Guidelines "Good Agricultural Practices for Family Agriculture"







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Introduction

This manual has been prepared by the Group on Agriculture of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The purpose of this work is to spread the basic concepts of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in order to: guide the production systems towards a sustainable agriculture and ecologically safe, obtain harmless products of higher quality, contribute to food security generating income through the access to markets and improve working conditions of producers and their families.

The manual addresses agricultural technicians and extension workers, producer organizations, rural school teachers, children, urban and periurban citizens and Family Agriculture groups in general.



Índex

I. What are Good Agricultural Practices?

Concept

Who benefit from the GAPs?

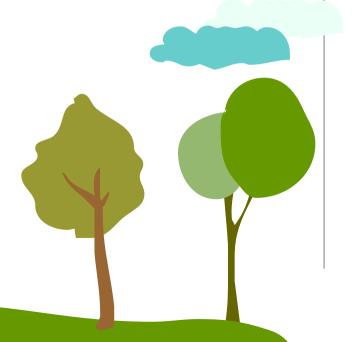
Diagram: What do the GAPs foster?

II. Why should I use Good Agricultural Practices?

Advantages and benefits versus problems and risks by non application of GAPs

III. How should Good Agricultural Practices be implemented?

- 1. How can working conditions be improved and those of male and female workers?
 - 1.1 What services must be assured for male and female workers?
 - 1.2 What services must be assured for workers?
- 2. Which is the best place to sow?
- 3. How must the soil be prepared?
- 4. How can crops be handled?
- 5. How can water be used and manager?
 - 5.1 How must water and irrigation be used?
 - 5.2 Water for the family and workers
- 6. How must agro-chemicals be used?
 - 6.1 What agro-chemical should I use?
 - 6.2 What elements should I use to protect myself?
 - 6.3 How should I apply agro-chemicals?
 - 6.4 How and where should I keep agro-chemicals?
 - 6.5 What must I do with the empty containers?



- 7. What fertilizer should I use and in what quantity?
 - 7.1 How must I apply fertilizers?
 - 7.2 How and where should I keep fertilizers?
- 8. How should organic manure be used?
 - 8.1 What type of manure should I apply and how should I do it?
 - 8.2 Where should I prepare organic manure?
- 9. Animals in the field.
 - 9.1 Work animals
 - 9.2 Production animals
 - 9.3 Domestic animals (dogs, cats, others)
- 10. Which is the best way of harvesting?
- 10.1 In what conditions should the workers doing the harvesting be?
- 11. How must the transport of food be done?
- 12. What must be taken into account at the moment of selling the product?
- 13. What information must I register to have a better control of the product?
- 14. How does the buyer know that my product was processed with GAPs?