



Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) and Agraya GmbH

Scheme Endorsement Agreement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Agraya GmbH (formerly FoodPLUS GmbH) is the scheme owner of the worldwide operated GLOBALG.A.P. schemes. Agraya GmbH (hereinafter referred to as AGRAYA) has sought and received endorsement of their schemes listed in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Schemes”) as Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as Global ACI) MRA sub-scopes in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 *Policies and Procedures for the Management and Expansion of the Scope of the Global ACI Arrangement* and this Agreement.
- 1.2 The Schemes require Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in the Schemes to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with a main scope of product certification and a sub-scope of the relevant scheme(s) included in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (Global ACI MRA signatories).
- 1.3 AGRAYA sets voluntary standards for the certification of agricultural products around the globe. The aim is to establish ONE standard for Good Agricultural Practices (G.A.P) with different product applications capable of fitting into the whole of global agriculture. AGRAYA is supported by 54 Retail & Food Service Community Members, 185 Producer & Supplier Community Members, and 228 Associate Community Members.
- 1.4 AGRAYA contracts at the time of this Agreement with 190 CABs worldwide under the Schemes, the supervision of which is carried out by the Abs signatories to the Global ACI MRA.
- 1.5 The GLOBALG.A.P. requirements for the professional competence of personnel auditors are defined in the relevant scheme General Regulations.
- 1.6 AGRAYA delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CABs it contracts with to the corresponding Global ACI Accreditation Bodies, noting that harmonization of criteria applied by the different ABs is increasingly important to ensure consistency of that supervision.
- 1.7 The Schemes provide the standard and framework for independent, recognized third-party certification of processes associated with the scope of the Schemes.

- 1.8 The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of certification of management systems, products, services, process, persons, validation and verification; laboratory testing (including medical testing/examination), calibration, provision of proficiency testing, production of reference materials, and biobanking; inspection activities and other similar programs of conformity assessment.
- 1.9 Global ACI is responsible for the harmonization and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), V&VBs (Validation and Verification Bodies), laboratories, and inspection bodies, and to support its Global ACI MRA.
2. The Global ACI MRA is established and maintained based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which Global ACI contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of conformity assessment attestations issued by accredited CABs.

Administration and Cooperation

- 2.1 Both Global ACI and AGRAYA, by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organizations to ensure harmonization in the accreditation practices performed by Global ACI members for the Schemes and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the Schemes with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the Schemes' accredited CABs.
- 2.2 Global ACI and AGRAYA shall comply with the respective requirements of Global ACI MRA-003 *Policies and Procedures for the Management and Expansion of the Scope of the Global ACI Arrangement*, operating and administering in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CABs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.
- 2.3 The Schemes will be open to all CABs that are accredited by signatories to the Global ACI MRA. The ABs will be signatory members of the Global ACI MRA for product and have agreed to implement the requirements as per the Global ACI / AGRAYA Scheme Endorsement Agreement. A list of Global ACI ABs that have agreed to implement the Global ACI / AGRAYA Scheme Endorsement Agreement shall be maintained on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.
- 2.4 AGRAYA will only work with ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA and who have agreed to implement the Global ACI / AGRAYA Scheme Endorsement Agreement. AGRAYA will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA for Product Certification or has not implemented and maintained the Global ACI / AGRAYA Scheme Endorsement Agreement.
- 2.5 Both Global ACI and AGRAYA shall appoint a liaison person of each organization to act as contact persons.

3. Information Exchange

In order to achieve such goals, both organizations have agreed upon the following:

3.1 AGRAYA shall inform the Global ACI of the following:

- a) Changes to any of the schemes listed in Schedule 1, that may impact compliance with Global ACI MRA-003.
- b) Any revision/extension of the Schemes' standards/documents.
- c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by AGRAYA on one or more of the Schemes.
- d) Feedback AGRAYA may have regarding the Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.
- e) Change in the status as Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized scheme(s).

3.2 Global ACI shall inform AGRAYA of the following:

- a) When a Global ACI MRA signatory with a sub-scope of one or more of the Schemes has been suspended or had their Global ACI MRA signatory status withdrawn.
- b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the Schemes' standards/documents.
- c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have an impact on the Global ACI MRA and Scheme sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents

- 4.1 The Schemes' documents shall be prepared using the AGRAYA procedure for the setting and revision of Schemes' documentation. This shall include a stakeholder consultation phase comprising of comment submissions by interested parties each lasting a specified timeframe with feedback being provided to organizations that made the comment.
- 4.2 The Global ACI will be included as a stakeholder and invited to provide comments during any stakeholder consultation period of the Schemes revision process.
- 4.3 The Scheme's normative documents shall be available free of charge on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org).
- 4.4 AGRAYA will provide new draft Scheme version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to GLOBAL ACI as soon as a technically sound new version is available, in order to make sure that the new scheme version continues to comply with the requirements of Global ACI MRA-003. AGRAYA accepts the process to be followed according to Global ACI MRA-003 for Global ACI MRA sub-scope inclusion of new versions of the Schemes.
- 4.5 The need for the development of specific Global ACI application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the Global ACI MRA shall be proposed by the Global ACI applicable Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the Global ACI MRA Committee as specified in Global ACI MRA-003.

- 4.6 The Schemes endorsed as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes are included in the relevant Global ACI MRA status lists. After the end of the transition period to a new scheme version the old version will not be published as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes anymore.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 Global ACI and AGRAYA shall each bear their own costs.
- 5.2 The Schemes will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of product certification, ISO/IEC 17065. Those ABs currently providing accreditations to one or more of the Schemes will be able to apply for a Global ACI MRA scope extension for the relevant scheme(s) through provision of a signed self-declaration once this Agreement is signed.
- 5.3 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MRA peer evaluation to the Global ACI product certification MRA signatories working in one or more of the Schemes that have agreed to implement the Global ACI / AGRAYA Scheme Endorsement Agreement.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 Global ACI shall hold all confidential information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of AGRAYA.

7. Term

- 7.1 This Agreement shall commence from the original date of signing and unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continues indefinitely.

8. Cancellation

- 8.1 This Agreement between AGRAYA and Global ACI can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

SCHEDULE 1

GLOBALG.A.P. schemes endorsed for inclusion as sub-scopes to the Global ACI MRA:

1. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA)

Level 4 – GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations, V6

Level 5 – GLOBALG.A.P. IFA (SMART and GFS) Principles and Criteria, V6 (GG IFA)

2. Produce Handling Assurance (PHA)

Level 4 – GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations, V6.0; PHA Addendum to General Regulations, V1

Level 5 – PHA CPCCs, V1

Execution of the agreement

Global ACI	Agraya GmbH
 Brahim Houla Global ACI Chair	  Elmé Coetzer-Boersma AGRAYA CEO

Date of Agreement: 23-09-2026

Note: Issue 1, Version 1.