



NAVCDP
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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PYRETHRUM FOOD SAFETY

GAP Audit for Pyrethrum Value Chain

A Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit in the pyrethrum value chain assures the consumer that all processes, from planting to the processed products are in conformity with the recommended safety guidelines. This is essential since the out put of the industrial crop is used on food production farms.

A GAP audit is voluntary and is not a law, but it is required by some markets. The following are guidelines for the GAP audit process which can be applied to the Pyrethrum value chain in Kenya.

Step 1: Type of audit

There are various types of audits, such as the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Harvesting Procedures (GHP) audit, the Harmonized GAP, or private audits such as the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). The buyer of the pyrethrum products may specify the type or may accept any type of audit. If the buyer has no preference, the GAP audit is the best, simplest and least expensive option.

Step 2: Type of Crops

It is important to determine the crop to certify, which in this case is pyrethrum crop and its products. It is essential to note that the GAP certificate is in reference to the pyrethrum product and not the farm.

Step 3: Organizing the Pyrethrum Food Safety Plan

It is necessary to have a food safety plan and record keeping for pyrethrum or its products. A documented food safety plan is required in order to pass a GAP audit.

Sections of the plan include:

- Farm history and land use
- Worker health and hygiene
- Worker training
- Water sources/quality
- Manures and soil amendments
- Toilet and hand washing facilities
- Harvesting, packing, storage and transportation
- Product traceability

Many pyrethrum growers work on their food safety plan by updating it as needed throughout the growing season. As part of your food safety plan, it is recommended to have the farm's policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) that document cleaning and other food safety related activities.

Step 4: Review of an audit checklist and setting up the audit

Reviewing the GAP/GHP audit checklist is important to indicate where a document, policy or record is needed.

On average, a passing score of 80 percent is required for each section. It is recommended to have the pyrethrum products GAP audited yearly. Having audit documents in order reduces the time that the auditor spends at the farm, and therefore total cost.

Step 5: Need for help

If a farmer experiences a hard time getting started, they could look for templates, attend GAPs workshops or consult other growers who can teach them how to go about it. Once the food safety plan is written and ready to schedule an audit, the process is straightforward.

Conclusion

Having a GAP audit on pyrethrum and its products allows the farmer to sell to new markets. Good food safety practices on the farm are good for everyone, and having a GAP audit is proof to customers that care was taken during production to ensure food safety.



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