

GSPP: system for hygiene in seed production and plant raising

Good Seed and Plant Practices (GSPP) is a new international, transparent business chain system designed for hygiene in seed production and plant raising. Accredited companies operate according to the highest level of quality management. Their working methods and information supply are compliant with the GSPP standard aimed at reducing the risks of infection by *Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis (Cmm)* for tomato seeds and plants. The system was introduced in spring 2010 and seed producers and plant raisers worldwide are invited to adopt it. The first GSPP accredited tomato seed and plants for protected cultures will be available to tomato growers from July 2011.

Initiative

GSPP is an initiative of the French and Dutch tomato breeding and plant raising companies, united in Plantum NL, UFS and SF3P. France and the Netherlands have an innovative seed and plant raising industry and are important players on the world market of vegetable seeds and plants. The development of GSPP underlines this position.

Principles of the system

The principles of the system are:

- isolation of the seed and seedling production location from the environment
- prevention of infection by managing the risk factors: water, people, seeds & plants and materials
- constant monitoring during the growing season of both seeds and young plants
- check before delivery: all seed lots must be tested by seed tests approved by GSPP
- independent audits

The GSPP standard will be yearly evaluated and where needed updated to reflect latest technical insights. For this, experts from the industry and research institutes are consulted. Companies and their production sites are checked periodically on quality management, working methods and information supply that comply with the GSPP standard. Verification by independent auditing organizations ensures availability of healthy tomato seeds and plants as well as reliable quality information per production site, per entity and per lot/batch.

Procedures

A GSPP accredited tomato seed or seedling production unit has to comply with the GSPP standard and has to implement management, prevention and control measures focussing on the above mentioned risk factors. If, despite all efforts, Cmm occurs, a special procedure is followed to assure that this will be adequately investigated to find the root cause of the problem. If needed the GSPP standard will be adapted to prevent reoccurrence. GSPP accredited sites or companies are granted the right to market their tomato seed and young plants with the GSPP logo.

Organization

The GSPP system is managed by the independent GSPP foundation. New participants from across the world can apply for accreditation with the Foundation. Accreditation is decided by the Foundation following a positive audit result by an independent audit organization.

Why apply for GSPP?

The GSPP system :

- Ensures transparency across the business chain system for hygiene in tomato seed production and plant raising for protected culture
- Means working with the highest level of quality management , working methods and information supply
- Secures the marketing of high quality tomatoes from protected culture production
- Reduces the risks of *Cmm* infections

For more information visit www.gspp.eu or send an e-mail to info@gspp.eu.

For more information: see above mentioned website or call Jaap den Dekker, chairman of GSPP, tel 0031 182 – 688 668, or send an e-mail to info@gspp.eu.