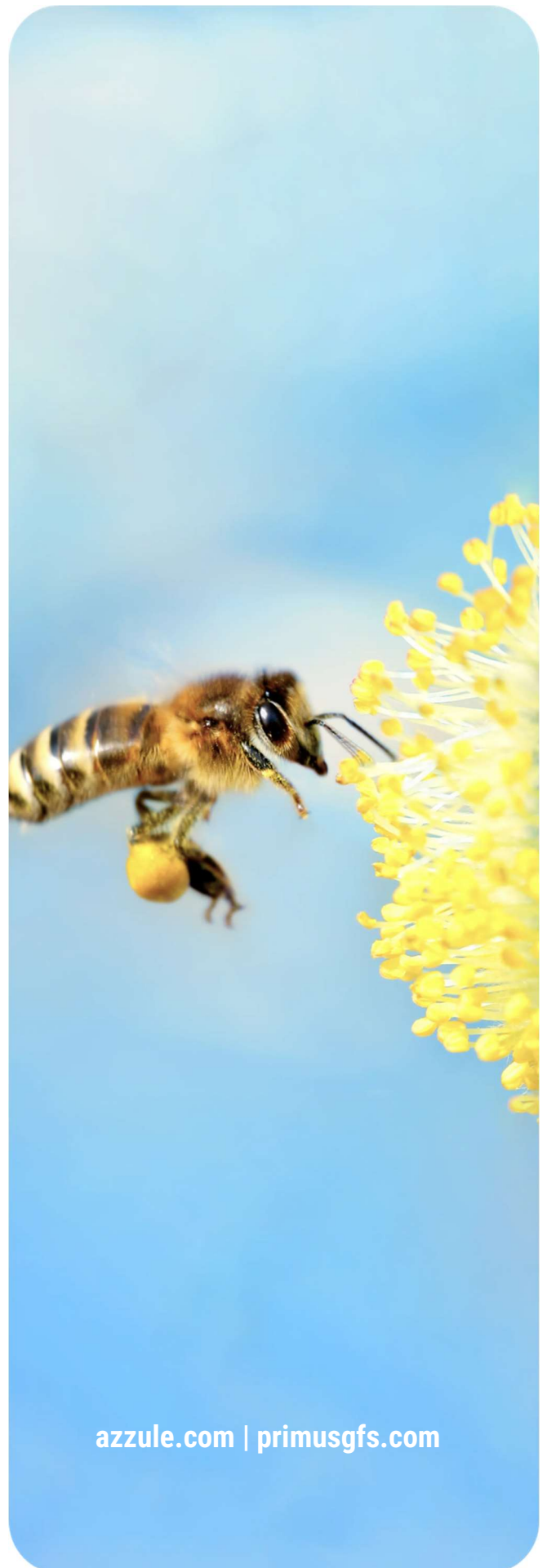# PrimusGFS v3.2
Module 9 - IPM Practices

Appendix 8
Module 9 Additional Information
2023

Module 9 - IPM Practices is an optional add-on to the PrimusGFS certification for Farm and Indoor Agriculture operations. It is designed to verify the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and communicate efforts to any interested customers. The questions in Module 9 are independent from the food safety criteria within PrimusGFS and does not influence the overall audit score; instead, it serves to enhance the comprehensiveness of the audit.

This document is intended as an additional reference for the use of PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices. The information in this document does not replace the full General Regulations of the currently valid version of the PrimusGFS audit.

Introduction:

a. *PrimusGFS is a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized audit standard, developed by Azzule Systems, that has been used for many years in different areas of the food industry, particularly with fresh produce. It is designed to be used for primary production (including horticultural, grains, and pulses) and manufacturing sectors at a global level.*

b. *Azzule Systems, which is a member of Primus Group, Inc., owns the PrimusGFS auditing standard. Azzule Systems has offices worldwide, including:*

    i.   *Santa Maria, California, United States (Headquarters)*

    ii. *Viña del Mar, Valparaíso, Chile*

    iii. *Culiacán, Sinaloa, Mexico*

c. *PrimusGFS now offers an optional add-on module used to verify the implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) practices at the primary production level.*

d. *Auditees who meet the Total Compliance criteria for PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices will have the module indicated on their final audit report, certificate, and on the PrimusGFS Certified Operations page*

Auditor Training:

Please note this section outlines the additional requirements for auditors to be approved to conduct Module 9 – IPM Practices. The requirements for auditors outlined in the PrimusGFS General Regulations still apply.

It is the CB's responsibility to ensure that their auditors are current on industry best practices, food safety, and technological developments, and relevant laws and regulations for each option (GAP and/or GMP) in which their auditors are approved. The CBs shall maintain records of all relevant trainings taken by the auditors. CBs are

responsible for identifying training needs and implementing training development programs to ensure auditors possess the necessary knowledge/education to perform the requested audit, as well as maintaining the records of additional auditor training(s).

Auditors must have successfully completed the PrimusGFS update training on PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices in order to be considered as approved to conduct the module.

Certification Process:

Application

a. *Applicants must indicate to their CBs whether they would like to add PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices to their audit application*

b. *The addition of Module 9 – IPM Practices is optional and will not influence overall PrimusGFS certification*

c. *Module 9 – IPM Practices is applicable only to field operations, defined as "Farm" or "Indoor Agriculture" operations for the PrimusGFS audit*

Evaluation:

PrimusGFS Module 9 will be scored independently from the rest of the PrimusGFS audit.

The possible answers to questions in Module 9 IPM are listed below:	
Answer	**Criteria Used**
Exceeds Compliance	*To meet the set of requirements that exceed the total compliance question conformance criteria*
Total Compliance	*The minimum set of requirements for the question that must be met in order for the module outcome to be marked as Total Compliance*
Non-Compliance	*To have not met the question and/or conformance criteria in full*

Scoring System:

a. Each question in PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices has compliance criteria for three categories: Exceeds Compliance, Total Compliance, and Non-Compliance

b. Auditees <u>must achieve Total Compliance in all questions</u> (or Exceeds Compliance) in order for Module 9 – IPM Practices to be marked as Total Compliance met

c. Failure to meet the Total Compliance criteria will not influence the overall PrimusGFS certification, it will only affect the Module Outcome for PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices

Corrective Actions:

a. Corrective actions may be submitted following the preliminary audit to achieve Total Compliance with module question(s)

b. Corrective action evidence can be in the form of documents, records and/or photographs and must show that the Total Compliance (or Exceeds Compliance) criteria has been met in order to be accepted

c. The CB has the right to determine if an on-site assessment or remote assessment with the use of ICT is necessary to be performed to the audited organization to verify corrective actions

d. Corrective action submission should follow the existing PrimusGFS General Regulations (30-calendar day corrective action timeframe)

Certification Decision:

a. If the Module Outcome for PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices has been scored as Total Compliance, the module will be valid for 12 months from the certification date along with the full PrimusGFS certification

Extension of Scope Certification:

a. Ideally the addition for Module 9 – IPM Practices will occur when the auditee's audit application is submitted so it can be performed at the same time as the rest of the PrimusGFS audit inspection

b. An extension of scope certification to add Module 9 – IPM Practices to a certified PrimusGFS audit can apply for situations such as the following:

   i. Auditee did not include Module 9 – IPM Practices in their audit application when scheduling their initial audit and needs to have it added as a module after their audit(s) had gone through the certification process

   ii. Auditee added Module 9 – IPM Practices to their audit application, but did not meet the necessary criteria for the module to be marked as "Total Compliance met" during the initial certification process

c. The CB will determine if there is a need to visit to the organization to add Module 9 – IPM Practices to the already certified operation(s), or if a remote desk-review to evaluate the relevant documentation is sufficient. The CB is responsible for recording and justifying the decision

Report and Certificate Design:

a. If an auditee meets the Total Compliance criteria for Module 9 – IPM Practices, the final PrimusGFS audit report and certificate will clearly indicate the module was included in the audit and that Total Compliance was met

b. There will be an icon in the audit certificate and a dedicated section in the audit report for Module 9 – IPM Practices outlining the module outcome (Total Compliance Met or Total Compliance Not Met)

For any other matters not addressed in this appendix, please reach out to Azzule Systems at primusgfs@azzule.com