

WORKING GROUP 4:

The QMS and the question of how producer associations can be supported during the implementation

Which problems do smallholder groups have concerning the QMS?

- Quality assurance labels are sometimes mutually exclusive (e.g. QS and GLOBALGAP)
- Not easy to access complex documents
- More documentation required than with other QM-systems
- Producers and groups do not understand necessity for QMS
- Forming and sustaining groups for GlobalGAP certification
- Farmers' reluctant attitude to long term commitments can undermine groups
- Investment costs

WORKING GROUP 4:

The QMS and the question of how producer associations can be supported during the implementation

***How could these problems relating to the QMS be met
and which measures can support the implementation ?***

Harmonisation

- Globalgap QMS should be aligned with other-existing QMS systems
- Clarification of terms & definitions for each QMS to reach common understanding of terms used in the group

Capacity development at the level of producers

- Raise farmers' understanding about QMS (in general) and CPCC
 - Focus on few critical issues (in the CPCC)
 - Farmer.s training in the field (rather than the classroom)
 - Interpretation of the checklist (desired results)
- Simple training material on QMS for producers (a rough guide to QMS)
- Information brochures for new entrant to a group
- Demonstrate perspective of end consumers to producers
- Economic benefits have to be communicated to the farmers
- Make the link between requirements and benefits eg for record keeping

WORKING GROUP 4:

The QMS and the question of how producer associations can be supported during the implementation

How could these problems relating to the QMS be met and which measures can support the implementation ?

Capacity development at the level of group organisations

- Consultancy service for groups (paid by the state), for state-owned quality label
- Breakdown requirements into easily digestible parts (e.g. through manual)
- Good management structure & competent personnel for group organisation
- Sub-contracting internal inspectors from elsewhere (e.g. neighbouring groups)
- Initial external investment
- realistic cost-benefit analyses for medium term self financing
- Stepwise approach: start sub-group for GG certification + widen it continually
- Support this approach by economic incentives (higher price for certified produce) and disincentives (exclusion of uncertified produce)