

## STANDARDIZATION OF PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AS A CONDITION OF EU INTEGRATION

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### Summary

The awareness of the importance of the healthy products are awoken and production will not distort the natural balance, respectively it will not endanger wildlife and pollute nature. Health care in modern world has become the priority. The risk of disease caused by problems in food production, the application of new technologies, changed lifestyles and dwindling human resistance, increasing daily.

For these reasons, there is imposed idea of a certain international standards, applying to all producers, which would ensure desirable characteristics of products and services such as quality, environmental concerns, safety, reliability, efficiency and the possibility of exchange, all at economic price.

Standards exist for many years, and their value has been confirmed through a global market leadership in agricultural countries. Guided by the example of these countries, agri – food industry of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to successfully develop and characterize global competitiveness.

**Key words:** standardization, primary agriculture production, Global G.A.P.

### Introduction

Increasing competitiveness of agriculture is one of the goals of agricultural policy. It tends to create a vital households with intensive production for the market, which will be the basis of long-term and stable agriculture. Today, in the era of globalization and intensive development, requirements for implementation and compliance of international standards for the free flow of agricultural products, environmental protection, quality and product safety are more represented. For achieving these goals, it is necessary to introduce internationally recognized standards: ISO, HACCP standards and GLOBAL G.AP standard.

Today, in a global agriculture, leading standard "Good agricultural practice" is GLOBAL G.AP Standard has been established as a key guarantee of good agricultural practice in the global market. Its significance lies in the fact that it is present in 80 countries, with 97,361 certified agricultural producers. Standard Eure GAP was published for the first time in 1997 by the European food retailer, Retailer Produce Working Group. In September 2007 EUREP group expanded and changed name in the GLOBAL G.AP. We have tried to explain how the introduction of standards is the priority for the economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and present the position regarding integrating into a group of internationally recognized food manufacturers.

### Materials and methods

All collected data were analyzed by comparative analysis. Global G.A.P. standard of

certification covers all segments of agriculture: farming, livestock, fruits, vegetables, fish farming, flowers, aromatic plants and herbs, medicinal plant and tropical culture. For successful certification of standards, it is necessary to accomplish 199 requirements and 37 recommendations at 17 production and business areas "from field to table".

Additionally, Global G.A.P. places a strong emphasis on areas related to waste disposal, environmental protection, worker protection, the preservation of the world of wildlife and also food safety products. Taking into account all requirements of the standard, agricultural producers, with quality and on time, meet the requirements of EU legislation, such as the Food Act (Regulation(EC)178/2002) and the Nitrates Directive(91/676/EEC).

#### **Certified household in Bosnia and Herzegovina according to the Global G.A.P. standard**

According to data from the Institute of Standardization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there works 16 accredited certification bodies, who audited and certified various international standards. Only two certification bodies TUVSUD Management Services and Mirakol International Co (Agro management DK), deal with GLOBAL .AP certification system. Certification bodies approved by the GLOBALG.AP are accredited by the national accreditation body as directed ISO / IEC 65 or EN 45011 for a particular area.

Certification is carried out in a way to check the entire production process from beginning to an end, including control of all inputs and all activities during the production, storage and transportation. There are four options of certification, of which two are most common in primary agricultural production.

- Option 1, the certification of individual manufacturer or companies, who operates without the help of co-operatives, has small production capacity and shall bear the obligations related to the production and placing on the market
- Option 2, certification of group of producers – That is the manufacturers connected with cooperative agreements, they promote and protect its economic and other interest with the help of cooperative

Option 1	18
Option 2	12 ( 10- 50 subcontractor)
Total	30*

\**www.bas.gov.ba. ( lack of updated database)*

#### **Global G.A.P. Certified households of the Western Balkans**

Bosnia and Herzegovina	537
Serbia/Montenegro	295
Croatia	132
Macedonia	14
Total	978*

\**www.globalgap. org (august 2012)*

#### **Global G.A.P. certified households of EU**

Italy	19 508
Spain	15 919
Greece	10 952
Holland	5 125
France	3 893
Germany	3 465
Belgium	3 090
Poland	1 770
Hungary	1 162

Austria	847
Cyprus	709
Portugal	548
Denmark	158
Czech	90
Malta	62
Ireland	46
Romania	36
Slovenia	26
Bulgaria	18
Sweden	14
Slovakia	13
Latvia	5
UK	3
Finland	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>67 460*</b>

\*[www.globalgap.org](http://www.globalgap.org) (august 2012)

#### Land use in the Western Balkans in 2008 (000 ha)

	BiH	HRV	RS	CG	MK	EU 27
<b>Total area (per 000 ha)</b>	<b>51,2</b>	<b>56,6</b>	<b>77,5</b>	<b>13,8</b>	<b>25,7</b>	<b>4,325</b>
<b>Agricultural area</b>	2136	1289	5065	516	1064	172,485
<b>Utilized arable land</b>	549	769	3093	31	287	106,751
<b>Standing crops</b>	100	342	301	16	36	59,545
<b>Pastures</b>	1049	5	1423	452	603	12,517

\*source: Agrypolicy.net

#### The structure of agricultural households (data 2008)

	BIH	HRV	RS	CG	MK	EU 27
<b>Agricultural households (000 km2)</b>	515	1077	779	43	193	13. 633
<b>% households with less than 2 ha</b>	50%	67%	46%	66%	90%	47%
<b>% household with over 10 ha</b>	4%	5%	6%	5 %	1%	20%

\*Source: T.Volk, 2010

## Results and discussion

Global G.A.P. represents a passport of agricultural product to the European market. The European CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) will introduce a number of changes to which the Western Balkan countries will have to adapt after 2013. The innovations in rural development and agricultural policies are necessary.

At the door of the EU, we face fears regarding the CAP: the future of small producers, fear of competition within the EU, difficulties which bring standards in applying the complex procedures and administrative systems in companies.

Experience of certified companies is, that the optimal costs of production through the entire production process of distribution, increased their competitiveness. Savings are achieved by implementing measures such as the analysis of soil fertility, ensuring the welfare of animals, controlled use of chemical inputs, proper product handling and training of all employees in order to avoid wasting of time and money. By improving quality of final product there will create the preconditions for export on demanding markets of EU and of the world.

## Conclusion

Producers in Bosnia and Herzegovina should strive to offer their products to the international food market, to show that they are serious producers who are not afraid of new challenges of demanding international markets. It is necessary to work on the quality and distinctiveness of the product, and in order to managed, it is necessary to incorporate all of the manufacturer, as well as formation of associations and cooperatives engaged in the production and the formation of a specific database.

The question is whether the chain stores wait to introduce standards or import goods with the certificate. If it is not implemented, customers will buy from those who introduce it, because the awareness about the use of healthy food is increased.

In addition to creating a modern agricultural production through careful management of soil, air and water, the manufacturer raises its competitiveness and opens the door of demanding international markets.

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