



# Press Release

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005

## Retailers step up action to provide safe, quality food : GFSI recognises first farm assurance standard

Paris, France, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005

**CIES – The Food Business Forum**, the Paris-based independent global food business network and secretariat of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), announced today that retailers have officially recognised the SQF1000 Code, following a rigorous benchmarking process against the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the GFSI Guidance Document, and a consultation period with stakeholders.

- **The SQF1000 Code** is a farm assurance audit and certification programme, aimed at increasing food safety at farm and primary produce level. It is owned and managed by the Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI), a foundation of the Washington-based Food Marketing Institute (FMI).
- By **recognising this standard** and through the **wider application of farm assurance standards** at the beginning of the food chain, retailers are stepping up their action to strengthen consumer confidence by providing safe quality food in retail outlets.
- During the past year, the GFSI compliant standards have been revised by the respective standard owners. GFSI will benchmark these standards against the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the GFSI Guidance Document, in order to verify their compliant status.

For further details on GFSI, visit our website [www.ciesnet.com](http://www.ciesnet.com) or contact

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