

# SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

UNFSS National  
Briefing  
Session

25 October  
2013

# ON VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS (VSS)

- **VSS:** requirements set by non-government agencies that relate to health, social, economic and environmental impacts of production and processing methods
- **VSS:** means not the end to achieving sustainable development goals

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER (ITC) AND STANDARDS MAP

- **ITC: UN agency that develops trade development solutions to the private sector, trade support institutions and policy-makers**
- **ITC developed a free Standards Web Tool used for benchmarking of GAP standards**

# PUBLIC & PRIVATE GAP STANDARDS

- **GAP – practices to ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability of food production that result in safe and quality food and non-food products**

# **PUBLIC & PRIVATE GAP STANDARDS (CONTD..)**

- **What GAP schemes ARE NOT:**
  - **“All farms should comply with commercial GAP schemes”;**
  - **“All countries should define a national GAP”;**
  - **“Make compliance with national GAP legally mandatory (should be voluntary)”;** and
  - **“All farmers large & small will apply the same GAP now (=everyone or no one strategy)”.**

# **PUBLIC & PRIVATE GAP STANDARDS (CONTD..)**

- **What GAP schemes SHOULD BE ABOUT:**
  - **Repercussions – positive and negative effects?**
  - **Integration –sustainability issues coverage?**
  - **Repartition – who will pay?**
  - **Coordination – who do we need to coordinate?**
  - **Vision – GAP for domestic or export?**

# THAIGAP EXPERIENCE

- Private ThaiGAP and national QGAP systems are complementary
- Food safety standard: minimum requirement and mandatory
- National QGAP to be made mandatory
- ThaiGAP is voluntary, specific for exports and domestic retailers and food chains

# ASEAN GAP

- Consistent with the ASEAN Economic Blueprint 2015
- With four (4) modules: (1) food safety, (2) produce quality, (3) environmental management, (4) worker health, safety and welfare
- Future projects on (1) accreditation of AMS GAP Certification Bodies, (2) alignment of GAP inspector/auditor qualification, (3) full alignment of national GAP programs with ASEAN GAP and (4) global recognition of ASEAN GAP



# PHILGAP

- Government certification program provided for FREE
- Fully aligned with ASEAN GAP on the food safety module, closely aligned with the other 3 modules
- GAP standards on fruits and vegetables (to be expanded to other crops), corn and mango

# PHILFOODEX - PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

- GAP implementation/adoption in the Philippines is still in its infancy stage
- Major constraints: (1) knowledge, (2) cost, (3) process and (4) rewards/incentives constraints
- Major recommendations: (1) intensive information campaign on GAP and (2) alignment of PhilGAP with GLOBALGAP.

# PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE – GLOBALG.A.P.

- A private standard of 180 members
- Holistic approach to food safety, that is indirectly correlated with environment, worker's welfare, traceability
- Certification is through independent accredited 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification
- Can be harmonized with national GAP programs through a defined benchmarking process/procedure

# THE GOMA-ASIA PROJECT: LESSONS LEARNED

- **Asian Regional Organic Standards (AROS), consistent with AEC commitments of the Philippines**
- **Developed mutual recognition model consistent with the ASEAN Framework Agreement for Mutual Recognition Agreements**
- **Provide a blueprint for the ASEAN harmonization programs such as ASEAN GAP.**

# THE ASEAN ORGANIC STANDARD (ASOA)

- Developed the following during the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop of the Special Task Force in the Philippines held 21 to 23 Oct 2013:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the ASEAN Organic Agriculture
  - 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Strategic Plan of Action for Organic Agriculture

# OPTA: PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE ON DEVELOPING AROS

- Very limited trade of OA products within ASEAN, same commodities, same market
- Generally same system for conformity assessment within some ASEAN members, with considerable number of foreign certification bodies and inspectors
- Perennial challenges of the local producers – (1) Seeds and seedlings, (2) fertilizers and pesticides, (3) certification or guarantee, (4) access to market and premium payment

# BIODIVERSITY STANDARDS FOR AGRICULTURE

- Relationship between agriculture and biodiversity
- Dimensions of biodiversity in agriculture: (1) biodiversity of domesticated animals and plants, (2) wild biodiversity on the farm and (3) landscape biodiversity
- Framework Concepts for Standards on Agricultural Biodiversity
- Characterizing Standards Schemes

**THANK YOU**