

## Good Agricultural Practices ensure greater market access

**W**ith international trade in food booming, consumers are increasingly concerned about food safety, how food is produced, and how it is handled within the supply chain. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) can be a panacea for producers seeking to address those consumer concerns in domestic and foreign markets. GAP establishes a framework for safe, high-quality food produced in environmentally responsible and socially acceptable ways. However, definitions of GAP vary in many developing countries. The GLOBALGAP standard is an international benchmark harmonizing concepts, definitions, and guidelines. It integrates rules on agricultural production into

a single farm audit. It also serves as a global reference system for other standards and can be easily applied by all parties in the primary food sector.

To promote the GLOBALGAP standard and educate producers in its requirements,

the certification process, and benchmarking tools, the APO and Malaysia Productivity Corporation organized a training of trainers course on GLOBALGAP for Fruit and Vegetables in Malaysia, 14–23 July 2008. Nineteen participants comprising trainers, consultants, researchers, and senior managers of public and private organizations involved in GAP attended. They enjoyed 10 days of interactive lectures, group exercises, and assignments, explored examples of GAP/ GLOBALGAP implementation in Asia and Europe, and saw GAP at work on field visits. They were trained in how to develop and implement a GAP scheme and how to teach the GLOBALGAP standard, its requirements, certification process, and benchmarking tools.

The APO deputed two Dutch experts from Q point BV, a world-renowned private company committed to promoting GAP, to conduct the training along with local speakers and an APO program officer. Pre- and postcourse exams were given. Assistant farm manager Bunpop Jantaro, Kampangsean Commercial Co., Ltd., wrote, “The precourse exam gave me insights into what I was going to learn over the next 10 days. The final exam mixed test questions and case studies that helped me review the theory and the practical experience acquired in the classroom and on site visits. It was a challenging but rewarding experience.”



*Discussing GLOBALGAP implementation*