

**Report of the Consultants Meeting on the Role of Analytical Laboratories in the Application of
Good Agricultural Practice in the Production of
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Animal and Animal Products**

*IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
14 – 15 July 2005*

The Consultants Meeting on The Role of Analytical Laboratories in the Application of Good Agricultural Practice In the Production of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Animal and Animal Products met at IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria from 14-15 July 2005.

The consultants meeting addressed the role of analytical laboratories, including their relationship to the farm community, in the application of GAP in the production of fresh fruits and vegetables and Animal and animal products.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- ◆ To report on current governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental international initiatives in the use of analytical laboratories, including inter-laboratory networks, to support the application of GAP in the production of fresh fruits and vegetables and animal and animal products.
- ◆ To provide recommendations on activities that should be initiated or better promoted from the analytical laboratory point of view in order to support the application of GAP at the farm level (giving feedback and training, disseminating information on quality concepts).
- ◆ To provide recommendations on the need to produce and/or harmonize guidance on the basis of Codex and other intergovernmental standards with special emphasis on the role of analytical laboratories in the production of fresh fruits and vegetables and animal and animal products.
- ◆ To study the feasibility of holding a national or regional workshop on the role of analytical laboratories in the application of GAP in the production of fresh fruits and vegetables in early 2006, and on Animal and animal products in mid to late 2006, including topics for discussion related to the role of analytical laboratories and their relationship to farmers in the promotion of GAP.
- ◆ To recommend a roster of experts in the different GAP areas (geographical and institutional representation) for reference purposes.
- ◆ To recommend capacity building activities (training materials, including key points, training initiatives, workshops, meetings, research project proposals) to be able to directly support farmers in the implementation of GAP.

The Meeting was chaired by D. Connor and D. Byron served as Scientific Secretary. The List of Participants is annexed to this report.

The meeting discussed the above objectives in detail and arrived at the following **conclusions and recommendations:**

1. Collaborative demand-driven efforts between the IAEA, FAO and other relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies should be strengthened through current and future joint activities, including through technical cooperation and research coordination.
2. Strengthen the capabilities of laboratories and laboratory networks at the regional and/or national level to support extension services, farmer cooperatives, farm schools, distance learning and other farm-based programmes, considering the needs of small scale producers, in assessing the implementation of GAP for internal and external markets.
3. Laboratories should play an integral role in GAP activities by monitoring and evaluating its application through pilot programmes, field trials, data collection, interpretation and feedback.
4. Strengthen laboratory capacity building through assistance programmes to develop infrastructures, methods and quality systems consistent with the objectives of GAP, including:
 - a. The use of relevant standards, guidelines and codes of practice (governmental and non-governmental) related to the production of fresh fruits and vegetables and animal products (e.g., Codex, IPPC, OIE).
 - b. To provide a source of quality data to parent expert bodies (JECFA, JMPR) to assist in their risk assessment activities.
 - c. Enhance communication between laboratories and other relevant parties (e.g., extension services, farm associations, certification bodies) so as to better inform public opinion and consumers.
5. Strengthen training programmes and activities to enhance technical expertise and knowledge through workshops, seminars, eLearning and other initiatives related to:
 - a. Farmer/Community awareness of lab activities related to GAP.
 - b. Sampling requirements and procedures.
 - c. Harmonization of methods of analysis.
 - d. Measurement uncertainty and proficiency testing.
 - e. Quality control, quality assurance and accreditation requirements.
 - f. Data interpretation.
6. Further develop research projects, including the use of nuclear methods, to evaluate the impact of the application of GAP, including the identification and use of environmental indicators.
7. The meeting supported the convening of regional workshops on the role of analytical laboratories in the application of GAP in the production of fresh fruits and vegetables, and animal and animal products.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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