

Developing vegetable value chains to meet evolving market expectations in the Philippines



BACKGROUND

Filipino consumers are increasingly concerned with the safety of vegetables due to chemical and microbial contamination. Unsafe pest control practices result in excessive pesticide residues in harvested crops and expose farm workers to pesticide poisoning.

What is GAP?

Safe vegetables can be produced using Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) protocols. These are methods used to certify produce that is safe to eat and has been prepared to meet customer requirements.

In the Philippines, a protocol known as PhilGAP can be used to certify safe produce.

Very few vegetable farms are PhilGAP certified at present. This project aims to develop a number of

value chains in Leyte and Mindanao supplying PhilGAP certified vegetables to high value markets such as supermarkets, hotels and restaurants. This can increase farmer incomes through the additional value of certified vegetables.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Understand the food safety, regulatory and consumer environment in which vegetable value chains operate in the Philippines
- Develop, test and refine a step by step implementation of PhilGAP, to supply consumers with safe vegetables in the Philippines
- Develop and evaluate pre and postharvest technologies and capacity to support the delivery of PhilGAP certified vegetables in selected value chains

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED AND BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT?

Vegetable farmers

Safer production methods can improve your health as a farmer, and increase your income.

To start with, attend training and receive support to get your vegetable farm PhilGAP certified. Training covers the necessary skills for PhilGAP accreditation, crop management, business management and compliance.

As you begin implementing PhilGAP practices, you can help the project team to study the drivers for farmer adoption of PhilGAP, and the impact it has on farmer incomes.

Once PhilGAP certified, you will receive support to sell your certified vegetables into higher value markets.



Local government

The project team will work with the Agricultural Training Institute, Local Government Units (LGUs) and Bureau of Agricultural Research to help increase the number of PhilGAP certified vegetable farms. A step by step PhilGAP implementation model will be developed alongside the government agencies, and assistance will be provided to further develop the PhilGAP protocols. The project team will also coordinate with government

agencies to provide training and support for farmers to become PhilGAP certified.

Traders and retailers

Be part of some of the first PhilGAP certified vegetable value chains in the Visayas and Mindanao. The project team will help link PhilGAP certified farmer groups with traders and retailers. Vegetables supplied to you will be safer for consumers, and of a higher quality standard.

You can help the project team to better understand the opportunity for PhilGAP certified products in the Philippines, through participation in consumer and value chain studies.

Researchers

Filipino and Australian researchers will study the nature and types of food safety risks along vegetable value chains in the Philippines, and consumer attitudes to food safety and pesticide residues in vegetables.

A step by step approach to PhilGAP implementation will be tested with a number of vegetable farmer groups.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved health of farmers and consumers thanks to safe production of vegetables
- Increased vegetable consumption with assured safe vegetables
- Increased incomes of smallholder vegetable farmers
- Understanding of barriers to adoption of GAP in vegetable supply chains
- Build capacity of GAP training and certification services
- Greater knowledge and skills among researchers

KEY PARTNERS

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, in partnership with DOST-PCAARRD

PHILIPPINES: Visayas State University | Department of Agriculture | East West Seeds | Landcare Foundation of the Philippines Inc.

AUSTRALIA: Applied Horticultural Research | NSW Dept of Primary Industries | Freshcare Australia | Produce Marketing Australia

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED

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