



## Pukekohe and Auckland Vegetable Growers

### NZGAP EMS - Farm Environment Plans

### Workshop Series (November 2019 – June 2020)

The NZGAP Environment Management System (EMS) add-on empowers growers to meet market and regulatory environmental obligations alongside their usual NZGAP audit

- ✓ An accepted pathway for enable growers to meet local authority requirements for Good Management Practice (GMP) and reduce their environmental impact
- ✓ Available as an add-on for all NZGAP, NZGAP GLOBALG.A.P. Equivalent and GLOBALG.A.P. certified growers
- ✓ Simplifies complex environmental issues in the NZGAP assurance framework
- ✓ Enables growers to improve sustainability and measure their success
- ✓ Builds on the standards already applied by the grower
- ✓ Focused on outcomes of improved environmental performance



INDUSTRY LED PATHWAY FOR MEETING MARKET AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS



TAILORED TO HORTICULTURE AND NZ GROWING SYSTEM



ONE AUDITOR UP THE DRIVE



INTEGRATES WITH ANY COUNCIL APPROVED TEMPLATE



ONE SYSTEM MEETING MULTIPLE REQUIREMENTS



ACCESS TO INDUSTRY TOOLS AND GUIDANCE



REDUCED COMPLEXITY AND COMPLIANCE COSTS



REQUIRED AND ASPIRATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS



Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) and Vegetables New Zealand (Vegetables NZ) are running a series of workshops to step growers through a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) under the NZGAP EMS add-on. These workshops are open to all commercial vegetable growers in the Pukekohe and Auckland areas.

We will run up to 6 workshops, approximately 1 month apart, from November 2019 to June 2020. The initial workshop is on Wednesday 27 November, 5:30 to 8:00 pm, at the Pukekohe Indian Hall.

## Background

Under the Government's proposed National Environmental Standard (NES) for Freshwater, commercial vegetable growers need a certified and audited Farm Environment Plan by 2022.

We are noticing a trend in Regional Authority plan change regimes, that they lack reasonable consenting pathways for vegetable growers due to nitrogen leaching.

We continue to fight for fair and reasonable rules and policies for horticultural production through formal submissions and technical evidence in response to proposed national and regional regulation. We also need to demonstrate that the vegetable growing industry is working towards good / best management practice (GMP/BMP) for soil, nutrient and water, through audited FEPs.

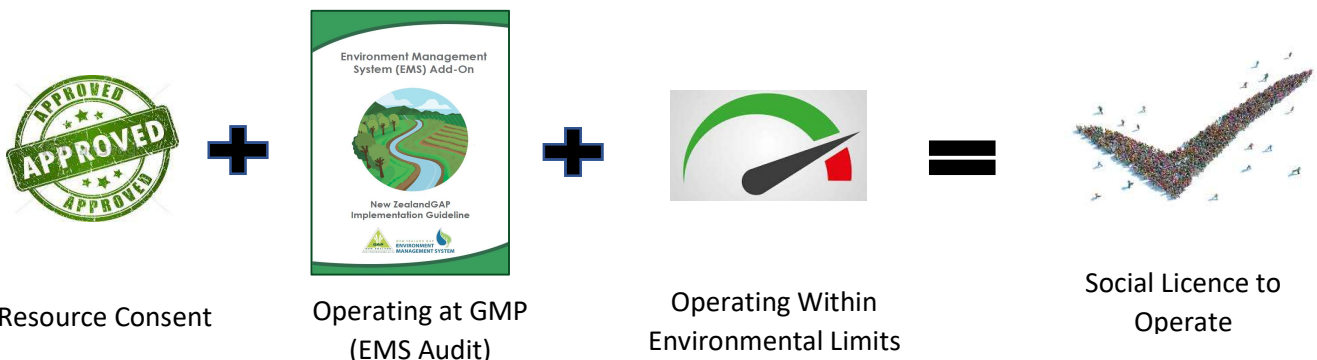
## Farm Environment Plans

Environmental risks from horticulture production are assessed and managed through FEPs, whether the operation is run by an enterprise or individual farmer, leased or owned land.

The NZGAP EMS add-on provides a framework through which growers can develop robust and comprehensive FEPs. Each FEP will include a risk-based action plan to achieve good management practice (GMP) over time, and actions verified through an independent audit process. FEP evidence can also be used in resource consent applications and assessments of environment effects.

An independently audited FEP will provide assurance to regional councils that the vegetable industry is undertaking continuous improvement towards good (and sometimes best) management practices.

Environment Canterbury (ECan) have accepted our risk-based approach under NZGAP EMS to protecting soil, water and other natural resources. ECan are well regarded in Local Government policy. We are presenting the NZGAP EMS framework to other regional councils to incorporate into their horticulture policy provisions.





## Workshop programme objectives

1. Each grower has an FEP under the NZGAP EMS, including a risk-based action plan working towards GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICE, subject to an independent audit after the first year,
2. Have empirical data to present in regional and national policy submissions and hearings in support of rules permitting vegetable growing at audited GMP, and
3. An ongoing support structure for growers to achieve continuous improvement towards GMP.

## Workshop Timetable

We are offering a series of up to 6 workshops over 6 months, starting in November 2019.

Workshop	Content	Date	Time	Location
Workshops 1 & 2 combined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduction to FEPs and NZGAP EMS: Process to outcome</li><li>2. Mapping your Property</li></ol>	27 November 2019	5:30 – 8pm	Indian Hall, Pukekohe
Workshop 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Erosion and soil management</li></ol>	February 2020	Evening (2 hr workshop)	Pukekohe (venue TBC)
Workshop 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Nutrient management</li></ol>	March 2020	Evening (2 hr workshop)	Pukekohe (venue TBC)
Workshop 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Water management, biodiversity, and mahinga kai</li></ol>	April 2020	Evening (2 hr workshop)	Pukekohe (venue TBC)
Workshop 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Check and preparation for initial EMS audit</li></ol>	May 2020	Evening (2 hr workshop)	Pukekohe (venue TBC)

You will be supported through the FEP process. The workshops are the critical first step. From here there are resources to assist growers through the remaining stages.

## Cost

The initial workshop on 27 November is free for all attendees.

Once growers have signed up for the NZGAP EMS module it will be incumbent on each grower to fund their own EMS process. This is due to the variability of each project around topography and management of each farm system. Moreover, confident growers will be able to do the work internally, while others will need guidance of an advisor.

Costs are outlined on the following page.



Activity	\$ per grower	Notes
<b>NZGAP</b>		
EMS registration	\$250	
Initial EMS audit (Year 1)	\$500-1000 <i>Indicative only</i>	Per property, up to 50 ha. Audit cost to be charged by NZGAP after EMS audit.
<b>Additional support</b>		
Each FEP workshop	\$200	Up to 6 workshops in total. Additional attendee from each business at no extra cost.
Expert review of final FEP, prior to initial audit (Optional)	\$150	Up to 1 hour, high level overview of FEP content and gaps.

### Next steps before 27 November

Encourage other commercial vegetable growers to attend the FREE workshop on the 27 November, and register for the NZGAP EMS.

Next week we will release further instructions on how to digitally map your growing operation (if you have not done so already). We encourage you to print and bring your farm maps to the first workshop where we will cover the first technical topic of an FEP – farm mapping.






On the following page is an overview of the NZGAP EMS certification process.

On the final page is a consent form. By giving your consent, you allow HortNZ to use your anonymously aggregated data to underpin our technical submissions on proposed government policy, as we continue to fight for fair and reasonable rules for all growers.



## NZGAP Environment Management System Add-on

### Certification Process

Step	Icon	Action	Description
Step 1 Register		Submit the “Registration for EMS” form and pay the joining fee	NZGAP, NZGAP GLOBALG.A.P. Equivalent and Option 1 GLOBALG.A.P. certified growers can add the EMS programme onto the existing certification. Once we receive your registration, we will send you the EMS Implementation Guideline and checklist.
Step 2 Prepare		Develop procedures and systems using the EMS Implementation Guideline	When you receive the manual and checklist, you will need to implement the EMS system into your business and complete a self- assessment. Feel free to contact NZGAP for assistance if you need it, or we can put you in touch with someone who can help.
Step 3 Get Assessed		The EMS CAN be audited alongside your usual NZGAP audit.  An auditor will visit your business to perform an audit following the same EMS checklist included in your EMS implementation guideline.	We will send your details to your chosen certification body to assign an auditor for the assessment. The certification body will get in touch with you directly to arrange a time for an audit alongside your usual NZGAP audit.
Step 4 Fixing non conformances		Closing out non conformances raised during assessment.	Once the audit is completed, you have 28 days to address any issues that may have been identified before you are able to gain certification. The status of your EMS certification does not affect your NZGAP certification for the market.
Step 5 Attain Certification		The auditor advises NZGAP that you have passed your assessment	An NZGAP EMS Add-on certificate is issued to you and your status is upgraded to “Fully Approved” on the NZGAP EMS register. <a href="http://www.nzgap.co.nz/checkregister/">http://www.nzgap.co.nz/checkregister/</a>
Step 7 Maintain Certification		Submit the “EMS Annual Renewal” form and pay your annual certification fee.	Certification is required to be renewed each year. NZGAP will send you the renewal information along with an invoice for your annual fees, 3 months before your renewal date.  The onsite assessment cycle will be in line with your existing NZGAP certification, every three (3) years after year 2.  If you leave the programme, your regional council will be notified.



## GROWER CONSENT



It is crucial that information from individual grower Farm Environment Plans (FEP) is used as evidence in national policy development. All growers who sign up / implement the NZGAP EMS module will form part of a regional and national aggregated dataset to provide fact-based information to prove our social licence to farm.

By signing this consent for HortNZ to use aggregated data (anonymous by grower and farm) we have a voice in policy decision making, toward successful outcomes and our industry's future.

On behalf of:

Grower.....

I allow data collected under the NZGAP EMS module to be used anonymously in aggregated data formation.

Signed.....

Dated.....