Aspects of Inspection

- **Farm Structure** - plantation management practices; waste disposal facilities; proper storage area/facility of harvested produce; storage area/facility for farm equipment, farm machinery, equipment used for cultivation, harvesting; regular maintenance; demarcation and labeling of field plots; measures to ensure that stray animals are not allowed entry.

- **Farm Environment** - soil and water management

- **Farming Practices** - use of pesticides; use of fertilizers; use of other agrochemicals; pests & diseases management; harvesting; packaging; cold storage (if any).

- **Farm History & Activities of Neighboring Farm** - prior land use; facts about neighboring farms.

- **Farm Records** - farm inputs; farm practices; farm produce; sales records; training courses attended.

Renewal Period

- The renewal period shall be one year after issuance; after each growing cycle for perennial crops.

- Application for renewal is one month prior to the anniversary date.

- Re-audit for renewal will be done one month prior to the expiry date of the existing certification, preferably during harvest season.

- In case there are no standing crops when the inspection is due (for re-certification), the Department may opt to extend the existing certification by up to three (3) months.

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THE GAP ORIENTATION/TRAINING INTERVENTION

**For LGU-AEWs**

Training of Trainers on GAP (various commodities)
Trainees Training on GAP-ICS (various commodities) for organizations, associations, corporations or group.

**For Farmers**

Training on GAP (various commodities) for Farmers
Training on GAP-ICS (various commodities)

Reference:
- Philippine National Standards (PNS)
- RA 10611 (Consumers Act of 2013)
- GAP Certification Guidelines (AO 30 s 2012)

For more information, please contact/visit any of the following:

- **Department of Agriculture**
  Regional Field Office
  Guisad, Baguio City

- **AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE**
  Cordillera Administrative Region
  BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet

- The nearest Municipal or Provincial Agriculture Office in your area

Produced by:

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GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (PhilGAP)
WHAT IS GAP?

- Refers to farm level approaches designed to reduce the risk of contamination during on-farm production and post-production processes. GAP recommendations addresses:
  - environmental protection & management
    - free of contaminants
    - safe & responsible handling of agro-chemicals
    - biodiversity conservation
  - food safety
    - safe, healthy and quality produce for better nutrition and consumption
  - worker’s health, safety and welfare
    - improves farmers and consumers condition
    - enhance the agricultural family welfare
  - product quality
    - globally competitive produce
    - improved food security

- This approach is a set of principles, regulations and technical recommendations that are applicable during primary production, processing and food transport, agreed upon by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) where the Philippines is one of the 10 members.

- GAP bridges the gap between traditional farming practices and market as well as the stakeholders’ (customers) standards for agricultural and non-agricultural products.

WHY DO WE ADOPT GAP?

- Language of Trade - Food Safety Assurance (RA10611). To address consumers’ demand/preference for more nutritious and safe foods that are produced with care and concern for environmental protection. GAP protocols were developed in response to the increase in the number of food borne disease outbreaks.
- Ensures Sustainability of Farmers Practices and food supply.
- Competitive Edge. Productive and globally competitive

GAP is now implemented in the 10 countries who are members of the ASEAN. These are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The country, through the Department of Agriculture, created the Philippine Good Agricultural Practices Program (PhilGAP) to take charge of this concern.

GAP CERTIFICATION

A.O. 30 series of 2012, known as the GAP Certification Guidelines, encourages all farmers/food producers to adopt GAP principles and to be GAP certified. The following therefore, are encouraged to undergo certification:

- Individual Farmers
- Cooperative & Farmer Organization-owned and operated farms
- Corporate Farms / Produce Marketing Organizations (PMOs)
- Demonstration farms

Tasked to spearhead the certification process is the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in cooperation with the Regional GAP Team in the Municipal, Provincial, and Regional levels.

Objectives of GAP Certification

We need to certify our farmers and their farms to:
- facilitate adoption of GAP aimed at ensuring food safety and assuring produce quality while keeping high regard for environmental protection and that of workers health, safety and welfare;
- produce quality and safe agricultural crops for consumers; and
- facilitate access of Philippine agricultural crops to neighboring ASEAN and other foreign markets.

Application Process

To be certified, interested applicants should undergo the following steps:

1. Attend the Training on GAP conducted by the ATI, DA-RFO, LGUs, SUCs or by ATI-accredited extension service providers.
2. Fill-up Pre-Application Form with supporting documents and submit to the Office of the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) for farm validation and endorsement to the Office of the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO). The supporting documents to be submitted are:
   - For Individual Farm Applications: Accomplished Pre-Application Form (available at MAO/PAO);
     - Farm Profile;
     - Farm Map or area map;
     - Farm Operation Procedures of crops being registered including list of fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals used; and
     - Certificate of training of the farm owner or authorized representative on GAP
   - For Groups or corporate farm application (coops, corporate farms, farmers organizations, consolidators, etc.):
     - Accomplished application form signed by the applicant or designated representative;
     - Farm and/or organizational profile, as applicable;
     - Farm map or area map;
     - ICS manual; and
     - Certificate of training (Officers/representative).
3. Upon validation and assessment, the Provincial Agriculture Office endorse documents to DA-RFO-GAP Secretariat
4. GAP Secretariat to conduct final field inspection and check completeness of documents for submission to BPI National Office.
5. BPI notifies the DA-RFO Secretariat and GAP applicant for the final field inspection.
6. BPI will issue GAP certificate to GAP compliant applicant.