



GENERAL RULES SPECIFICATIONS

The Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater (SPRING) Add-on

ENGLISH VERSION 1.1-1

VALID FROM: 4 FEBRUARY 2020

OBLIGATORY FROM: 4 MAY 2020

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TABLE 1: GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name and version of the add-on:	SPRING add-on v1.1-1
Scope:	Crops
Scheme ID:	191 (Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use (SPRING) add-on)
Application in country(ies):	All
Add-on observers:	None, public add-on
Applicable add-on control points and compliance criteria (CPCC), name and version:	SPRING Checklist V1.1

TABLE 2: GENERAL RULES SPECIFICATIONS		
For the implementation of this add-on, general regulations I, II, and III as well as Crops rules are applicable unless otherwise specified in the general rules specifications below:		
Section (Numbering based on GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations)	Add-on General Rule	Requirements
3	APPLICATION OPTIONS	
Preconditions:		
3.1	Option 1 – Individual Certification	
3.1.1	Option 1 – Multisite without QMS	Applicable
3.1.2	Option 1 – Multisite with QMS	Applicable
3.2	Option 2 – Producer Group Certification	
		Applicable
3.3	Benchmarked Schemes	
		No benchmarking against SPRING. SPRING can be implemented as an add-on to an equivalent scheme.
4	REGISTRATION PROCESS	
4.1	Certification Bodies/Farm Assurer	
a)	The applicant shall register with an approved certification body (CB) or GLOBALG.A.P. licensed Farm Assurer. CB inspectors or auditors that are already approved to conduct inspections for accredited standards such as GLOBALG.A.P. IFA or for schemes successfully benchmarked to the specific sub-scope; OR inspectors or auditors from GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs conducting inspections against non-accredited standards; OR licensed Farm Assurers that have approval for assessing the specific add-on.	The applicant shall register with an approved certification body only which has inspectors or auditors that are already approved to conduct inspections for accredited standards such as GLOBALG.A.P. IFA or schemes successfully benchmarked to the specific sub-scope. (i) The CB shall appoint a SPRING in-house trainer who shall be responsible for ensuring that all the CB's registered SPRING auditors and inspectors comply with the required qualification criteria. (ii) Inspectors/Auditors shall take part in an internal training on SPRING provided by the CB-approved in-house trainer and shall demonstrate sufficient competence in the field of water management prior to conducting any SPRING assessments. (iii) In addition, the inspectors/auditors shall pass an online exam on SPRING, once available.
4.2	Registration	
4.2.1	General	
a)	Registration information according to GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, Annex I.2	An additional application form with information related to all water sources and infrastructure to be included in the scope shall be completed during registration. The producer shall provide this information to the CBs during registration to prepare for the assessment.
d)	Confidentiality, data use, and data release	As given in the Data Access Rules, Annex 1
e)	The duration of the service contract is set between the CB/Farm Assurer and the producer.	The duration is set using the same contract that is used for the IFA inspections or the equivalent standard.
5	ASSESSMENT PROCESS	
5.1	Option 1 – Single Sites and Multisites without QMS	
5.1.1	Self-assessments	Self-assessment shall be completed annually prior to the CB assessment.
5.1.2	Certification body or verification body assessments	Third-party verification shall be completed annually by CBs only. The same CB that conducts the IFA inspection shall perform the SPRING assessment. The first SPRING assessment may be conducted at a different time than the IFA inspection. However, all subsequent assessments shall be conducted simultaneously with the IFA inspection.
5.1.2.1	Duration of assessment: agreement between verifier and producer or set minimum	The assessment duration depends on several factors, e.g., the complexity of activities, the size of the assessed area. The minimum duration of a simple scenario is around 2 hours, including off-site review of documentation.
5.1.2.2	Unannounced assessments	If a producer is chosen for an unannounced surveillance inspection for IFA, the SPRING add-on shall also be assessed. However, there is no minimum number of unannounced SPRING assessments to be conducted by a CB per year.
5.2	Option 2 and Option 1 Multisite with QMS	
5.2.1	Internal assessments	An internal assessment of every producer member and the audit of the QMS shall be completed annually as per GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.
5.2.2	Certification body or verification body assessments	Third-party verification shall be completed annually. The same rules as per section 5.2 of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations 'Option 2 and Option 1 Multisite with QMS' apply. The QMS and a sample of the sites/producer members shall be assessed annually. The sample size is calculated using the square root of the number of producer group members registered for SPRING. The same CB that conducts the IFA inspection shall perform the SPRING assessment.
5.2.2.1	Duration of assessment: agreement between verifier and producer or set minimum	The assessment duration depends on several factors, e.g., the complexity of activities, the size of the assessed area, and the size of the producer group. The minimum duration of a simple scenario is around 2 hours, including off-site review of documentation.
5.2.2.2	The sampling method, frequency, and timing	For Option 2 and for Option 1 Multisite with QMS, the sampling method, frequency, timing and unannounced assessment rules are the same rules as those given in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for Option 2.
5.3	Inspection Timing	
		Assessments are timed according to the same rules as those applying to the IFA.
6	APPROVAL PROCESS	
6.2	Requirements to Achieve and Maintain Add-on Conformance	
	The CPCC of the add-on may consist of different levels (e.g., Knock-out Points, Major Musts, Minor Musts, and/or Recommendations) or may have a scoring system.	The control points for the add-on fall into 3 levels: critical, major and minor. See Annex 2 for an explanation of control point levels as well as the classification criteria and conditions for the issuance of letters of conformance and status.

6.2.1	Compliance Calculation	<p>There are 4 degrees of compliance for every control point of the SPRING add-on:</p> <p>3 points: Full compliance with the specified control point.</p> <p>2 points: Compliance to a large extent. Observations here are considered recommendations.</p> <p>1 point: Non-compliance. Compliance with the control point is insufficient. The producer or producer group shall propose corrective action.</p> <p>0 points: Full non-compliance. The control point is not met at all. The producer or producer group shall propose corrective action.</p> <p>Not applicable: In exceptional cases, the CB may also identify a minor control point as "Not applicable". The CB shall justify the decision in the field reserved for comments in the checklist. Critical control points shall never be identified as "Not applicable".</p>
6.4	Sanctions	
	Outstanding non-conformance detected shall be closed within the timeframe agreed with the program owner or CB or VB.	See Annex 2 for explanation of the 'Major Non-Conformances (NC)' as well as the type of follow-up assessment.
		<p>It is allowed to apply for a re-assessment. If a producer or producer was unable to comply with all critical and major control points, or if that producer/producer group failed to reach a score of 75% for all minor control points, the producer/producer group may apply for a re-assessment within the correction time limit of 28 days.</p> <p>The producer or producer group can apply for a re-assessment within 2 months after the time limit for rectification has expired. Such a re-assessment may be conducted as an off-site assessment, verifying only the missing or insufficient documents, if an on-site assessment is not necessary.</p> <p>This off-site assessment shall be conducted by the same inspector/auditor who carried out the on-site assessment.</p> <p>The letter of conformance's validity will be shorter and still be aligned with that of the IFA certificate.</p>
6.5	Letter of Conformance and Inspection Cycle	
		See Annex 2 for explanation of the different documents issued by the CB to the producer/producer group. The letter of conformance will be valid for the same time period as the IFA certificate.
6.7.1	Letter of conformance information	See template, Annex 3
OTHER		
	Integrity Program (CIPRO) to be included or not	Yes
	Own add-on logo (if applicable)	N/A
	Applicable fees	<p>1. SPRING license fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Option 1 or 3 producer: € 30/year •Option 2: oPer registered producer: € 10/year oPer QMS: € 130/year <p>2. SPRING certification body fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Certification body license fee (scope extension): € 500/year •Certification body in-house trainer training (IHT): € 250/training day per person •Inspector/Auditor registration fee: €150/online examination. NOT ANNUAL FEE. •IHT exam resit fee: € 150/exam
	Additional rules	Mandatory upload: Assessment checklist, letter of conformance, and documentation of the volume of water used per hectare.

ANNEX 1 DATA ACCESS RULES

1.1 STANDARD DATA/STANDARD VISIBILITY

	Data Access Groups			
	GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat	Certification Body	Market Participant	Public
SPRING add-on Visibility	x	x	x	x

1.2 PRODUCER/COMPANY DATA

The producer/company/operation data for the SPRING add-on shall be displayed in the same way as for the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard (see GLOBALG.A.P. Data Access Rules).

1.3 PRODUCT AND CERTIFICATION DATA

	Data Access Groups			
	GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat	Certification Body	Market Participant	Public
Product	x	x	x	x
Product status	x	x	x	x
Standard version	x	x	x	x
Certification option including multisite information	x	x	x	x
For producer groups: number of SPRING producer group members and total number of producer group members linked to the producer group	x	x	x	x
Certificate validity date	x	x	x	x
Certification body	x	x	x	x
GLOBALG.A.P. certificate number	x	x	x	x
Countries of destination	x	x	x	x
Quantity data1)	x	x	x	
Inspection/audit result2)	x	x	x	

Notes

1) Production surface covered by SPRING and quantity of water used (in cube meter per year).

2) Inspection/audit report details linked to the assessment including checklist and non-conformance/ non-compliances

ANNEX 2 CONTROL POINT LEVELS AND CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

6.2 Control point levels

There are 3 different levels for the control points: critical, major and minor.

6.2.1 Critical

0 points or 1 point implies that the producer or producer group is rejected and no letter of conformance can be issued. The producer or producer group shall require a new assessment which will be conducted again as an initial assessment. A minimum of three months shall pass before this new assessment can take place, in which the producer or producer group must take corrective action.

6.2.2 Major

0 points or 1 point implies that the producer or producer group shall propose and take immediate appropriate corrective action, which means:

- Explain the root cause of the non-compliance.
- Submit proof of correction to the CB within 28 days.
- Submit a plan to investigate if the non-compliance may exist on other farms.

6.2.3 Minor

0 points or 1 point implies that the producer or producer group shall:

- Explain the root cause of the non-compliance.
- Submit a corrective action plan within 28 days after the assessment with clearly defined responsibilities and time limits. Corrective actions shall be implemented before the follow-up assessment.

6.3 Classification Criteria and Conditions for the Issuing of Assessment Letters and the Letters of Conformance

Critical Non-Conformance	Major Non-Conformance	Minor Non-Conformance overall score	Status classification	Issued document	Type of follow-up assessment
1 or more on assessment day	Not relevant	Not relevant	Critical	Letter from the CB notifying producer of "critical" status	New initial assessment within 3–12 months after the first assessment
0 on assessment day	4 or more after the time limit for rectification (28 days)	Not relevant	Critical	Letter from the CB notifying producer of "critical" status	New initial assessment within 3–12 months after the first assessment
0 on assessment day	1–3 after the time limit for rectification (28 days)	Score of 75% or more on assessment day, corrective action plan is filed within 28 days after assessment. If no corrective action plan is filed, status will be changed to "critical".	Improvement needed	Letter from the CB notifying producer of "improvement needed" status	Follow-up assessment within 12 months after the first assessment
0 on assessment day	0 after the time limit for rectification (28 days)	Score of less than 75% on assessment day, corrective action plan is filed within 28 days after assessment. If no corrective action plan is filed, status will be changed to "critical".	Improvement needed	Letter from the CB notifying producer of "improvement needed" status	Follow-up assessment within 12 months after the first assessment
0 on assessment day	0 after the time limit for rectification (28 days)	Score of 75% or more on assessment day, corrective action plan is filed within 28 days after assessment. If no corrective action plan is filed, status will be changed to "improvement needed".	Certified	Letter of conformance from the CB	Follow-up assessment within 12 months after the first assessment

ANNEX 3 LETTER OF CONFORMANCE TEMPLATE



GGN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

SPRING ADD-ON
LETTER OF CONFORMANCE

According to the SPRING
(Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use)
Rules

Option X
Issued to

Producer group/producer

Company name, address

Country of production

The annex contains details of the producers and production sites/product handling units included in the scope of this letter of conformance.

The certification body [Company Name] declares that the production of the products mentioned on this letter of conformance has been found to be compliant with the standard:

SPRING version XXXX

Product1	Hectares	Number of producers/production sites

Date of assessment:

Authorized by

Date of assessment decision:
xx/xx/xxxx

Valid from: xx/xx/xxxx

Valid to: xx/xx/xxxx

CB contact data
Company name, address (incl. e-mail)