Regional and national unique product standards – key to accessing new market - Mauritius Case study
Standardization

The advocated policy regarding the development of national standards is to adopt International standards (ISO, IEC, CODEX, EN) wherever they exist and are applicable or to base the standards on regional (ARS, EAS) and foreign national standards (SANS, IS, BS, NF)
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

BIO FARMING: A MEANS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

• The government has aimed high when it comes to its agricultural policy.
• Target - 50 % of the food production should be according to bio-norms by 2020
• Measures to be undertaken to promote bio-farming in Mauritius.
Case Study –
Current Agricultural Practices

• Abusive utilisation of pesticides in agricultural production
• Study carried out on some 300 planters,
  ▪ using pesticides to control not only pests but also diseases in plants
  ▪ amount used was being increased without any expert advice
  ▪ using a cocktail of pesticides, without authorisation, on their food crops as a preventive measure.
SMART Agriculture

• Healthy and ecological ways of producing vegetables
• Use of chemicals is strictly limited to the bare essentials with the help of alternative methods of production such as trapping and culture rotation.

- Low production costs,
- Farmers are less exposed to chemicals
- Consumers get healthy products
SMART Agriculture

• Targeted actions organised to reach 3 levels of disruption

• Level 1 - reduction of 25 % of chemicals by optimising use of phyto-sanitary products through better understanding, dosage, application and results.

• Level 2 - reduce chemicals by 50 % by using alternative biological products and introducing good insects to fight the diseases that affect the plants
SMART Agriculture

• Level 3 - reduce use of chemicals by 75%, taking a fresh look at the production system based on the principles of agro-ecology e.g.:

  ▪ diversification of plant varieties under cultivation,
  ▪ culture rotations
  ▪ mixed farming
  ▪ introduction of resistant plant varieties
Regulations & Testing

• Regulations set to control
  ▪ the proper and safe use of pesticides by farmers
  ▪ pesticides residues on vegetables, fruits and other agricultural products

• Authorities ensure that the fruits and vegetables consumed do not have pesticide residues above the authorised threshold

  ▪ Out of 307 samples analysed,
    o 72 % - no pesticide residues
    o 24 % - pesticide residues < the codex MRL
    o 4 % - exceeded this level.
Mauri-GAP Level 1 standard

• Need to encourage farmers to shift from Conventional Agricultural Practices currently based on heavy utilisation of chemical inputs to Bio or Organic Farming with less or no use of chemical inputs … lengthy process cannot be achieved overnight!

• Ministry of Agro-Industry, in collaboration with MSB developed the ‘MauriGap Level 1 Standard’ - basic standard for the production of crops under bio farming systems
Mauri-GAP Level 1 standard

Eligibility criteria to have access to incentives, applicants had to take the commitment to implement the requirements of Mauri-GAP Level 1 and to be certified within a period not exceeding one year from the start date of the project.
Mauritius Agricultural Certification Body

• the “Mauritius Agricultural Certification Body” will certify all agricultural products that comply, in the first instance with the MauriGAP Level 1 Standard

• The certification will gradually be extended to Level 2 and Level 3 once these standards are finalised.
Technical Assistance from FAO

• To implement the project ‘Support for the Development of Organic Farming and Institutional Capacity Building in Mauritius’.

• Preparation of a National Strategic Plan for the Adoption and Promotion of Organic Agriculture including
  ▪ Strategy on Marketing of organic products
  ▪ National legislation on organic agriculture.
MS 184-1:2015 - Brief

Specification for Good Agricultural Practices for Crop Production – MauriGAP – Level 1 – Basic requirements
MS 184-1:2015 - Foreword

This Mauritian Standard was drawn by the Food Products Standards Committee (FPSC) through its Subcommittee on Bio-products. It was approved by the Standards Council on 29 July 2015 and was notified in the Government Gazette on 22 August 2015*. 
MS 184-1:2015 - References

• GLOBALGAP General Regulations
• GLOBALGAP Control Points and Compliance criteria
• GLOBALGAP Checklist
• IOCALGAP General Regulations
• IOCALGAP Control Points and Compliance criteria
• IOCALGAP Checklist
MS 184-1:2015 - Introduction

The introduction of MauriGAP is a stepping stone toward GLOBALGAP certification. It is the basic quality assurance programme that sets certain food safety requirements while ensuring sustainable production practices. It provides for traceability of production practices, cost effective solutions, promotes market access, and helps producers gain gradual recognition.
the MauriGAP programme will be staggered in 3 levels:

MauriGAP – Part 1 - Basic requirements
MauriGAP – Part 2 - Advanced requirements
MauriGAP – Part 3 - GLOBALGAP
Scope

This Standard establishes basic requirements for sustainable crop production, focussing on Good Agricultural Practices for food safety, environmental stewardship and farmer/worker welfare.

This Standard applies to open and protected field cultivation as well as to hydroponics.

This standard will be used for inspection and certification of the crop production process.
MS 184 – 1 – Table of Contents

1 Scope
2 Normative references
3 Terms and definitions
4 Requirements
  4.1 Soil and substrate
  4.2 Crop varieties
  4.3 Fertilizers
  4.4 Irrigation
  4.5 Crop protection
  4.6 Harvesting
4.7 Produce handling
4.8 Waste and pollution management and re-cycling
4.9 Worker welfare
4.10 Records
4.11 Traceability
ANNEXES

Annex A (informative)  FAREI guidelines on soil conservation practices
Annex B (normative)  FAREI Guidelines on crop rotation
Annex C (normative)  FAREI Guidelines for use of Hydroponic leachate in food production
Annex D (normative)  Quality Declared Scheme for seeds (QDS)
Annex E (normative)  FAREI recommendations on the dosage and frequency of application of fertilizers
ANNEXES

Annex F (normative)  FAREI guidelines on irrigation
Annex G (normative)  FAREI guidelines on crop protection and use of pesticides
Annex H (normative)  FAREI warning signs for re-entry period
Annex I (normative)  FAREI guidelines on Harvest /produce handling
Annex J (normative)  Records
Thank you for your Attention
Standardization of Tea

• The tea produced in Mauritius

  ▪ is derived from the tea plant ‘Camellia Sinensis’
  ▪ is pesticide free – not attacked by pest or disease
  ▪ Is termed the ‘black tea’
  ▪ complies with environmental standards

black tea
‘tea derived solely and exclusively, ... leaf maceration,... from the tender shoots of varieties of the species Camellia sinensis (L.), known to be suitable for making tea for consumption as a beverage

ISO 3720:2011 - Black tea — Definition and basic requirements
Herbal Tea – Moringa Tea

• Herbal tea is another recent development in the Mauritian tea industry for their nutritional value
• Today, a wide range of herbal tea are exported over the world
• Recently, Moringa oleifera (‘Moringa tea’) known for its exceptional health benefits, is being exported in the form of tea bags, as powder and pills
• Cultivated or in the wild, ‘bred mouroum’ is part of the culinary tradition of Mauritius
• V Kanhye Health Foods Co. Ltd, incorporated in 2014, aims at promoting natural health supplement from Moringa oleifera
• The plantation is 100% bio, without any use of pesticide and chemical in the field or manufacturing process.
• The company specialises in Moringa infusion, Moringa capsule and Moringa powder.
• MRC had conducted research work on Moringa Oleifera
• In April 2015, V. Kanhye Health Foods officially came into operation, the green tea obtained from the moringa is marketed two months late
• V. Kanhye Health Foods, diversify its production (moringa powder and vegetable-based capsules)
• Moringa Products applied and obtained its Pre-market Approval permit from the Ministry of Health after the products successfully complies with the heavy metal and bacteriology test.
• Kanhye Foods Co Ltd participated at the Paris International Food Fair through Enterprise Mauritius. “

• VKHF plantations are 100% Bio, do not use any Fertilisers, Pesticides or other chemicals

• Approached Eco Cert group, to be certified organic