GLOBALG.A.P.

SPRING
Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use

The Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use (SPRING) add-on aims to help producers, supply chain stakeholders, and buyers demonstrate their **commitment to more responsible on-farm water stewardship**. Audited in combination with the Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard, SPRING offers producers a practical, cost-efficient way to improve transparency and address topics such as water use and extraction rates, legal compliance and protection of water sources, watershed management, and traceability.

Benefits of implementation

1. **Boost efficiency:** Improve farm water management and efficiency, including the identification and mitigation of water risks.
2. **Legal compliance:** Demonstrate implementation of requirements on land use, flow rates, water source identification, and more.
3. **Market access:** Gain recognition for responsible farm-level water practices and access key buyers.
4. **International recognition:** Benchmarked to SIFAV's Basket of Water Standards and recognized by WWF Spain.
5. **Global standard:** Applicable for a wide range of farm sizes and types worldwide, including smallholders and producer groups.
6. **Trusted network:** Rely on a standard tried, tested, and trusted by over 27,000 producers in more than 45 countries.

27,561
producers under assessment

48
countries with assessed production

962,835
hectares of assessed production

Data valid as of 31/10/2025

*For more information on GLOBALG.A.P. claims, please visit our **impact areas and claims page**.*

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Find more information at
www.globalgap.org

Core topics

Assessment of water risks and objectives
- Water risk assessment and management plan
- Documented overview of water stakeholders
- Staff training

Management and use of water resources
- Optimization of water distribution systems and irrigation plan
- Water measurement system and consumption records
- Inspection and control of irrigation systems and storage

Assessment of legal compliance
- Legal use of land and water sources
- Documentation of flow rates
- Buildings and water infrastructure

Protection of water sources
- Wastewater management
- Natural water sources and biodiversity protection
- Soil erosion and responsible use of fertilizers and pesticides

IFA for fruit and vegetables plus the SPRING add-on is benchmarked to the **Sustainability Initiative Fruit and Vegetables' (SIFAV)** Basket of Water Standards.

SPRING v2 is also recognized by the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Spain** as among the top farm-level water certification options.

Five steps to conformance

1. **Download the add-on documents**
   You will need the SPRING principles and criteria along with the checklist. You can find the documents for free and in multiple languages in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

2. **Implement the requirements**
   Use the principles and criteria to guide the implementation of the add-on requirements, and then conduct a self-assessment using the checklist.

3. **Request a certification body (CB) audit**
   Contact your CB and request an audit for SPRING. You must use the same CB which conducted your IFA audit.

4. **Complete the CB audit**
   The CB auditor will conduct the audit. Any non-compliances which are detected must be corrected within the specified period and verified by the CB before a letter of conformance can be issued.

5. **Receive your letter of conformance**
   The SPRING letter of conformance is valid for one year, and you must undergo an on-site audit annually to retain conformance status. Your status will be publicly visible in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform for transparency in the market.

Find a CB

Visit the **GLOBALG.A.P. "Producers" page** to view the full list of approved CBs. To find a CB near you, use the "Solutions" filter to select "SPRING" and then select your country.

View the fee table

Visit the **GLOBALG.A.P. document center** to view the fee table. Certification costs generally include implementation costs, auditor fees, and GLOBALG.A.P. fees.

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