

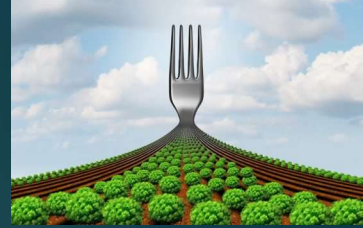


Dominica Bureau of Standards National Farm and Packhouse Certification Programme



DOMINICA GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Introduction / Background



- ❑ The Agricultural Certification Unit (ACU) was established at the Bureau of Standards in April 2017 for the implementation of the Fresh Produce Export Quality Control Act 2 of 2009.
- ❑ Role of the ACU is to certify farms, packhouses, and fresh produce.
- ❑ The ACU works in collaboration with the Inspection Unit who assigns Farm Assurers and Fresh Produce Inspectors.
- ❑ Staff compliment at the ACU stands at four (4) a Technical Officer for Quality, two part time Auditors, and an Administrative Officer.



Certified Fresh Produce

Certified Pack Houses

Certified Farms

Agricultural Certification Unit &
Inspection Unit

DOMGAP Guidelines, Standards for Fresh Produce ,
Pack sheds and Packhouses

Fresh Produce Export Quality Control Authority

Fresh Produce Export Quality Control
Act 2 2009



IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPORT QUALITY CONTROL ACT





*Dominica Bureau of Standards
National Certification Unit*



Steps to DOM-GAP Certification



1 Farmer expresses interest for DOM-GAP certification.

2 Farm Assurers of the Inspection Unit conducts Monitoring Self Assessment of the Farmer's Farm.

3 Farm Assurers assist Farmers with addressing non-conformities. (if any).

4 Farmer applies for certification through the Inspection Unit.

5 An Application Form is submitted to the National Certification Unit (NCU)

6 NCU schedules audit appointment.

7 Audit is conducted by a certified Auditor of the NCU.

8 Non-conformities (if any) are reported and corrective action is taken.

9 Certification decision.

10 Contract is signed between the Farmer and the NCU and a certificate is awarded.



Contact the Bureau of Standards, Stockfarm
Tel: 767-275-5921 Cell: 767-235-1592 Email: info@dominicastandards.org



@DominicaBureau



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DOMINICA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION UNIT

National Centre of Testing Excellence ♦ Stockfarm
♦ P. O. Box 1015 ♦ Roseau ♦ Commonwealth of Dominica
Tel: (767)275-5921 ♦ (767)235-1592 ♦ Email: info@dominicastandards.org



DOM-GAP CERTIFIED

(Level)



Certificate Number:

This certifies that

of holding(s) (see address below) has successfully completed and implemented all necessary requirements set forth by the DOM-GAP standard for the production and distribution of fresh produce.



Scope:

Commodity:

Farm size:

Farm Location:

Date Issued:

Valid Until:

DIRECTOR
DOMINICA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Certification ensures conformity of products, processes, systems, personnel and services to standards

Benefits of DOM-GAP

- ▶ Commodities will be produced in adherence to international best practices and guidelines.
- ▶ Provides the assurance that the commodities are suitable for human consumption.
- ▶ Increase consumer and customer confidence in Dominica fresh produce.
- ▶ Enhance the competitive edge in the market place.
- ▶ Provides greater access to regional and international markets.
- ▶ Increase farmers earnings due to the potential increase in the demand of fresh produce.
- ▶ Makes farm certification more accessible and affordable.



Challenges for Farmers

- ❑ Ability of farmers to make necessary infrastructural changes to meet GlobalG.A.P./DOM-GAP Requirements
- ❑ Increased exports of fresh produce by local exporters/ reduce demand
- ❑ High cost for transportation of pack shed building materials to farms
- ❑ High cost of labour
- ❑ Ineffective marketing for fresh produce
- ❑ Black Sigatoka Disease (Banana & Plantain Farmers).



Opportunities for Farmers

- ❑ Certified Quality Fresh Produce exports to regional and international markets
- ❑ Certified fresh produce for provision of quality raw materials to local agro-processors and supermarkets
- ❑ Provision of certified fresh produce to Top brand hotels on island (Anichi, Kempinski hotels, Tranquility, Jungle Bay)
- ❑ Enhanced food safety management system infrastructure for Dominica
- ❑ Enhanced culture for quality and use of best practices in the agricultural sector



Successes in the Agricultural Certification programme

- ❑ 10 farms Audited
- ❑ 4 Packhouses engaged for certification.
- ❑ Approved auditing protocols for packhouses
- ❑ Fresh Produce Standards ready for adoption
- ❑ Draft DOM-GAP Standard and checklist
- ❑ GlobalG.A.P. Farm Assurer Workshop in January 2021. 12 Persons received Farm Assurers Certificates.
- ❑ National Technical Working Group (NTWG)-CARDI, Dominica State College, Division of Agriculture, DEXIA, Ministry of Trade & Commerce, IICA, Environmental Health Department, An Exporter, Farmers, Dominica Bureau of Standards.



FARM CERTIFICATION

Levels of Certification

DOM-GAP Level III:

DOM-GAP Level II:

DOM-GAP Level I:



FARM CERTIFICATION

Levels of certification

DOM-GAP – Level III Requirements:

Training certificates

Records

Mixing bay/Chemical disposal pit

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



FARM CERTIFICATION

Levels of certification

DOM-GAP – Level II Requirements:

Training certificates

Records

Mixing bay/Chemical disposal pit

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Farm Infrastructure



FARM CERTIFICATION

Levels of certification

DOM-GAP – Level I Requirements:

Training certificates

Records

Mixing bay/Chemical disposal pit

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Farm Infrastructure

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)



CERTIFICATION OF FARMS/AUDITING:

- ❖ Ten (10) farms have been Audited and have received Level 3, 2 and 1 certification.
- ❖ Auditees:
 - Joseph Roberts (Warner)
 - Joseph Bethelmie (Calibishie)
 - Ferdinand Jacque (Woodfordhill)
 - Ross George (Colihaut Heights)
 - Herry Wilson (Calibishie)
 - Connie Telemacque (Wesley)
 - Bryan Alexander (Belles)
 - Joseph Canoville (Belles)
 - Chaucer Baron (Laplaine)
 - Lyn Edwards (Wesley)



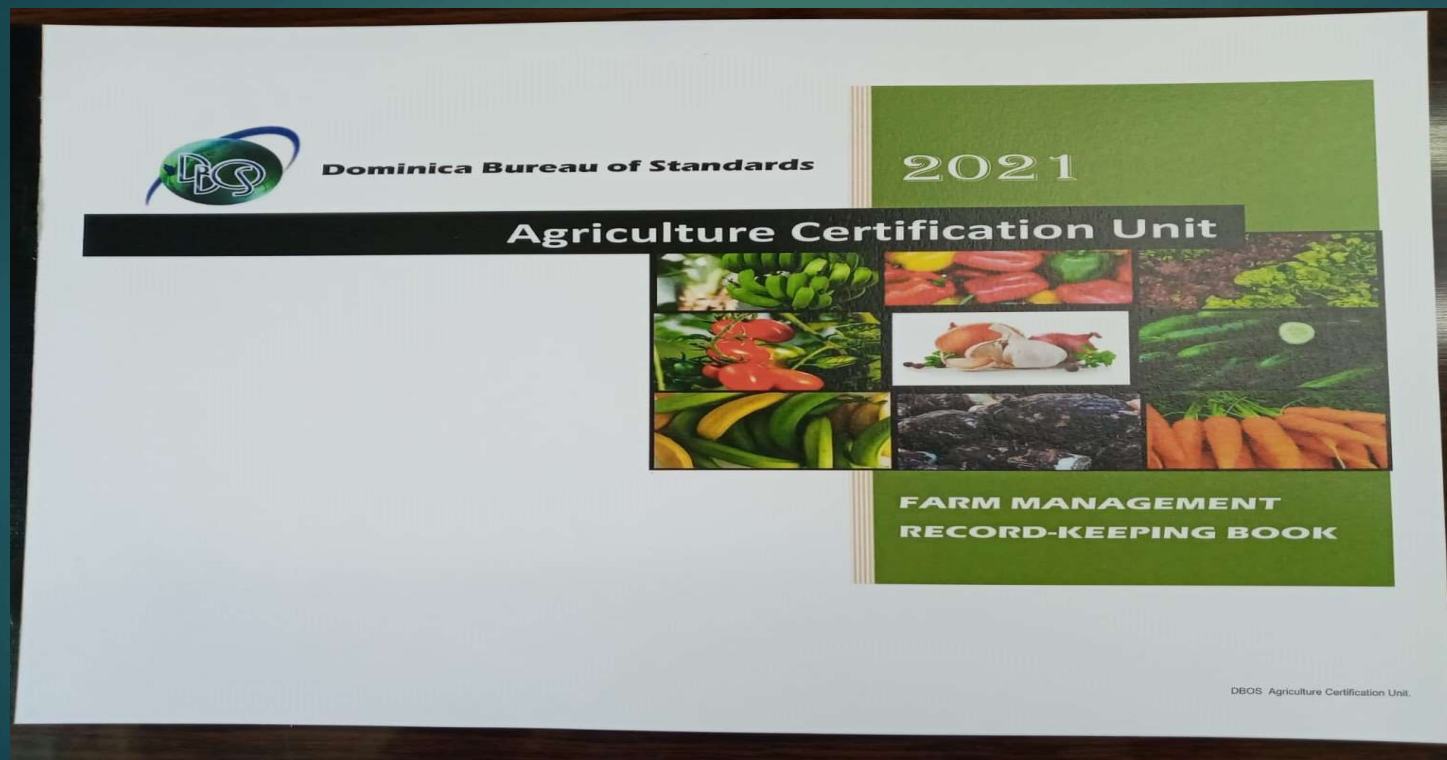
Certified Farm Dasheen Belles



Certified Farm Banana Warner



Farm Management Record Keeping



Record Keeping

❖ Farmer must keep accurate updated records of the following farm activities:

- Pesticide application & stock records
- Fertilizer application & stock records
- Farm visitors log
- Farm waste disposal
- Worker profile
- Cleaning schedule
- Rodent control inspection/action taken
- Equipment maintenance
- Invoices of crop protection product



Documentation Required for DOM-GAP

- ▶ MRL Procedure
- ▶ Conservation plan
- ▶ Record of Disposal
- ▶ Pollution & waste Management Plan
- ▶ Hygiene and safety risk assessment
- ▶ List of Permitted Chemicals for Dominica

Documentation Required for DOM-GAP

- ▶ Hygiene risk assessment
- ▶ Farm Inspection Procedure for quality Assurance
- ▶ Invoices of crop protection products
- ▶ Farm Map
- ▶ Floor plan

Documentation Required for DOM-GAP

- ▶ Accident & Emergency Procedure
- ▶ Complaints document
- ▶ Hygiene procedure
- ▶ Worker record
- ▶ Visitors log
- ▶ Hygiene instruction
- ▶ Risk analysis/assessment (irrigation)

Documentation Required for DOM-GAP

- ▶ Hazard and warning signs
- ▶ First aid & Hygiene training certificate
- ▶ Calibration training certificate
- ▶ Pesticide Training certificates
- ▶ Equipment maintenance records
- ▶ Rodent inspection records/baiting
- ▶ Cleaning schedule records



Training Required for Farmers Calibration



Training Required for Farmers First Aid



Training Required for Farmers Food Safety Hygiene



Facility Pack shed



Facility Eating Area



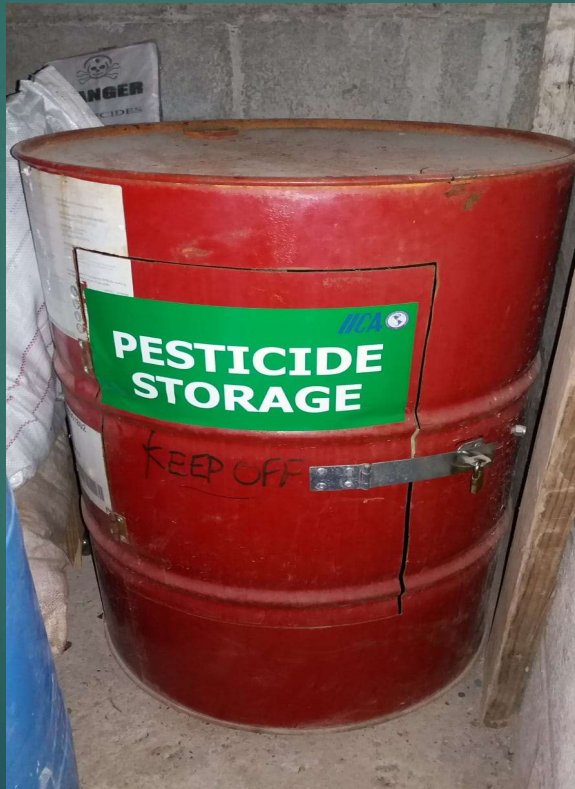
Sanitary Facility Washroom



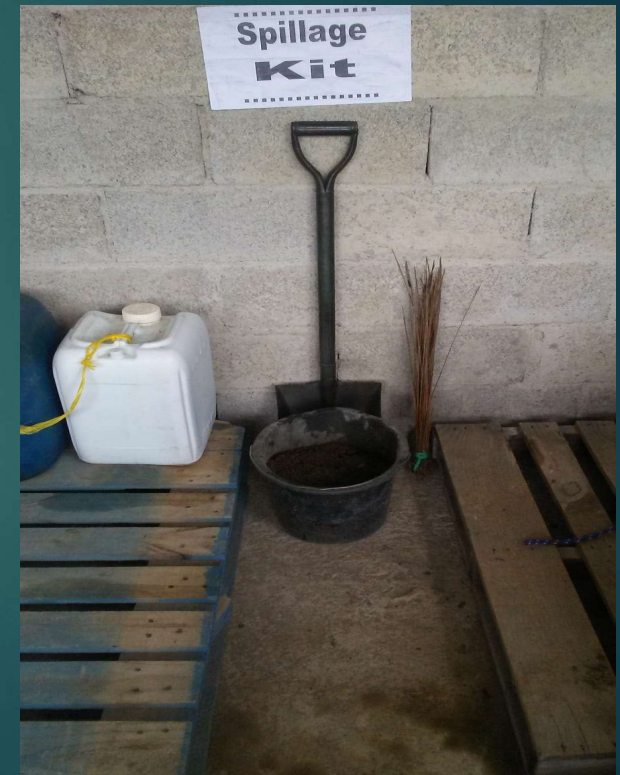
Farm Signages



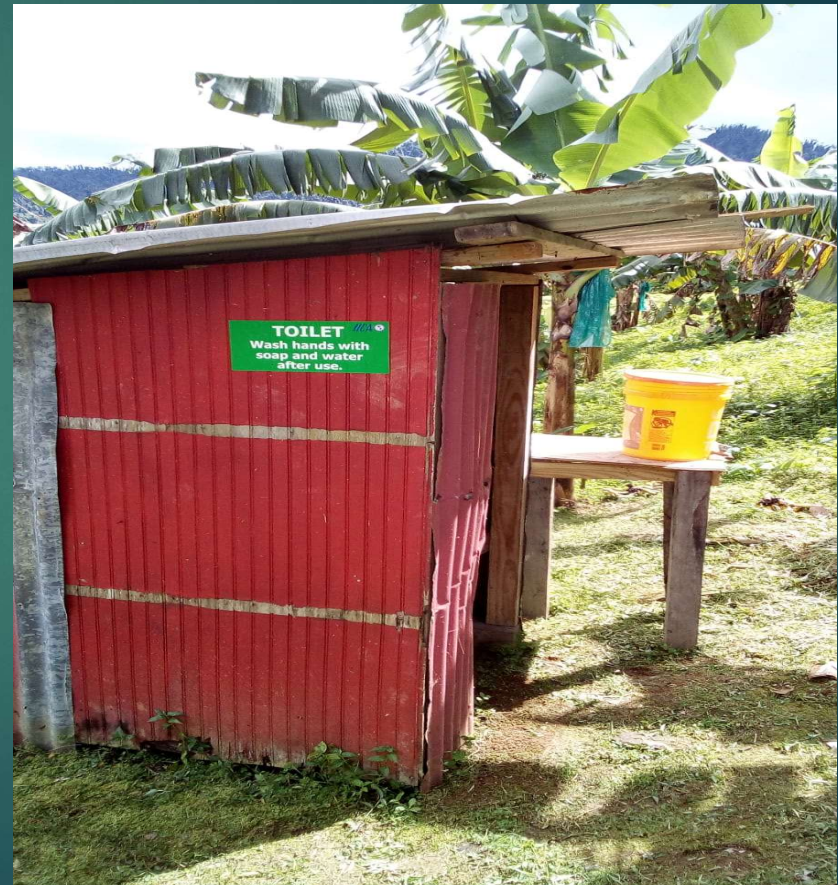
Handwash, Pesticide Storage, Farm Waste Disposal.



Scale, First aid kit and Eyewash, Bait Station & Spillage Kit



Pesticide Mixing bay and Disposable Pit & Washroom.



Personal Protective Equipments (PPE's)



Way Forward



- ❑ Better collaboration with other Agriculture agencies to promote and endorse DOM-GAP certification.
- ❑ Collaboration with farmers to make necessary infrastructural changes to meet GlobalG.A.P. Requirements
- ❑ Increase the number of trained GlobalG.A.P. personnel
- ❑ Increase visibility of the programme
- ❑ Increase demand for certification by partnering with key stakeholders to provide incentives to farmers e.g Financial institution, Fresh Produce retailers, suppliers of inputs and Government Agencies)

Thank You



Dominica Bureau of Standards
National Centre of Testing Excellence
Stockfarm
Roseau
Dominica
Tele: 275-5921/235-1592