



Global Farm Standards:

All participating co-operatives, farmers, and businesses must adhere to the following standards, where applicable:

- **Global Farm Program Foundational Principles and Practices:** The following Seven Global Farm Foundational Principles are demonstrated through our commitment to the program practices as indicated below. These practices and principles represent long-term program goals for all of our participating farmers and cooperatives.
 - **Biodiversity:** The Global Farm program aims to increase the number of species present in any given farming area through crop diversity and the use of such techniques as cover cropping, green manures, live fencing/windbreaks and agroforestry. Farmers and cooperatives should always strive to protect wildlife habitat.
 - **Diversification & Integration of Enterprises:** The Global Farm program promotes the spread of risk over several integrated enterprises, both for the health of the land and for the farmer's long-term economic stability.
 - **Sustainability:** The Global Farm program is designed to facilitate creation of systems and resources that will enable our participating farmers to meet not only their present needs, but also the future needs of the human and environmental components of each unique farm system.
 - **Native Crops:** The program stresses growing crops that are native to the farms' region. Growing native crops requires fewer inputs than non-native crops (including reduced need for irrigation and soil amendments), as native crops are better adapted to their native environments than non-native crops (e.g. growing cotton in India versus the United States).
 - **Natural Plant Nutrition:** The program promotes proper care of the rhizosphere via proper nourishment of organisms responsible for soil digestive processes. This is achieved through use of green manures, mulching, cover cropping, and techniques such as intercropping and crop rotation to fertilize and increase soil quality.

- **Business Practices:**
 - Participating businesses (manufacturers and distributors) must adhere to the following guidelines in order to sell products that display the Global Farm Label:
 - Fair purchasing price based on global market values for farm/cooperative products at the time of sale.
 - Proper labeling of for-market products with Global Farm logo according to literature and specifications provided by GoSustainable.
 - Export and import tariffs are paid for each purchase, where applicable.
 - All purchases and sales of products participating in the Global Farm Program must be reported to GoSustainable on a quarterly basis.
 - Participating businesses must register directly with GoSustainable in order to participate in the Global Farm Program. Businesses that do not maintain an active registration with GoSustainable are not allowed continued use of the Global Farm logo.
 - GoSustainable will assess an annual fee on each business participant. Furthermore, a portion of product sales (the exact percentage will be an agreement between GoSustainable and individual business at the time of registration) can be donated back to GoSustainable in lieu of the annual fee, to ensure the sustainability of the program without heavy reliance on outside sources of funding.
 - Businesses who choose to donate a percentage of profits back to GoSustainable may choose to indicate the percentage of their donation on product packaging.
 - If so desired, countries from which products are purchased can be listed on the packaging to illustrate the global nature of the product.

- **Business Certification:**
 - In order to participate in the Global Farm labeling program, businesses must adhere to the following standards:
 - Use at least one Global Farm certified ingredients.
 - Purchase Global Farm ingredients at a fair price.
 - Ensure food/product safety and quality control.
 - Do not use GMO ingredients and avoid artificial colorings and flavorings in goods bearing the Global Farm logo.

- **Third-Party Service Providers:**

- Farms and businesses must adhere to the following Third-Party service provider guidelines in order to participate in the Global Farm program:
 - No middlemen (i.e. brokers, traders, etc.) are permitted participation in the process of purchasing and/or exporting of products. This restriction is imposed to prevent price gauging, and to limit unnecessary and avoidable costs in the transportation of products from farm/cooperative to end-user.
 - All transport, distribution and storage agents should be paid market prices for their services, but must not be involved in the purchasing of goods. The Global Farm program must approve these agents.

- **Education:**
 - In partnership with other organizations, local governments, and volunteers, participating farmers will be trained in the following areas (if applicable):
 - Sustainable farming techniques
 - Improved soil quality (crop rotation, composting, mulching, aeration, etc.)
 - Increased yields (spacing, timely planting, thinning, weeding, and harvest)
 - Water conservation
 - Soil erosion prevention and reduction (e.g. use of buffers: strips of sod or other permanent vegetation surrounding crop fields that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality)
 - Companion planting/green manure and legumes/cover crops
 - Integrated pest management
 - Post-harvest technologies:
 - Drying/dryers
 - Storage facilities/techniques
 - Ergonomic farming practices:
 - Avoidance of Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD) risk factors while working:
 - Repetition
 - Forceful Exertions
 - Awkward Postures
 - Contact Stress
 - Long Duration Vibrations
 - Community development and gender roles:
 - Focus on inclusion of women and youths in decision-making processes
 - Focus on raising the perceived status of women and youths in the community hierarchy
 - Literacy

- Small enterprise development:
 - Money management techniques
 - Business management techniques and best practices

For more information on these standards, and the Global Farm Certification Program, please visit the GoSustainable website at: <http://www.gosustainable.org>