



GLOBALG.A.P. Unlocking the global market for responsible farming

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

If you aim to showcase your dedication to promoting good agricultural practices and demonstrate your responsible engagement in agriculture to retailers and buyers, opting for GLOBALG.A.P. certification is a viable choice.

The GLOBALG.A.P. brand began its journey as EUREPGAP in 1997. 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 (IFA) certification programme includes a third-party auditing process. Preferred by Nature is accredited by International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) to carry out farm certifications in accordance with the GLOBALG.A.P.

IFA V6 Standard as below. Please refer to www.ioas.org/accreditation/accredited-bodies/ for more information.

The GLOBALG.A.P. the [IFA 6 Standard](#) covers:



Fruits and Vegetables, covering:

Food safety • Environmental sustainability and biodiversity Workers' health, safety and welfare • Animal health and welfare • Legal, management and traceability • Production processes • Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and Integrated Pest Control (IPC) • Quality Management System (QMS) and • Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)



Flowers and Ornamentals

Hops



GLOBALG.A.P.

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

Over **200,000** producers under GLOBALG.A.P.



Certification process in brief



Application

First, you need to submit information about your organisation. Based on the information provided, we will prepare an offer.



Preparation

After accepting our proposal and signing the Agreement, you need to prepare for the certification by ensuring compliance with all the requirements.



Audit

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



Report

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.



Certification

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

The certification status of all producers is visible in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems for transparency in the supply chain.

The two IFA V6 Editions

[IFA V6 Smart and GFS](#) are the latest revisions of the Standard, bringing a stronger focus on environmental/sustainability issues, customised checklists and a continuous improvement plan for producers. The benefits include reducing audit time, an outcome-oriented approach and improving farming practices. Both versions became obligatory in January 2024, replacing all the previous versions of the Standard. IFA V6 Smart and GFS, are equally valid, covering the same six topics and delivering the same integrated approach but adapted to fulfil every producer's needs. V6 Smart is intended for most producers while V6 GFS is for producers seeking certification with GFSI recognition. Enter the new SMART era!

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 agricultural standards. In 2018, the Rainforest Alliance certification unit merged into Preferred by Nature. The combined expertise makes us the world's most experienced non-profit mission-driven certification body providing sustainability services in a range of sectors and commodities including agriculture, forestry, responsible sourcing, biomass, climate and travel.

We offer our services under well-recognised programmes, including agricultural schemes such as the [Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture](#), the [Union for Ethical BioTrade \(UEBT\)](#), the [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#) and the [Sustainable Rice Platform \(SRP\)](#).

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. For example, we supported SRP - the UN-backed scheme for sustainable rice production, in developing the SRP assurance system launched in 2020.

With **300 staff** based in more than **40 countries**, Preferred by Nature is well-equipped to provide services to large international corporations with global supply chains in agricultural and forest products, as well as engage with smallholders and community enterprises that are important drivers of impact on the ground.

Ready to get started?



[Learn more or
Arrange certification](#)



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

What are the scopes of services we provide?

We provide certification services for IFA V6 for the following scopes (Option 1 & Option 2): fruits and vegetables, flowers and ornamentals and hops.

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. It means that to pass the audit process successfully, you must comply with the total of the major musts and a minimum of minor musts of the checklist.

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 before the anniversary date of your certificate issuance; otherwise, your certificate will be automatically terminated.



Can I change the scope of the 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.

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. Deliberate fraud or very serious breaches of the certification requirements, 5. Failure to undergo a renewed assessment before certificate expiration, 6. 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 within 12 months of cancellation. 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.

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.

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

Learn more



[the GLOBALG.A.P.](#)
[general questions and answers](#)