

# The Vegaplan system

Its characteristics – its advantages – its  
ambitions



Vegaplan

# The Vegaplan system

---

- Vegaplan
  - Structure
  - Tasks
  - Standards
    - Sector Guides
    - Vegaplan Standards
- Its characteristics
- Its advantages
- Its ambitions

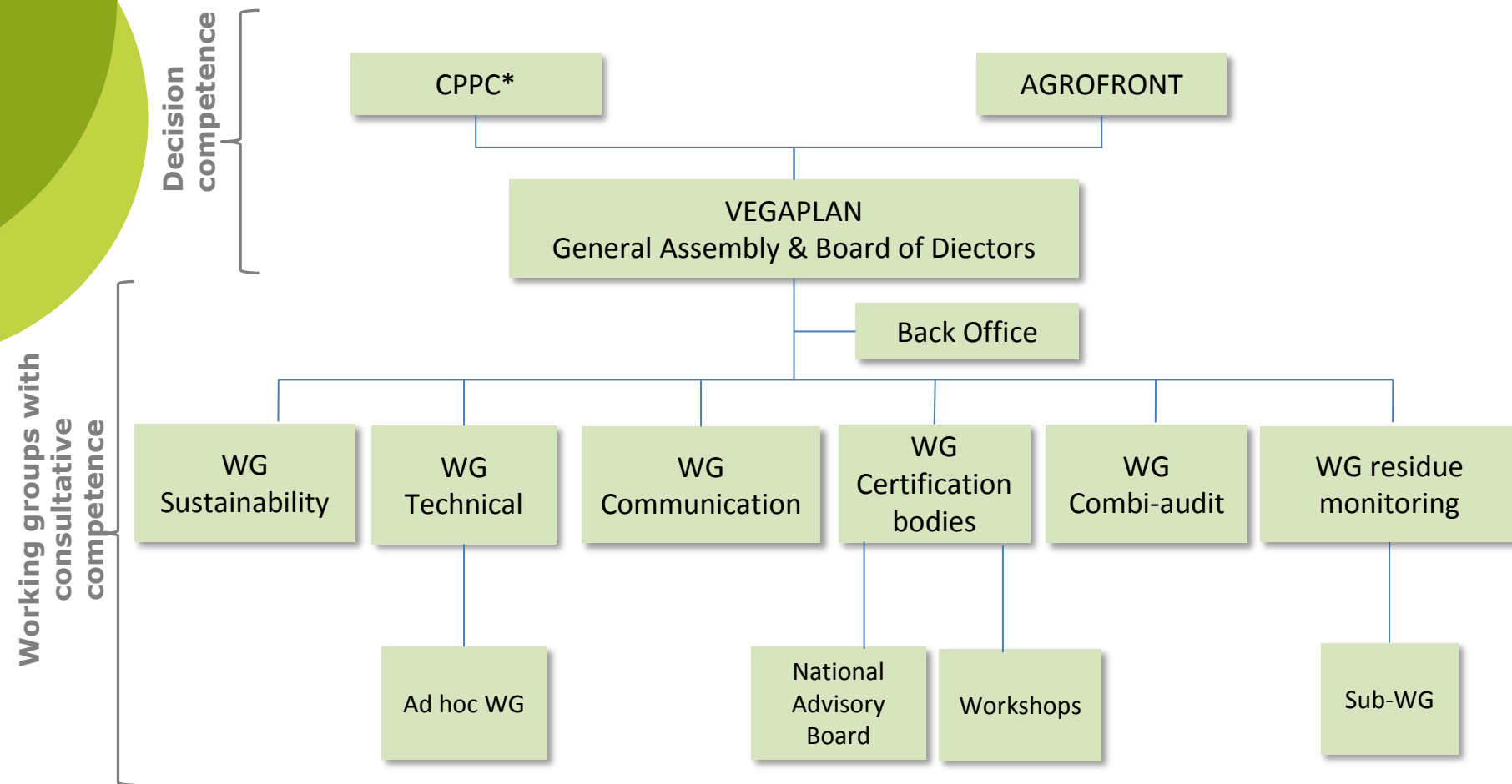


# Vegaplan

---

- Founded in 2003
  - The agricultural associations (FWA – CBB – BB – ABS)
  - A platform including trade, auctions, the processing industries (PTMV)
  - Agro-Services (Farm contractors)
- Management of Sector Guides and Standards
- Tasks
  - **To develop and implement** normative documents
  - **To internationalise** the standards
  - **To communicate** to users (website, manuals, database (certification status, warning system, ...))
  - **To train** agricultural advisers, farmers, buyers...
  - **To train and approve** the auditors
  - **To oversee** the internal consistency of the system
  - **To defend** the points of view of the sector before the AFSCA

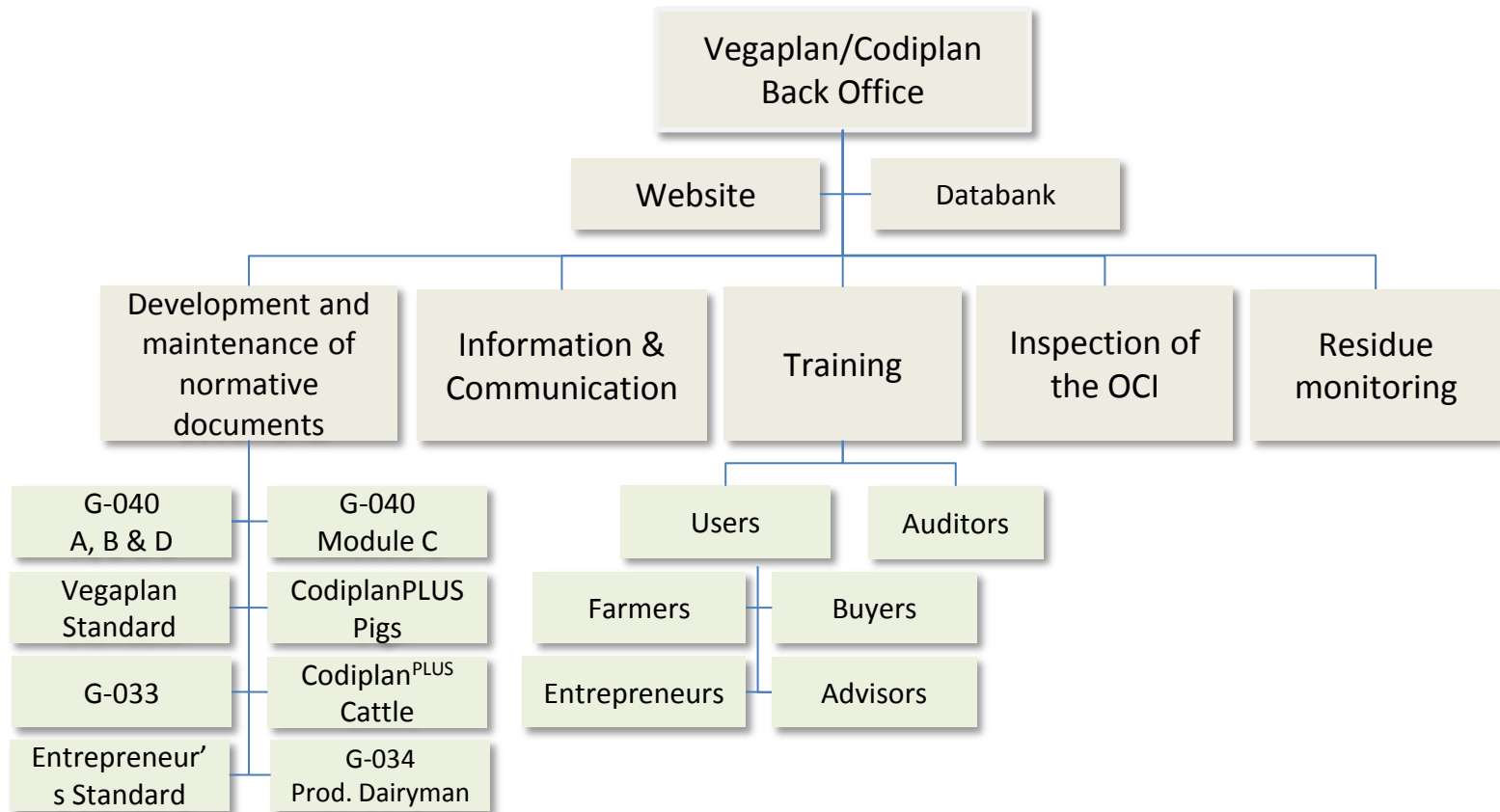
# Vegaplan



\* Consultation Platform for the Processing of and Trade in arable Crops and horticultural Products



# Vegaplan





# Vegaplan

---

## Sector Guides

- Farmers (G-040) /Contractors (G-033)
- Scope
  - Food safety
  - Traceability
  - Mandatory notification

## Vegaplan Standards

- Farmers/Entrepreneurs
- Covered domains
  - Food safety
  - Traceability
  - Mandatory notification
  - Criteria for market access
  - Sustainability
  - Integrated Pest Management



# Vegaplan

**Regional authorities**



**Buyers**

Interprofes-  
sional  
agreements

**Integrated  
Pest  
Management**

**Buyers**

Contracts

**Buyers  
Regional  
authorities**

**Regional  
authorities**



**Conditionality**

**Vegaplan  
Standard**

**Sustainability**



**Sector Guide  
Food safety -  
traceability**

**FASFC\*  
Buyers**



# Vegaplan

---

## Activities

- Reception, storage and use of raw materials
- Cultivation and harvest
- Storage and transport (under the responsibility of the producer)
- Handling (washing, sorting, cutting, packing, preparing for release on the market)
- Direct sale to consumers

## Products

- Potatoes
- Vegetables for the fresh produce market (including germinated sprouts)
- Vegetables voor processing
- Fruits
- Cereals, oil-bearing and albuinous crops
- Seeds and plants
- Sugar beets
- Chicory
- Hops
- Tobacco
- Roughage
- Biomass intended for bio-fuels/bio-liquids



# Asbl Vegaplan

Vegaplan	December 2014
<b>Farmers</b>	
• Vegaplan Standard	15.752
• The Netherlands	207
• France	851
• Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	4
• Sector Guide	15.172
<b>Farm contractors</b>	
• Vegaplan Standard	912
• Sector Guide	729
<b>Trade, processing and auctions</b>	342
<b>Certification bodies</b>	
• Farmers	10
• Contractors	8



# Its characteristics

---

- A 'supply chain' approach
  - Farmers – Traders - Producers
- Coordination between buyers (CPPC) and agricultural associations
  - The content of the Standard is developed based on risk analysis
    - Safety/Quality/Environment
    - 'frequency/severity' matrix
    - For each group of products
  - Balance between what is mandatory (levels 1 and 2) and recommended (level 3)
  - Support of the agricultural associations which represent/advocate the retained requirements towards their members'
  - The Standard is included in the supply conditions of the buyers (= access to markets)



# Its characteristics

---

- Coordination with the authorities
  - FASFC: Food safety - Traceability
  - Regions (Flanders/Wallonia): Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Sustainability incorporated in the system and thus under certification

# Its advantages

---

- National system
  - Takes into account the specifics and the needs of the country and of its structures
- Approval of the Vegaplan Standard by the authorities
  - FASFC
    - Equivalence between the Vegaplan Standard and the Sector Guide (modules A and B)
      - Administrative simplification
  - The regional authorities
    - Monitoring IPM measures via the Vegaplan Standard
      - Simplification of the inspections



# Its advantages

---

- Changing and flexible
- Accessible for a great number of farmers (non-elitist system)
  - Simple, feasible, affordable
- Credible
  - Requirements monitored via
    - Visual inspection/Recordings/Open questions
  - Individual certification of operations
    - Certificate valid for 3 years
    - Additional inspections
      - Unexpected: 10% each year
    - Annual mandatory self-monitoring (checklist)
  - Surveillance of the integrity of the system



# Its advantages

---

## Multi-functional database

- Buyers: status of certification of their suppliers, warning in case a certificate is withdrawn
- Farmers: assistance with certification (non-conforming elements)
- Sector and sub-sectors: overview of the certification depending on the (levels) of requirements, on the activities

## International approach

- Access to new markets
- Facilitates commercial exchanges
- Coordination and harmonisation with similar systems
  - Avoid double inspections and additional expenses
- Facilitates crisis management and recalls



# Its advantages

---

## 🌿 Interchangeability

- 🌿 VVAK (**V**oedsel –en **V**oeder**V**eiligheid **A**kkerbouw) – NL :
  - 🌿 Vegetables for industry, beets, cereals, seeds
- 🌿 VVA (**V**oesel**v**eiligheid certificaat **A**ardappelen verwerkende industrie) – NL :
  - 🌿 Potato processing
- 🌿 QS (**Q**ualität und **S**icherheit) – Germany :
  - 🌿 Fruits/vegetables/potatoes intended for the fresh produce market
- 🌿 VKL (**V**oedsel**k**waliteit **L**oonwerk) – NL :
  - 🌿 Agricultural and horticultural contractors
- 🌿 GMP / GMP+ :
  - 🌿 Products intended for animal feed



# Its advantages

---

- Collaboration with other quality control systems
  - European: 'A-NET' platform
    - Vegaplan (Belgium)
    - VVAK (The Netherlands)
    - QS (Germany)
    - Swiss-GAP (Switzerland)
    - AMA-GAP (Austria)
  - Belgian:
    - OVOCOM (animal feed)





# Its ambitions

---

- Consolidation of existing systems by
  - Simplification of the certification procedures (combined audits,.....)
  - Enhanced effectiveness in
    - the quality of the inspections
      - Regulations for certification
      - Integrity programme for CB's
    - the quality and the relevance of the information disseminated
    - a targeted communication
- To ensure the quality of products delivered within the Belgian vegetable branch
  - Involvement of CPPC members
    - 90% of the supplying farm businesses certified by 2018

# Its ambitions

---

- Development of new initiatives
  - Interchangeability - Benchmarking
    - GFSI
    - GlobalGAP
    - SAI (Sustainable Agriculture Initiative)
    - Unilever (Sustainable Agriculture Code)
  - Recognition
    - European Commission
      - Certification of biomass intended for production of bio-fuels/bio-liquids (renewable energy sources)
    - Regions
      - Vegaplan recognised as a centre of sustainable development



# Abbreviations

---

- GMP: Good Manufacturing/Management Practices
- IPM: Integrated Pest Management
- CB: Certification Bodies
- CPPC: Consultation Platform for the Processing of and Trade in arable Crops and horticultural Products
- QS: Qualität und Sicherheit
- WA: Voeselveiligheid certificaat Aardappelen verwerkende industrie
- VVAK: Voedsel –en VoederVeiligheid Akkerbouw
- VKL: Voedselkwaliteit Loonwerk