

# GLOBAL GAP Certification

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GLOBAL GAP is a private non-profit organization with the objective to set a universal standard for safe and sustainable agricultural production. The voluntary standard is recognized in country and is highly valued on a worldwide scale by retailers and distributors. GLOBAL GAP has gained importance as a quality assurance system for agricultural products during the last years. Since 2004 the number of certified producers has risen up to 122,600 producers around the globe.

GLOBAL GAP is a B2B standard, i.e. the logo must not be used at the point of sale. Exclusively the producer's GLOBAL GAP number (GGN) may figure on the product label. However, in order to exploit marketing opportunities in these growing high-value sectors, the GLOBAL GAP Certificate is often a key criterion. Especially importers and traders of fresh fruits and vegetables ask for a certification according to GLOBAL GAP in addition to the organic certification. GLOBAL GAP has accredited about 140 certification bodies in more than 100 countries, for more than 10 years. Lacon Quality Certification (India) Pvt. Ltd. has been one of them. LACON is one of the leading International certification bodies operating in India, which is accredited by the National Accreditation Board having its secretariate at APEDA, besides the accreditation from EU, USA and other countries.

## Benefits

GLOBAL GAP is a worldwide harmonized scheme and widely

recognized amongst retailers and food service buyers. GLOBAL GAP serve as a practical manual for Good Agricultural Practice. The lists of control points and compliance criteria are an efficient tool to provide producers with the defined details to obtain a GLOBAL GAP

certification. The implementation of GLOBAL GAP minimizes the exposure to food safety risks. In many sectors a GLOBAL GAP certificate is considered as an entry ticket to get in the provider lists of supermarkets, retailers and large processors.

## Comparison between Global GAP and Organic certified products

Global GAP	Organic certified products
1 Use of plant protection chemicals and fertilizers are permitted	Uses of chemicals are not permitted. However safe inputs are allowed for the use in organic farming
2 Farm & Environment gets polluted and it may also affect the human health.	No Farm/ environment pollution and its safe for human beings
3 Residue analysis is mandatory for each crop and it is costlier for the farmer	Residue analysis is not mandatory and will be performed on request from the buyer
4 Biodiversity is not a major concern	Promote Biodiversity and sustainable farming and its one of the major concerns
5 Not viable for farmers having very small land holdings as the cost is relatively higher	Farmers of any farm size can participate in small farmer group certifications
6 Very strict and stringent rules and hence it needs technical advisory service to comply with the standards	Follows traditional farming practices and it is easy to practice at the farm level by the farmers
7 No difference in taste when compared to the conventional products	Taste and flavor are better. Shelf life is also appreciable
8 Global GAP certified products are demanded in the International market. No demands from the Domestic markets/ consumers in India	Growing market demand of organic certified products in the Domestic as well as International market
9 No premium price for the Global GAP certified products	Farmers get an assured premium for organic certified products
10 Cost of certification is proportionately high	Cost of certification is low and it keep reducing with the increase in number of farmers

## The Standard's Structure

GLOBAL GAP is a standard with modular applications for different product groups. The standard covers all steps of the production process including produce handling. Since 2011, there has also been the option to obtain a Chain of Custody certification which could be of special interest for companies which focus the trade with GLOBAL GAP certified products.

LACON certifies according to the GLOBAL GAP criteria Fruit & Vegetables, Flowers and ornamentals, Combinable Crops



(grain, corn etc), Tea, Aquaculture (Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs) Chain of Custody Certification for retailers, transporting and processing companies.

## Holistic Approach

The control points cover the main aspects of food safety, traceability, environmental impacts of farming operations, workers welfare and animal welfare. GLOBAL GAP pursues the target of reducing the use of chemical inputs, of minimizing microbiological risks and of ensuring a responsible approach to worker health and safety as well as animal welfare.

For more detailed information regarding the regulations and compliance criteria of GLOBAL GAP contact LACON at [www.laconindia.com](http://www.laconindia.com) or send mails to [info@laconindia.com](mailto:info@laconindia.com).

## Neera technicians get trained

With the objective of developing a team of technically skilled persons for neera tapping in a hygienic way, CDB at its Institute of Technology and SCMS Institute of Bio Science and Biotechnology, Kochi is conducting neera technician training programme. 51 neera technicians were given training at CDB Institute of Technology and 55 persons have successfully completed the training from SCMS, Kochi. Training is given to traditional palm climbers deputed by Coconut Producer Companies.



*Shri. T K Jose IAS, Chairman addressing the neera technicians during the valedictory session*



*Neera technician training at CDB Institute of Technology*

Training for the next batch will be commenced at CDB Institute of Technology during the first week of June. The course curriculum includes practical session, theory class and seminar.

Shri. T K Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board distributed the certificates to the first batch of the trained neera technicians during the valedictory session held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014. The trained neera technicians will give training in neera tapping to technicians across the state.