

Objective

The aim of the project is to improve the capacity of selected vegetable supply chains in the Philippines to deliver vegetables that meet customer expectations of quality, food safety, nutritional value and price.

The objectives are to:

- ◆ Understand the food safety, regulatory and consumer environment in which vegetable value chains operate.
- ◆ Develop, test and refine a staged Good Agricultural Practices protocol to supply consumers with safe vegetables in the Philippines.
- ◆ Develop and evaluate enabling technologies and capacity to deliver a Good Agricultural Practices protocol in selected vegetable value chains.

Expected scientific results

- ◆ Increased understanding of the nature and types of food safety risks (including chemical residues and foodborne diseases) along the vegetable value chains in the Philippines.
- ◆ Increased awareness of both the potential sources and routes of contamination in vegetable production, and postharvest handling, storage and processing practices in the Philippines.
- ◆ Development of strategic and innovative methods to detect and manage contamination in vegetables.
- ◆ Development of robust crop management and post-harvest treatment options and technologies that will minimise food safety risks in vegetables.
- ◆ Scaling-out of the models used in this project for adaptation to other regions and other horticultural crops.

Expected impact/outcomes

- ◆ Use of the knowledge and skills gained by the project researchers to undertake participatory research and design and pilot new Good Agricultural Practices protocols.
- ◆ Use of increased understanding of the value of the pilot Good Agricultural Practices protocols by the policy consultation committee in related policy discussions.
- ◆ Increased knowledge and skills of farmer intermediary groups who are helping to deliver the project training modules to the participatory farmers, and other farmers close to the pilot sites.
- ◆ Adoption of the improved crop management and marketing practices by local farmers, resulting in increased productivity and enhanced crop quality.

