information is provided to third parties?

To check the organisation's compliance with the standards set in evaluation schemes, including the GLOBALG.A.P. certification, auditors and certification scheme owners will need access to confidential information. For information provided to third parties, please see item 9.2. and Appendix for GLOBALG.A.P. in the [Certification Agreement](#).

We also adhere to the requirements of the latest version of the [GLOBALG.A.P. Data Access Rules](#).

