

**Gaining excellence
through increased awareness
and everyday improvement:**

**Guideline for self assessment
of European farming businesses**



**On the basis of the
European
Integrated Farming
Framework**

February 2011

Contents

Part A: Introductory Remarks

Part B: Self Assessment

I. Administration

Organisation, Management and Planning

Human and Social Capital

II. Environmental Protection

Water Use and Protection

Climate Change and Air Quality

III. Production

a) Arable Farming

Soil Management

Crop Nutrition

Crop Protection

b) Livestock Sector

Animal Husbandry and Animal Health

IV. Resource Management

Energy Use and Efficiency

Landscape, Wildlife and Biodiversity

Resource Management, Product Storage and Waste Disposal

Part C: Closing Remarks

Part A: Introductory Remarks

The European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (EISA) is pleased to present **an abbreviated version** of their **European Integrated Farming Framework** as a guideline for individual on-farm assessment. This guideline covers all relevant aspects of the complete EISA Integrated Farming (IF) Framework but has been considerably shortened to simplify use in everyday farm life. More detailed information is accessible in the long version via www.sustainable-agriculture.org.

This document points out relevant guidelines, practices and suggestions for agricultural production, covering four main parts “**Administration**”, “**Environmental Protection**”, “**Production**” and “**Resource Management**”. The guideline should be understood and used by the individual farmer (farm owner, farm manager) as a comprehensive management tool which may help to further raise awareness and to continually improve everyday practice in order to meet future environmental, economic and social challenges. Management Plans mentioned throughout this document must not be understood as lengthy written statements but rather as brief concepts outlining targets and strategies.

The **European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (EISA)** was founded with the common aim of developing and promoting Integrated Farming throughout Europe. IF is a sustainable system which helps farmers improve the way they farm for the benefit of the environment, the profitability of their business and social responsibility, all important aspects of sustainable development. EISA members help create a better public understanding of agriculture through a network of demonstration farms. This brings farmers and consumers together to raise awareness of how farmers are working in harmony with nature to produce good, safe food and renewable resources with environmental and social care. EISA works closely with Institutions and other stakeholders to contribute to the development of agricultural / environmental policies in the European Union.

Part B: Self Assessment

I. Administration:

*This chapter covers “**Organisation, Management and Planning**” as well as “**Human and Social Capital**”, setting the framework and ensuring attention to detail. Important details of farming practices should be recorded and records kept. Planning and evaluation of practices is essential to ensure environmentally responsible production and continuous improvement.*

Standards of employment practice, health and safety at work, and occupational training need to embrace EU standards as minimum standard. Besides, open and active involvement of the farmer in local community life can help generate transparency and trust.

Organisation, Management / Planning	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Auditing	A whole farm audit should be used on a regular basis to gain information on results of all farming and management practices.	NR		✓		
Certification and Assurance	Consider on the basis of the whole farm audit.	NR			✓	
Business Management Mission Statement / Whole Farm Management Plan	Define on the basis of the whole farm audit where available.	NR		✓		
Diversification	Consider / evaluate options for a diversification of the enterprise.	NR		✓		

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Operating Resources Plan	Store / use only according to demand / site / situation.	NR		✓		
Whole Farm Technology Concept	Consider cooperation between neighbouring farms.	NR			✓	
Whole Farm Communication Concept	Consider regular invitations / information of colleagues, local politicians, environmentalists, customers / general public.	NR			✓	
Farm Environmental Policy	Define objectives / measures for continuous improvement of features / activities. Inform / involve all staff.	NR		✓		
Awareness of Technology Developments	Obtain technical / technological information updates on a regular basis.	NR		✓		
Rental and Purchase of Land	Consult historic information and records where available.	NR			✓	
Fire Prevention / Emergency Plan	Have rules / measures for fire / accident / emergency prevention in place.	R	✓			
Communication / Participation with Local Community	Arrange open days, farm walks or participate with local community initiatives.	NR			✓	
Policy Statement of Responsibility to End Customer / Consumer / Food Industry Contacts for Transparency	Establish your business as demonstration farm, communication with customers / within the food chain should be established and maintained.	NR		✓		
Evaluation / Revision of Business Management Mission Statement / Whole Farm Management Plan	Benchmark results against targets set.	NR		✓		

Human and Social Capital	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Employee Training Plan	Have a training plan in place / reviewed annually, identifying / actioning needs. Make refresher courses available. Use training schemes with nationally recognised standards (if available).	NR	✓			
Staff Meetings	On a regular basis (training, awareness, information exchange, sensible zones etc.)	NR	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Staff Awareness of Hygiene Importance	Staff must notify of any transferable disease which may make them unfit to work around produce for human consumption.	R	✓			
Working Hours	Avoid extended working hours when possible.	NR		✓		
Information on Site-specific Management Practices	Encourage staff to invest in knowledge of land to improve management.	NR		✓		
Labour Conditions	Provide employment practice in line with regulations for both permanent and temporary workers (ILO Convention etc.).	R/NR	✓			
Housing	Tied housing must meet accepted standards of quality and suitability.	R	✓			
Wages and Social Security	Set according to relevant employment laws.	R	✓			
Pension	Pension provision must be provided according to relevant employment laws.	R	✓			
Holiday	Paid entitlement with recognition of public holidays.	R	✓			
Sick Leave	Sick leave must be paid.	R	✓			
Risk Assessment to Form an Action Plan Promoting Health / Safety	Promote health / safety and take every measure to ensure staff are properly safe within their surroundings. Document risk assessment.	R	✓			
First Aid	Keep records of training qualifications. A member of staff trained in first aid must be available on site.	NR	✓			
Accident / Emergency Systems	Must be in place in line with health and safety risk assessment and first aid boxes located at each site.	R	✓			
Health / Safety	Farm managers / family hands / all members of staff should follow a work health / safety training course at least once. List of workers allergies and blood groups should be available.	NR		✓		
Annual Health Checks for Staff	Regular checks to form part of the worker health, safety and welfare management.	NR	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Marketing Possibilities with a Focus on Local Marketing if Possible	Work on creating added value by understanding customer and supplier needs. Customers or suppliers can be local or distal.	NR		✓		
Communication on Farm Environmental Policy	Environmental efforts, strategies and successes should be communicated	NR		✓		

II. Environmental Protection:

This chapter covers “Water Use and Protection” and “Climate Change and Air Quality.” Protecting natural ground and surface water bodies, and using water wisely, is key for maintaining and enhancing the environment, wildlife and biodiversity.

With regard to air quality, farmers’ decisions may help to keep carbon stocks in soils by allocating land to annual or perennial crops, to grassland, woods or buffer zones. Some practices on reduced tillage or cover crops or incorporation of crop residues to soil may even increase the C sequestration to a certain extent and also help to improve air quality.

Water Use and Protection	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Water Management Plan	Plan efficient water use / effective water protection.	NR		✓		
Water Protection	Water / water bodies must be protected to the greatest possible extent at all times.	R	✓			
Efficiency of Water Use	Save / use water as efficiently as possible.	NR		✓		
Water Use Compliance	If water uptake is subject to authorisation, obtain such authorisation.	R	✓			
	If water uptake is based on a system of declaration, retain receipts for all declarations.	R	✓			
Water Output Control	Have volume counters on water pumping systems, record volumes in compliance with regulations where applicable / at least monthly.	R	✓			
Water Use Records	Record water used for each crop / for livestock.	NR		✓		
Monitoring of Ditches / Water Courses	Monitor visually to identify / avoid significant run-off of organic fertilisers, which can affect aquatic insects / fish.	NR		✓		
Maps of Drains in Fields and Yards, in Particular New Land Drainage and Outlets	Document location of drainage schemes on field plans for maintenance. Have maps of yard schemes available for pollution incidents.	NR		✓		

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Water Usage for Irrigation	For efficiency, trigger irrigation by appropriate forecasting / technical equipment.	NR		✓		
Water Efficient Equipment	Take water use efficiency / leakage prevention as decisive features when buying irrigation plants, sprayers, drinking troughs / nipples.	NR		✓		
Water Efficient Lines / Varieties	Consider water efficiency when planning crop rotation and choice of varieties.	NR			✓	
Separate Collection of Rain Water	Collect rain water separately where appropriate.	NR		✓		
Run-off Control	Run-off must be avoided to the greatest possible extent.	R	✓			
Cleaning of Sprayers for Crop Protection Products	Clean equipment properly, avoid leaking of cleaning water into water bodies / public waste water systems.	R	✓			
Storage of Diesel Fuel Close to / for Irrigation Pumps in Fields	Fuel tanks of diesel powered in-field irrigation pumps must comply with national regulations.	R	✓			
Evaluation of Practices / Equipment and Subsequent Reviewing of Water Management Plan	Evaluate current practices / farming equipment to check for possible inefficient water use, review the Water Management Plan on a regular basis.	NR		✓		

Climate Change and Air Quality	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Management Concept to Avoid Emissions	Identify / point out on-farm reduction potentials / strategies for air pollutants / sources of emissions.	NR		✓		
CO₂ Emissions from Machinery and Fuel Use	Try to reduce CO ₂ emissions on farm.	NR		✓		
NH₃ Losses in the Stable	Try to reduce NH ₃ losses in stables / storage of (liquid) manure.	NR		✓		
NH₃ and N₂O Losses on Fields	Appropriate application rate / timing / technology, incorporation of (liquid) manure.	R/NR	✓			
CH₄ Emissions from Ruminants	Be aware / try to reduce CH ₄ emissions from livestock.	NR		✓		
Aerosol Emissions from Stables	Reduce aerosols (particulate matters) where possible.	R/NR	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Aerosol Emissions from Field Work and Machinery	Reduce emission of fine soil particles / unburned carbon where possible.	NR		✓		
Heating of Farm Buildings	Use district heating / own renewable combustion material where possible.	NR		✓		
Increase Sink Function on Farm	Try to optimise dry matter production/ha to increase carbon sequestration.	NR		✓		
Off-farm Transportation	When selling produce / buying supplies, reduce transportation / related CO ₂ -emissions by acting locally where possible.	NR		✓		
Odour Emissions from Livestock Keeping	Try to reduce odours from stables particularly when housing areas are close by.	R/NR	✓			
Indirect Energy Needs and Related Emissions	Use external energy inputs / inputs with high energy demands / high related emissions (machinery, mineral fertilisers, etc.) efficiently.	NR		✓		
Dust Build-up due to Wind Erosion	Try to avoid wind erosion / dust build-up by appropriate tillage practices and timing.	NR		✓		
Evaluation of Practices / Equipment and Subsequent Revision of Management Plan	Evaluate current practices / equipment regularly for possible weak spots with regard to air pollution to avoid / reduce emissions.	NR		✓		

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III. Production:

a. Arable Farming:

This chapter covers “Soil Management”, “Crop Nutrition” and “Crop Protection”. Good soil husbandry ensures the long-term fertility of soil, aids yield and profitability and reduces the risk of soil damage such as erosion, compaction and associated environmental concerns.

Knowledge of the soil nutrient status is a decisive tool to ensuring that only the necessary and recommended amount is applied. The decision making process involves crop demands, the supply that is in the soil and available nutrients from farm manure and crop residues.

Any crop protection intervention must be accounted for. Apply biological methods whenever available, at the same time combining the selection of more tolerant cultivars with a balanced crop rotation as a fundamental element to reduce risk.

Soil Management	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Soil Mapping	a) Keep a map of the farm soils / the types of soil.	NR		✓		

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Soil Mapping (cont.)	b) Define / map areas of risk (erosion etc.).	R	✓			
Long Term Crop Rotation Plan	Plan crop rotation three years in advance.	NR		✓		
Soil Management Plan	Use for crop establishment decisions, include regular spade test and soil cover.	NR		✓		
Soil Management: Advice / Technical Recommendations	Ensure being kept up to date with the latest technical information and advice.	NR		✓		
Organic Matter	Plan the management of organic matter (crop residues / manure when available).	R	✓			
Monitoring Soil quality	Implement a programme of soil analysis.	R/NR	✓			
Assessment of Field Conditions	Asses prior to cultivation.	NR	✓			
Record of Soil Operations	Record by type of crop, by field or by group of fields.	NR		✓		
Soil Cover Index	Assure a minimum soil cover during winter.	NR		✓		
Choice of Appropriate Soil Operations	Helps improving soil structure / porosity / microbial activity.	NR		✓		
Measures to Prevent Soil Compaction	Avoid soil compaction due to heavy machinery to the greatest possible extent.	NR		✓		
Evaluation / Revision of Soil Management Plan	Base improvement of performance on analyses / update of last year's plan.	NR		✓		

Crop Nutrition		GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item	Guideline		must	should	consider	
Crop Nutrient Management Plan	Must cover each crop, N, P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O / other necessary nutrients, all sources / inputs and results of soil sampling.	R/NR	✓			
Organic Based Fertiliser Management Plan	Include livestock manure, effluents / other organic matter. Observe any limit specific to national legislation.	R	✓			
Training for Spreading	Ensure that operators / contractors are trained for correct spreading of nutrients.	NR		✓		
Advice / Technical Recommendations	Ensure regular technical information and advice.	NR		✓		

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Calculation of Nitrogen Needs	Calculate N needs in order to limit the risk of leaching.	R	✓			
	Consider precision farming methods for varying N requirements within fields.	NR			✓	
Nitrogen Use	Compare actual N supply and harvested yield with initial calculation of N needs.	R/NR	✓			
Phosphate / Potassium Balance in the Rotation	Assess P ₂ O ₅ / K ₂ O balances per crop rotation.	R/NR	✓			
Micro-nutrient Deficiencies	Identify possible deficiencies in sensitive crops.	NR		✓		
Soil pH	Check once during each three year rotation, lime according to identified needs.	NR		✓		
Records of Nutrient Applications	Record all mineral / organic applications per field.	R	✓			
Storage of Manures / Other Organic Based Fertilisers	Store manures / other organic based fertilisers appropriately and according to national regulations.	R	✓			
Storage of Mineral Fertilisers	Store appropriately to ensure safety and maintain product quality.	R	✓			
Records of Import / Export of Organic Material	Keep records of all organic materials imported or exported from the farm.	R	✓			
Maintenance / Calibration of Spreading Equipment	Maintain / calibrate spreaders for organic and mineral fertilisers.	NR		✓		
Application of Fertilisers	Spread in proper doses / not beyond field borders to protect adjacent habitats / water courses etc. With regard to restrictions, adhere to relevant regulations.	R	✓			
Use of Catch Crops	Consider using catch crops to keep Nitrogen in the soil where applicable.	NR			✓	
Spring Ploughing	Consider leaving stubbles of last crop on soil surface until next spring crop is planted if rainfall does not allow for sowing catch crops.	NR			✓	
Evaluation of Results / Revision of Crop Nutrient Management Plan for Next Year	Recommendations for improvement should be made based on the analysis of last years' Crop Nutrient Management Plan and results.	NR		✓		

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Crop Protection	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Crop Protection Management Plan (CPMP)	Sustainability of crop protection strategies / further reduction of potential risks are key prerequisites. Take the understanding of interactions / processes to aid crop protection. In order to communicate intentions to staff / the public, develop a CPMP.	NR		✓		
Strategy to Avoid Pest Resistance to Herbicides / Fungicides / Insecticides	Use strategies to avoid pest resistance to Plant Protection Products through all control activities.	R/NR	✓			
Skills in the Identification of Pests / Weeds / Diseases / Crop Disorders, Environmental Care / Responsibility	Persons in charge of crop protection decisions must have adequate training, covering environmental protection and responsibility.	NR/R as from 2015	✓			
Willingness to Improve System and Learn	Improve skills by continuous learning / efforts to optimise crop protection / minimise external effects (impacts on water / soil / biodiversity).	NR/R?	✓			
Training	Managers / operators must be continually trained in IPM including the proper choice and use of any crop protection measures.	NR/R by 2015 at the latest	✓			
Disposal of Un-sprayed Diluted Solutions and Surplus Chemicals	Dispose of crop washings / surplus crop protection products in compliance with the national codes of Good Agricultural Practice / TOPPS BMP recommendations.	R	✓			
Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)	Follow label instructions including pre-harvest intervals / codes of GAP.	R	✓			
Inspection of Spraying Equipment	Calibrate / test equipment regularly by a nationally recognised scheme / body and keep records. Follow TOPPS BMP recommendations.	R	✓			
Emergency Plan	Must be in place to deal with poisoning, spillage, miscalculations, improper handling / use etc. Follow TOPPS BMP recommendations.	R/NR	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Protection / Enhancement of Important Species, Beneficial Organisms and Agricultural Biodiversity	Try establish a crop mosaic on the farm avoiding large blocks of single species.	NR			✓	
	Manage plants / weeds that do not threaten yield as food for wildlife.	NR		✓		
	Use trap crops and predator host plants to increase natural control when appropriate.	NR		✓		
	Maintain / enhance diversity of the landscape (hedges, vegetative buffer strips etc.) to support / strengthen habitat function where possible.	NR		✓		
Other Prevention / Management Decisions for Integrated Pest Management (Weed / Pest / Disease Management), see also next page	Rotation: Try to avoid growing the same crop in same field in successive years to lessen disease carry-over.	NR		✓		
	Use healthy plants / seeds to avoid spreading of diseases, and where appropriate resistant / tolerant cultivars and standard / certified seed / planting material.	NR	✓			
	Use adequate cultivation techniques (e.g. sowing dates / densities, etc.).	NR	✓			
	Use of hygiene measures to avoid spreading of pests (e.g. cleaning of machinery / equipment and removal / burial of crop residues).	NR		✓		
Other Prevention / Management Decisions for Integrated Pest Management continued	Use balanced fertilisation / liming / irrigation / draining.	NR		✓		
	Herbicides should not be used in glasshouses after vegetative growth stage.	NR		✓		
Decision Making Progress	Monitor and record pest / disease / weed levels and thresholds for use in the decision making process and proper crop protection measures. Check and adopt developments of threshold values when appropriate.	NR/R	✓			
Environmental Impact of All Crop Protection Measures	Use decision support systems for all crop protection practices in order to minimise impact on water / soil / air / biodiversity.	NR		✓		

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Justification of Crop Protection Measures	Prior to any crop protection operation, implement and record a process of justifying the decision.	NR	✓			
Non-chemical Means as First Resort	Use non-chemical means / strategies for crop protection as a first resort whenever feasible, efficient and economically justifiable.	NR	✓			
Threshold Concept	Target economically proportional damaging parts of populations in crops.	R	✓			
Crop Protection Recommendations	Receiving relevant advice for the situation is important.	NR		✓		
Determination of Crop Protection Product / Rate / Timing	Choose the most appropriate and specific product for crop target, site and soil condition. Read and follow label instructions.	R/NR	✓			
Minimising Undesired Effects of any Method of Crop Protection	Minimise unwanted effects to non-target organisms. Follow user instructions on the labels of chemical products.	R/NR	✓			
Storage of Crop Protection Products	Store / handle all products securely / separately according to regulations / label instructions including wearing protective clothing. Follow TOPPS BMP recommendations.	R	✓			
Environmental Protection During Mixing / Filling of Crop Protection Products	Avoid spillage and contamination during mixing and filling. Follow TOPPS BMP recommendations.	R	✓			
Advice on the Appropriate Mixing Area for Crop Protection Products	Areas for filling and mixing ideally should be contained. Follow TOOPS BMP recommendations.	NR		✓		
Observing Pre-harvest Intervals	Must be observed when using crop protection products.	R	✓			
Use Crop Protection Products Only in Required Area	Ensure product use is restricted to the area in which it is required.	R	✓			
Applications to Field Boundaries and Margins	Avoid effects to vegetated field boundaries / margins / hedges / watercourses, etc.	R	✓			
Post Harvest Treatments	Use only when necessary, record all measures, follow label instructions when chemical products are used.	R	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Disposal of Left-over Spray Mix	Avoid damage to the environment / human health, follow TOPPS BMP recommendations.	R	✓			
Assessing Results of Measures Taken / Revision of Crop Protection Management Plan (CPMP)	Evaluate current practices / results to progress skills / knowledge of Integrated Pest Management, review / update CPMP for next year if necessary.	NR		✓		

b. Livestock Sector:

Animal Husbandry and Animal Health: Employ techniques directed towards meeting the needs of the livestock / maintaining the animals in good health, comfort and low stress, allowing for natural behaviour to the greatest possible extent. Balanced, healthy feedstuff is essential. Comply with disease prevention plans / statutory health controls, document all treatments. Comply with national identification systems to ensure traceability of origin, age, race and category of livestock, animal feed / fodder, whether produced on site or purchased elsewhere.

Animal Husbandry / Animal Health	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
General	Ensure well-being of animals by respecting their physiological characteristics, satisfying their food needs, providing ventilated housing and maintaining them in a satisfactory physical state.	R/NR	✓			
Livestock Identification System / Movement Records	The identification system in force for each animal species must be complied with.	R	✓			
Grouping	Groups in stable compartments must be composed of homogenous animals.	NR	✓			
Field Access	Provide farm tracks with sufficient space / decent surface.	NR			✓	
Transport	Must be carried out to ensure appropriate handling / loading / transport conditions. Keep feeding intervals.	R/NR	✓			
Evaluation and Improvement	Assess the performance of livestock and conditions of housing, feed etc. regularly.	NR		✓		
Protection against Adverse Weather Conditions	Premises must provide adequate protection.	R/NR	✓			
Space	Provide room to exhibit normal behaviour.	R	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Ventilation	Provide sufficient ventilation to maintain minimum / maximum temperatures in the animal's comfort zone and adequate air quality regarding NH ₃ / other gasses / infectious agents.	R	✓			
Occupation and Comfort	Appropriate occupational material should be provided.	NR		✓		
Stock Handling Equipment	Have special equipment available for handling animals on the farm, during loading / unloading and for veterinary diagnostic / treatment procedures in full respect of user safety and animal welfare conditions.	NR		✓		
Feed Purchase Records / Feed Quality Assurance	Retain all purchase records / delivery notes for compound feed / feed materials, including feed additives / pre-mixtures. Purchase only from registered / approved suppliers which provide, if relevant, detailed information on the ingredients contained in feed and who specify the manufacturing batch number on all invoices, delivery notes, labels, and supports.	NR		✓		
Feeding	Supply feed / water in adequate quantities / high quality to meet animal requirements according to age, sex, physiological status, performance at all times.	NR	✓			
Grazing Systems	Operate a clean grazing system where appropriate.	NR		✓		
Nitrogen Excretion	Try to minimize by optimizing the dietary protein levels to the needs of the animals according to sex, physiological status and performance.	NR		✓		
Animal Health	Prepare / use a Herd Health Plan (HHP) in consultation with the vet.	R	✓			
Disease Prevention	Where appropriate / following advice from the vet, take part in additional, non-statutory prevention programmes.	NR	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Bio Security	Where appropriate, ensure that bio security measures are in place including disinfection of high risk vehicles / people entering the farm.	R	✓			
Separation	Have premises for suspected animals / to minimise contacts whilst awaiting results of tests pertaining to statutory-controlled diseases / for recovering animals.	NR		✓		
Preventive Treatment	Ensure that your animals are subject to preventive treatment under a national / local plan. Record details of treatments / schedule subsequent treatments in advance. Minimise antibiotic use in prevention.	R	✓			
Veterinary Medicines	Prescription only medicines may be administered within a controlled programme and must be adapted to each type of animal. The medicine must be approved by national authority. Keep records of all medicines (treatment date, reason, means of administration, product used, dosage, waiting period, livestock identification).	R	✓			
Information / Training	Get information / training on the application of prescribed medicines by your vet, pharmacist, or other experts according to national law.	R	✓			
Poaching	Protect water courses / riverbanks. Adjust stocking rates / animal movements, position supplementary feeders to avoid damage to soil structure, risk of erosion / polluting run-off.	R	✓			
Nesting Birds and Forage Cutting	Try to protect nesting birds / wildlife from forage cutting (cutting from the middle out, cutting timing / technical devices).	NR		✓		
Stocking Rates	Must be in compliance with land availability for nutrient recycling / nutrient exports.	R	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Holding Capacity for Manure and Slurry	Have at least 6 months storage available unless the Livestock Manure Management Plan has identified that less is needed. Contain run-off from manure on hard-standings or yards where pollution of water is at risk.	R	✓			
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Manage grazing to allow the protection of wildlife / water quality. Identify these areas in the Whole Farm Conservation Plan. Protect all habitats identified as environmentally valuable / sensitive.	R	✓			
Nutrient Application / Crop Demands	Storage capacity for organic manures must balance crop requirement / contract exports from the farm. Storage capacity must be sufficient to meet the non application period.	R/NR	✓			
Application Timing	Do not apply manures when soil is at field capacity/frozen.	R	✓			
Incorporation of Slurry	Only apply slurry to growing crops or to bare soil if incorporated immediately.	R	✓			
Phosphorus Index	Try to maintain a Phosphorus equilibrium.	NR		✓		
Clean Water Run-off	Try to separate clean water run-off from manure drainage.	NR			✓	
Parlour Washing, Dirty Water / Effluents from Silos	Collect / contain these liquids in adequate structures,. Utilise in accordance with Livestock Manure Management Plan.	NR		✓		

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IV. Resource Management:

This chapter covers “Energy Use and Efficiency”, “Landscape, Wildlife and Biodiversity” as well as “Resource Management, Product Storage and Waste Disposal”. Awareness of sustainability / responsible management of natural resources are central to IF. Careful use of inputs, conservation tillage, reducing fossil fuel needs where possible and striving for optimum instead of maximum yields help to increase the input-output-ratio and hence energy efficiency. Protecting / enhancing wildlife and biodiversity is of great importance. Management practices should consider biodiversity effects such as the threat to larches during mechanical weeding. The structural diversity of land / landscape features helps creating floral / faunal diversity. See wastes as a valuable resource in terms of saving money and reducing pollution. They should be stored and managed to optimise recycling and re-use, thereby minimising effects on the environment. Store / dispose of hazardous substances properly and according to legislation.

Energy Use and Efficiency	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Whole Farm Management Plan for Energy Use	Cover fuel / heating/ lighting, identify strategies to reduce non-renewable energy input.	NR		✓		
Energy Use for Cropping	Record direct energy use for cropping / drying / storage of produce (l of diesel / ha).	NR		✓		
Energy Use in Animal Husbandry	Records on direct energy use in animal husbandry.	NR	✓			
	Consider recycling of heat (e.g. from milk cooling to warming water for cleaning).	NR			✓	
Two Crop Systems	In energy crops, consider early harvest / ensiling of first crop / planting of a second crop in early summer.	NR			✓	
Use of Products with High Energy Input behind	Recycle / re-use packing material to conserve / re-use energy where possible.	NR	✓			
Use of Renewable Fuels	Use renewable fuels such as RME (bio-diesel), ethanol and other products and offer renewable energy to local communities when possible.	NR		✓		
Energy Production from Biomass and Liquid Manure	Check possibilities to grow and use energy crops / biomass / liquid manure for on-farm energy production.	NR			✓	
Regular Check of Present State / Performance and Revision of Future Planning	Own overall energy use to be checked and benchmarked against previous years' and the results of comparable businesses.	NR		✓		

Landscape, Wildlife and Biodiversity	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Whole Farm Conservation Plan	Have a plan with long-term objectives to protect / enhance wildlife / landscape on the farm. Include specific actions / targets with regard to endangered species, nesting boxes, additional feedstuff / feeding areas for wildlife, conservation of historic sites / wildlife monitoring.	NR		✓		
Preservation of Historical Features on the Farm (see also next page)	May contribute to biodiversity as historical features sometimes give home to rare or threatened species.					

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Preservation of Historical Features on the Farm (cont.)	Do not harm historical features, mark known sites of historical features in farm maps where available.	R	✓			
Minimum 5 % of Farm Area not Used for Cropping	A minimum of 5 % of the farm area must not be used for cropping.	NR	✓			
Implementation of Whole Farm Conservation Plan	Involve staff in the planning / implementation of habitat management / creation and also any contractor hired on a regular basis. Ensure that all staff / contractors are aware of landscape / wildlife / biodiversity values of the farm. Inform direct neighbours on your Conservation Plan / areas next to their farm, and landscape / biodiversity preservation aspects to avoid damage.	NR		✓		
Field Margins	Retain undisturbed (i.e. uncropped / uncultivated) margins adjacent to fields >10 ha.	NR		✓		
Field Margin Management within the Whole Farm conservation Plan	Do not apply fertilisers (organic / inorganic) / crop protection products (apart from spot control of noxious weeds). Cut margins in late summer every 2-3 years and remove / graze cuttings.	NR		✓		
Cultivation under Canopy of Trees	Do not plough under the canopy of in-field trees.	NR		✓		
Native Species	Sow native species in field margins / similar areas or allow natural regeneration.	NR		✓		
Field Boundaries	Do not destroy / remove traditional boundaries (hedges, stone walls etc.) on the farm.	R	✓			
Leaving Winter Stubbles before Spring Cropping	Consider winter stubbles as part of the rotation where appropriate.	NR			✓	
Machinery Movements on Field Boundaries / Margins	Minimise machinery movement on field boundaries. ^s	R	✓			
Field Operations and Nesting Birds	Adjust operations / contract services to avoid disturbing nesting birds where possible.	NR		✓		
Timing / Frequency of Hedge Cutting	Do not trim hedgerows between 1 March and 31 July.	R	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Timing / Frequency of Ditch Clearance	Do not clear ditches in specified periods depending on location, only clear one side of the ditch in any one year.	NR		✓		
Trees	Do not fell trees unless for safety reasons or with felling license.	R	✓			
Conservation Headlands	Of the cropped area, consider selective spraying of 50 % of the outer 6 metres of cereal crops to allow small populations of broad-leaved plants / their associated insects to develop.	NR			✓	
Small Areas of Wildlife Seed Mixes	Where spring cropping is inappropriate, consider small areas with wildlife seed mixes on uncropped areas or in field margins.	NR			✓	
Beetle Banks and Comparable Strips / Structures	Consider splitting fields > 20 ha with a beetle bank / comparable strip / structure, 2 strips in fields > 30 ha, 3 in fields > 40 ha and 4 in fields > 50 ha.	NR			✓	
Monitoring Wildlife	Provides valuable information for assessing current conservation practices.	NR		✓		
Annual Review / Development of Whole Farm Conservation Plan	Assess status of landscape / biodiversity, conservation practices / achievements, revise the Whole Farm Conservation Plan if needed.	NR		✓		

Resource Management, Product Storage / Waste Disposal	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
Item			must	should	consider	
Concept for Waste Handling / Minimisation	Slurries / manures etc. can be re-cycled / are valuable resources. Others need to be disposed off-farm. Minimise quantities produced, store / recycle adequately.	NR	✓			
Resource Management Plan, Integrated with Crop Nutrient Management Plan	Prepare / implement in accordance with National Water Codes, include any slurry / manure / industrial waste used on the farm and where waste should not be spread.	R/NR	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Professional Advice	Helps to identify waste / pollution control issues on the farm, and appropriate ways to address these.	NR		✓		
Fuel Storage and Rest Oil	Store without risk of damage / disturbance of surrounding environment and according to national rules.	R	✓			
Recycling of Waste Oil and Filters	Return waste oil / used oil filters for recycling.	R	✓			
Maintenance of Equipment / Machinery to Avoid Spillage / Leakage of Fuel and Oil	To ensure least impact on the environment, carry out proper / regular maintenance and keep records.	NR		✓		
Action Plan to Reduce the Potential of Pollution on the Farm	Consider a plan based on the inventory of all possible pollutants, put into action improvements that can be made to the handling / storage of potential pollutants.	NR			✓	
Liquid Fertiliser Storage	Liquid fertiliser tanks with a capacity exceeding 100 m ³ must be equipped with an adequate retention tank.	R	✓			
Solid Mineral Fertiliser Storage	Stabilised, covered storage premises, separate from storage of products used for human / animal food and from explosive, inflammable or combustible materials.	R	✓			
Chemical / Veterinary Product Storage	Store securely on impervious surfaces and under lock and key. All label precautions must be observed including safety aspects.	R	✓			
Fresh Produce Storage	Store separately from fertilisers / crop protection products / fuels etc. in areas which ensure the best quality possible for the produce.	R/NR	✓			
Packaging Facilities	Strict hygiene measures in packing facilities to avoid contamination of produce.	NR		✓		
Effluent Quantities and Storage	Effluent storage premises must be designed according to average on-farm quantities to prevent risk of run-off into natural surroundings.	R	✓			

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Item	Guideline	GAP	Integrated Farming			Compliance on-farm: indicate y / n
			must	should	consider	
Disposal of Crop Washings	Treat washings as “dirty water”, ensure compliance with the National Codes of Good Agricultural Practice.	R	✓			
Storage / Disposal of Empty Containers	Dispose of in a manner as to avoid damage to the environment / human health. Where recycling schemes exist, return empty containers to these schemes.	R	✓			
Storage / Disposal of Unused / Expired Crop Protection Products	Keep unused / unusable crop protection products in their original packaging, separate from usable products in specific storage location. Dispose of safe to the environment / human health.	R	✓			
Storage / Disposal of Other Surplus Chemicals	Store / dispose of other unused / expired chemicals in a manner safe to the environment / human health.	R	✓			
Plastic Waste Disposal	Check recycling possibilities, dispose of as approved.	R	✓			
Waste Products	Sort and clean batteries / old machinery etc. if necessary, store in dedicated premises prior to collection / disposal according to regulations.	R	✓			
General Waste	Adhere to relevant national / local regulations.	R	✓			
Review of Current Practices / Adjustment of Relevant Management Plans / Concepts	Look for improvement in current approach / measures, adjust in case better strategies / procedures have been identified.	NR		✓		

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Part C: Closing Remarks

When assessing your business, there will always be some “small screws to turn”, often resulting in major effects for the profitability of your business as well as for the environment and / or your customers. In going through this document and evaluating your everyday practices by indicating “yes” or “no” in the last column, you might run into procedures which simply cannot be changed at present. On the other hand, you might as well encounter ideas, procedures or strategies which have not yet occurred to you. Once implemented, however, they might lead to considerable improvements.

EISA and their members have deliberately developed this guideline instead of an auditing scheme, not wanting to force further rules and regulations upon the farming businesses, but to assist practical agriculture to get “out of the line of fire” – simply by being able to prove that you are aware, and constantly strive for improvement. By explaining to your visitors or the local community how and why you are doing what you do, you can gain sympathy, trust and acceptance. Last but not least, the IF Guideline was developed as a tool to assist you in this effort.