

FERTILIZER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (FBMPs)

VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES VS. REGULATIONS



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THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Main purposes

- To protect consumers' health
- To ensure fair trade practices in food trade
- To promote coordination of food standards regulation by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.



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DEFINITION OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

- Collection of standards, codes of practice, guidelines on food safety, including:
 - Detailed Regulations
 - Operation and management of production
 - Government regulatory systems for food safety and consumer protection



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FAO and WHO Codex Alimentarius ACTIVITIES

FAO and WHO help developing countries to:

- Apply Codex standards for setting relevant legislation and regulations.
- Strengthen national food control systems
- Take advantage of international food trade opportunities
- Conduct risk assessments, developed by expert committees and consultations.



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GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP)

- Purpose
- Application



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Aims of GAP Initiative:

- To support local and national development of optimal practices for a given production system.
- To apply existing knowledge in creating appropriate policy instruments.
- To raise awareness and facilitate transition to sustainable agriculture.



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INTEGRATED PLANT NUTRITION SYSTEMS

Policies:

- Assessment of plant nutrient requirements to meet crop production targets.
- Supply methods.
- Determination of the optimum level of domestic fertilizer production.
- Price levels and the issue of subsidies on plant nutrient sources.
- Legislative aspects.
- Support for extension and research.



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FAO/USAID Madagascar Experience

- Illustrates effective industry regulation where a formal regulatory framework was lacking.



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FAO/USAID Madagascar Experience The Chemical Fertilizer Case

- Created an organization for fertilizer importers and distributors
- Created a platform for all stakeholders to monitor the progress of the fertilizer sector.



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FAO/USAID Madagascar Experience The Chemical Fertilizer Case

- Provides an example of the formation and efficacy of voluntary initiatives and public–private partnership.



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SAICM - VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE strategic approach to international chemical management

- Adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2006.
- Voluntary initiative seeking to promote the sound management of chemicals.



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SAICM Proposed Activities

- Measures to support risk reduction
- Strengthening knowledge and information
- Governance: strengthening of institutions, law and policies
- Enhancing capacity building
- Addressing illegal international traffic



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REGULATIONS

- Compliance with “Truth-in-Labeling” Requirement versus national regulatory requirements.
- Government restrictions on composition of fertilizer.



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REGULATIONS

- Official recommendations about what is useful are often too general or are simply wrong.



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REGULATIONS

Governments should:

- Allow companies to import fertilizer without import permits from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Promote and regulate fertilizer quality by mandating labeling requirements.
- Monitor and enforce truth-in-labeling.



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REGULATIONS

- Violations and inspection methods to be defined in laws and regulations.
- Set limits on impurities in fertilizer that could damage public health.



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THANK YOU
for your attention



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