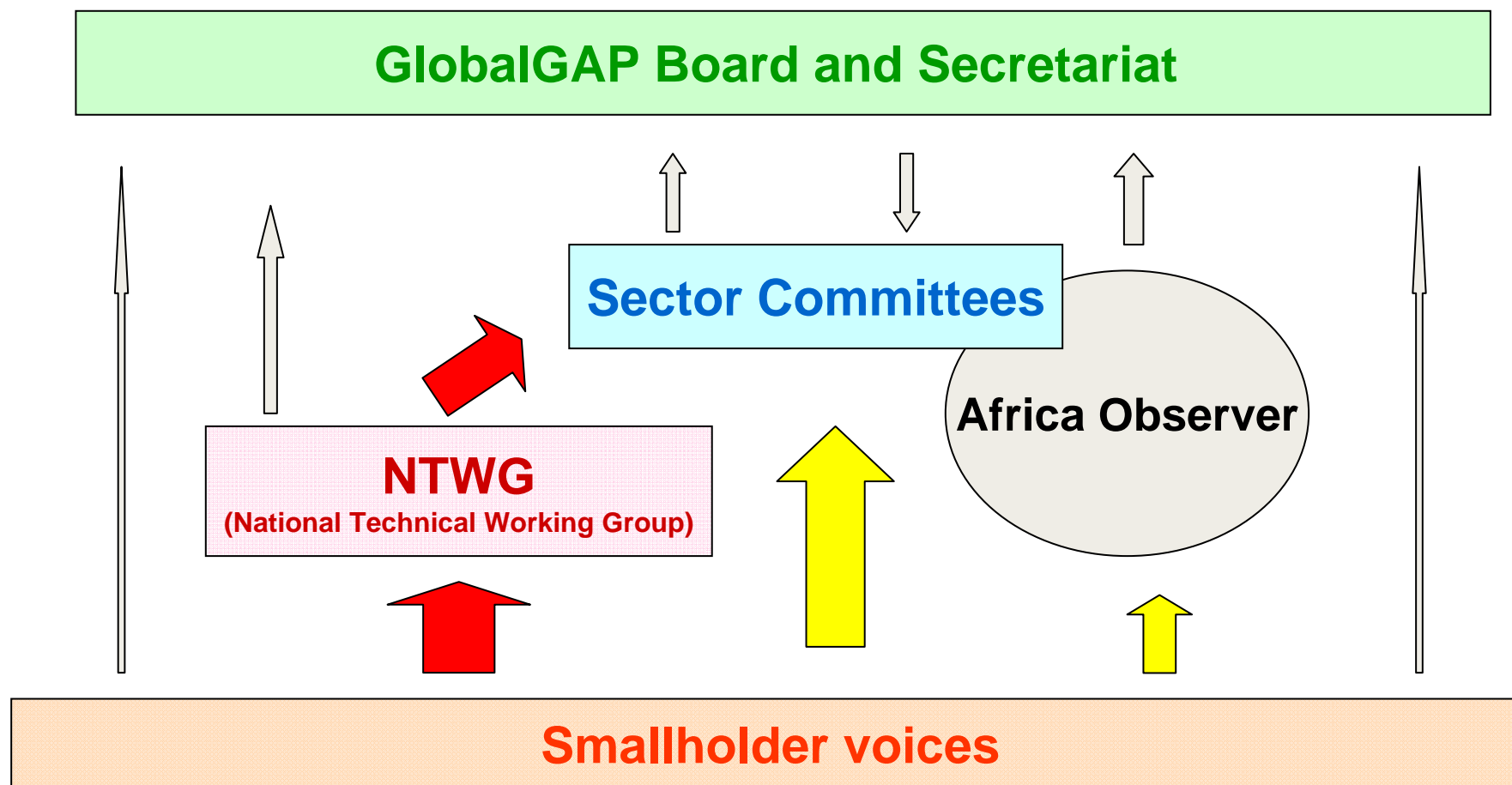


WORKING GROUP 3:
The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

Different channels of smallholder involvement in standard-setting



WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

NTWG's

(National Technical Working Groups)

1. Actual status related to NTWG's?

- NTWG's exist in **16 countries**.
- **6 approved National Interpretation Guidelines**. (against Ver.2.1.)
- Pilot project in Germany; in 2007 specialised smallholder experts joined the German NTWG
- **Specific pro-active strategy of GlobalGAP** (implementation of NTWG's by GlobalGAP in countries with > 400 certified units)

2. How are NTWG's started?

- **NTWG's are started on initiative of members (GlobalGAP) from single countries**. At least one organization has to be willing to become the **host organization**, usually a **member of GlobalGAP**. → Contact between the members of NTWG and GlobalGAP

3. How to get member of a NTWG?

- All stakeholders can become a member/participate. (Producers, retailers, exporters, CBs, government, NGOs etc.)
- No specific requirements for participants
- **Smallholder experts should explicitly nominated and invited**

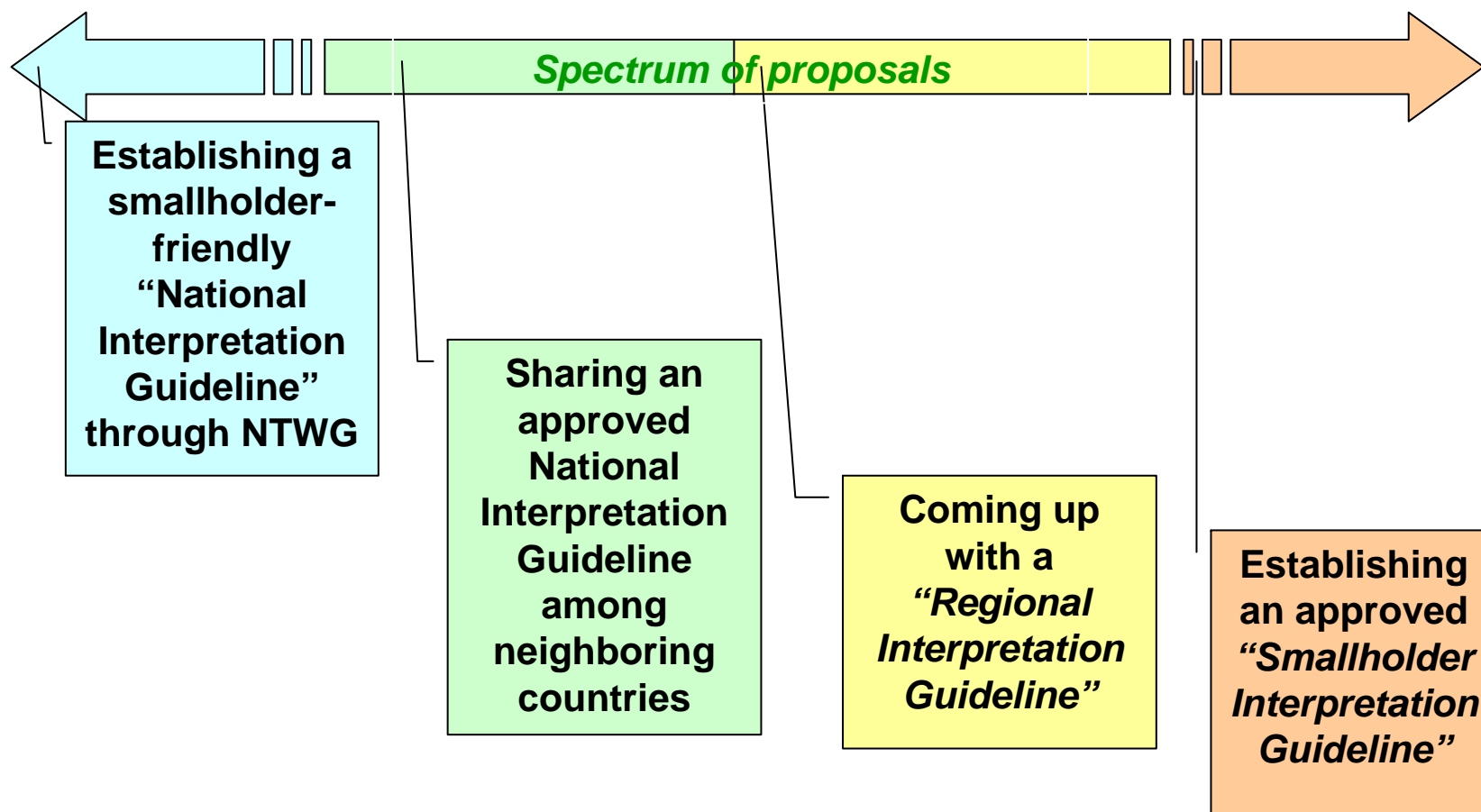
4. What are the NTWG's major task?

- Setting a "**National Interpretation Guideline**" of GlobalGAP CPCC's.
- When the National Interpretation Guideline is reviewed by GlobalGAP secretariat (Peer Review of 4 weeks) and is forwarded to the Sector Committee for approval, it becomes an **approved national guideline of CPCC's to be officially used for both internal and external inspections in the country**.

WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

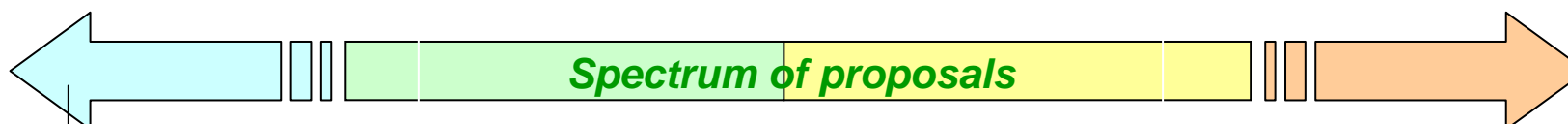
Strengthening Smallholder Involvement in Standard Setting



WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

Strengthening Smallholder Involvement in Standard Setting



Establishing a
smallholder-
friendly
“National
Interpretation
Guideline”
through NTWG

Advantages

- We can use the existing channel.
- We can incorporate country-specific situations into the interpretation guideline (legal legislations, local definition of terms etc.)
- We can even re-write the CPCC to be more farmer-friendly.

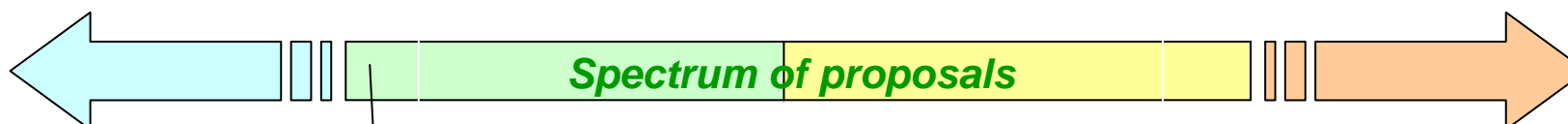
Challenges

- Many countries do not have a NTWG, and will not easily have one.
→ Smallholder involvement could be improved.
- Each country will work on its own interpretation.
→ We may be re-inventing the wheels.
- Some situations that smallholders face are not country-specific, but are common across countries.

WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

Strengthening Smallholder Involvement in Standard Setting



Sharing an approved National Interpretation Guideline among neighboring countries

Advantages

- We can “borrow” an approved interpretation guideline of a neighboring country, instead of creating one from scratch.
→ Avoid re-inventing the wheels.

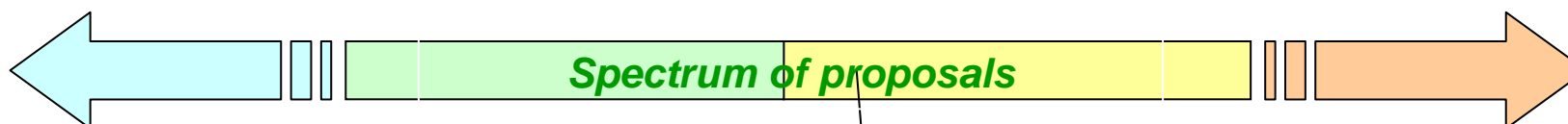
Challenges

- It would still be one national interpretation guideline for each country.
→ Each country still has to establish a NTWG, and go through an approval process.

WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

Strengthening Smallholder Involvement in Standard Setting



Advantages

- Countries within a region (e.g. West Africa) share similar smallholder situations. A common interpretation guideline can be established, instead of creating one for each country.

Challenges

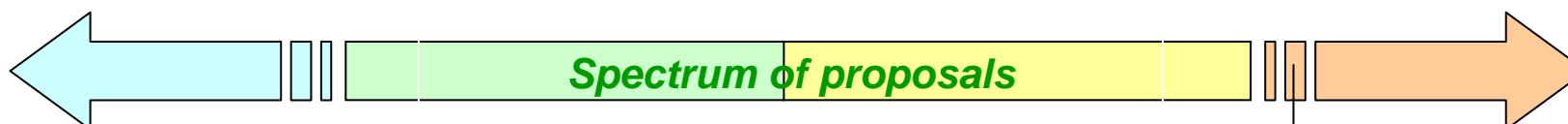
- Cost of meetings will be very high, involving international trips.
- Legal situation remains specific for each country.

Coming up with a
"Regional
Interpretation
Guideline"

WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

Strengthening Smallholder Involvement in Standard Setting



Advantages

- We can have a common interpretation guideline for smallholders around the world.
- CPGC can be re-written to be more smallholder-friendly (less voluminous, easier English) without compromising the level of the standard.
- Situations that smallholders face are similar across countries. “Smallholder Interpretation Guideline” can be used even in countries where there is no NTWG.
- It would be an official document that can be used for internal and external inspections.
→ Easier internal and external inspections.

Challenges

- Legal situation remains country-specific.
- Creating such a guideline would be a project on its own.

Establishing an approved “Smallholder Interpretation Guideline”

WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

What is a “Smallholder”?

- Should it be only about the **size** of the farm? The definition of a “smallholder” varies from country to country, and also from produce to produce.
- Or about the **managerial structure** of the farm? When a farmer is operating a farm on his own, he is the operator/ authorizer/ farm manager/ worker/ welfare management etc. all at the same time. Then many CPCCs should be addressed differently. (e.g. visual display of instruction to the workers, written identification of a person responsible for workers’ welfare, authorization signature and operator’s name in records)
- However, once there are **hired labour** on the farm (be it 3 workers or 100 workers), managerial structure has to be in place to ensure that CPCCs are complied as they are.
- Other certification system, for example FairTrade, has two versions of the standard. **(1) smallholder (2) plantation with hired labours**. Issues to be addressed in plantations with hired labours are different from, and much more than, smallholder situation.
- It is worth looking into the specific situation of “**smallholders**” as **one-man or family operation**.

WORKING GROUP 3:

The participation of producer associations in the standard-setting process (e.g. NTWG)

Voices from Smallholders to be Heard

- **“Smallholders are competent enough to comply with the standard requirement.”**

However,

- GlobalGAP CPCC is an overwhelming document for smallholders to read and understand. (large number of control points, thick document, lengthy complicated English, similar control points appearing in different sections and modules, etc.)
- Internal inspectors (who could be farmers) struggle with the GlobalGAP checklist, as it is the only officially approved document that can be used.
- National interpretation guidelines have been greatly helpful in those countries where one is established.
- There is a need to create a **smallholder-friendly CPCC interpretation guideline**, which is **approved to be used as an official document in smallholder certifications**.
- This could be done at a **country-specific level (NTWG), regional level, or at the world-wide level**.

Thank you, and let's make it happen!