

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE...

WITH YOUR GAP-VF FARMERS

"GAP-VF standard has allowed us to learn better how to handle our processes in a more hygienic manner so as to ensure the goodness and freshness of our leafy vegetables."

Mr Wong Kok Fah
Kok Fah Technology Farm Pte Ltd



"GAP-VF is assurance for safety and quality. In other words, the vegetables we grow are of a certain standard. Thus, consumers or purchasers have a certain level of assurance when they buy the GAP-VF vegetables. The vegetables they eat would be of better quality."

Mr Ore Yock Pin
Oh Chin Huat Hydroponic Farms Pte Ltd



"I feel proud to be a GAP-VF farm, to produce better quality vegetables and aim to differentiate from the rest. I have supported GAP-VF since 2005 to produce quality and safe vegetables for the consumers."

Mr Alan Toh
Yili Vegetation & Trading Pte Ltd



FOOD SAFETY BEGINS...

WITH GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE
FOR VEGETABLE FARMING

The assurance of food safety is a shared responsibility from farm to fork. In many instances, the origins of food safety hazards can be traced to the farms. Poor farming practices and the misuse of agricultural chemicals such as pesticides can cause contamination. Management practices and production techniques are also critical risk factors. Globally, food safety assurance schemes are being put in place to reduce the risk of contamination at the point of food production.

The Good Agricultural Practice for Vegetable Farming (GAP-VF) Certification Scheme introduced by AVA is one such scheme that has been developed to align Singapore with internationally recognized standard. It aims to set a national benchmark for the production of safe and quality local vegetables by:

- (a) Promoting a safety assurance system at source;
- (b) Inculcating a sense of responsibility amongst local vegetable farmers to ensure the production of safe and quality vegetables for consumers in Singapore; and
- (c) Providing a form of product differentiation mechanism for Singapore consumers who wish to purchase vegetables from GAP-VF certified farms.



For more information, please contact:

Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore
Horticulture Services Centre
Sembawang Research Station
Lorong Chencharu, Singapore 769194
Tel: 65 6751 9822 Fax: 65 6752 1244
www.ava.gov.sg



GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE FOR VEGETABLE FARMING



ASSURING SAFE AND QUALITY VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE FOR VEGETABLE FARMING (GAP-VF) CERTIFICATION

ABOUT THE GAP-VF CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The GAP-VF Certification Scheme is a voluntary scheme for local vegetable farms to obtain certification if the farms comply with the GAP-VF standard. The GAP-VF comprises a set of consolidated practices for safe and quality vegetable production. The standard is based on Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) and quality management principles, with emphasis on the following six key areas:

- ✓ **Farm Location**
- ✓ **Farm Structure**
- ✓ **Farm Environment** (soil/ water)
- ✓ **Farm Maintenance** (hygiene and cleanliness)
- ✓ **Farm Practices/ Methods/ Techniques** (pesticide & fertilizer application, postharvest handling, pest and disease management)
- ✓ **Farm Management** (farm records, traceability, staff training)

The standard enables farmers to adopt a systematic approach to minimize contamination risk and to better assure the production of safe and quality vegetables.

GAP-VF certified farms are audited and monitored regularly by AVA to ensure compliances to the standard.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS...

OF BUYING GAP-VF CERTIFIED VEGETABLES

1. Quality vegetables grown from traceable and certified sources.
2. Better assurance of the safety and quality of vegetable products from GAP-VF certified farms.

SOME OF THE GOOD PRACTICES... IN YOUR GAP-VF FARMS



Grown under protected cultivation to provide effective protection against insects, birds and animals.

Good Pest & Disease Management programme at the farm. Crops are carefully and regularly inspected. Diseased plants and plant wastes are removed immediately. Crop rotation & weed control are practised where possible.



All vegetables are packed in clean, new single use plastic bags. Packed vegetables are free from soil, trimmed to ensure that only quality vegetables are packed and sold.



SPOT THE GAP-VF LOGO... IN YOUR MAJOR SUPERMARKETS



LOOK OUT FOR
PRODUCTS WITH
THE GAP-VF
LOGO...
IN THE MIDST OF THE GREENS

