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AVA, the national food safety and animal and plant health authority

# AVA vision



## New Food Safety Benchmark Set for TCM Herbs



Launching of the scheme by Mr Koh Poh Tiong, former Chairman of AVA, and Mr Richard Eu, CEO of EYSI

**E**u Yan Sang International (EYSI), with Agrifood Technologies Pte Ltd (ATP) as its external auditor, launched the Eu Yan Sang Good Agronomic Practices for Herbs (EYSGAP-Herbs) Certification Scheme on 31 March 2008.

Setting a new benchmark on food safety for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) herbs in Singapore and in the region, the scheme ensures food safety controls at different

points of operations throughout the supply chain. This means that herbs and products are handled safely at every step, from farm production, to harvesting to post-harvesting handling. The scheme also ensures that any problematic batches can be easily traced back to the source.

As EYSI's external auditor, ATP, the commercial arm of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), undertook an independent audit of EYSI's Lingzhi farm in Fuzhou, China in January 2008 where the supplier's production system, documentation as well as management and product quality control systems, were audited. Results of the audit were satisfactory as the farm had complied with the food safety and traceability standards under the EYSGAP-Herbs Certification Scheme.

In support of the new initiative, EYSI has also created a new EYSGAP-Herbs label for easy identification of products originating from EYSGAP-Herbs certified production sources. Mr Koh Poh Tiong, former Chairman of AVA, said that the launch of the scheme was timely as it "responds to a number of challenges - such as the global demand for safe food, changes in government policies, consumers' demand for the protection of the environment and workers, and the increase in global trade and retailing".

