



Bureau Veritas Agri & Food Portfolio: Testing, Inspection & Certification Solutions in the Horticultural Value Chain – From farm to fork. Photo Credit: Bureau Veritas

Bureau Veritas: A world leader in testing, inspection and certification

By Walter Rono

BUREAU Veritas is a world leader in laboratory testing, inspection and certification services. Created in 1828, the Group has more than 82,000 employees in more than 1,600 offices and laboratories around the globe. Bureau Veritas helps clients improve their performance by offering services and innovative solutions in order to ensure that assets, products, infrastructure and processes meet standards and regulations in terms of quality, health and safety, environmental protection and social responsibility.

The UN estimates the world's population will increase by nearly 2 billion persons in the next 30 years, from the current 8 billion to 9.7 billion in 2050 and could peak at nearly 10.4 billion in the mid-2080s. Population growth is putting intense pressure on natural resources. From the abundant amounts of water needed for irrigation to dwindling global fish stocks, a farmer or agricultural

professional needs to strike the right balance between increasing yields and demonstrating responsible use of natural resources. Bureau Veritas offers solutions such as crop monitoring via drones to optimise agricultural yields while demonstrating responsible use of resources.

The global food industry is facing growing demand for safe, high-quality food. According to the UN, with an estimated 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses annually, unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalised people, especially women and children, populations affected by conflict, and migrants.

Today's consumers are increasingly demanding: they want to know where their food comes from how it was made and processed and how its quality was preserved. Within the complex and globalised food supply chain actors need to demonstrate

responsible practices, full product traceability and compliance to stringent regulations to meet these expectations.

Bureau Veritas offers a complete range of testing, inspection, and certification (TIC) services during food production; food manufacturing & processing; and food retail, service & hospitality to ensure the safety and quality of food from farm to fork.

Bureau Veritas' range of certification services for food and agriculture enables horticultural supply chain actors to deliver safe, high-quality food. Certification programs such as ISO 22000 & GFSI ensure compliance across the entire supply chain. Industry-specific certification programs, such as GlobalG.A.P. (Option 1 and 2) GRASP and NKG verified audits, KS 1758; FSSC BRCGS; IFS; SMETA; FSSC22000; ISO 22000 ensure compliance to industry standards. Bureau Veritas provides solutions for safeguarding reputation and Chain of Custody through certifications such as Rainforest Alliance and FSC; PEFC.

The Bureau Veritas Laboratory based in Mombasa, Kenya is accredited to the ISO 17025: 2017 for laboratory testing and is registered by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) for water & effluent testing; air, noise and emission monitoring. The laboratory offers solutions in microbiological testing; elemental testing; physico-chemical; allergen testing; soil analysis; nutritional analysis; plant analysis; GMO testing; migration tests; organic substrate analysis; irrigation water testing.

In May 2016; the CDC in USA effected a product recall of 382 frozen fruits and vegetables sold under 42 different brand names. Today, product contamination and recalls are on the rise, causing significant financial losses. Stricter regulations, supply chain disruptions and increased consumer awareness are contributing to this trend. An effective traceability system is a tool that allows a food business operator to trace food products along the entire food value chain in a complex, tangled web. A food retailer and/ or restaurateur, needs to ensure products' safety

and quality, and demonstrate food traceability across the product's lifecycle; comply with stringent regulations, while protecting brand reputation.

Bureau Veritas has developed innovative digital solutions that demonstrate quality and safety across the supply chain for transparency throughout the value chain to ensure traceability from farm to fork with adoption of block chain technology such as SAFEOPs, SafeSupply and TRACE by Bureau Veritas.

Bureau Veritas' customised audits help optimise audit volumes and efficiency for retail sites to ensure franchises provide a consistent brand experience, Bureau Veritas ensures efficiency for retail audits by use of digital reporting tools such as MAIA+.

Businesses within the horticultural sector need to minimise risk while maximising control. Goods must be transported in clean carriers: ship holds and hatches, tanks, containers, trucks, rail cars and barges. Horticultural handling must

ensure quality, quantity & value of traded produce, adhere to safety and compliance requirements for all global destinations. Bureau Veritas offers quantity and visual quality inspections solutions to support and address issues related to verifications of quantities; grades; packaging; cold chain management for quantity verification; claims processing with underwriters and is accredited to the ISO 17020: 2012 for inspections.

Through the Bureau Veritas Greenline, horticultural supply chain actors are provided with Sustainability Solutions that ensure managing of social, governance and environmental issues. Certifications schemes offered by Bureau Veritas include ISO 14001 environmental management; ISO 45001 health & safety management; ISO 50000 energy management; ISO 26000 social responsibility; ISO 55000 asset management; ISO 39000 risk management; RSPO; Forestry Certifications – FPC, among others; Climate Change Certifications – CDM, GHM.

Walter Rono is the Bureau Veritas Mombasa Branch Manager.

| BUREAU VERITAS EAST AFRICA CONTACTS | |
|---|---|
| <p>NAIROBI OFFICE Bureau Veritas Kenya Limited, 5th Floor Delta Corner, Oracle Tower, Tel: +254 (20) 366 9000 Email: agriken@bureauveritas.com Waiyaki Way Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya</p> | <p>LABORATORY Bureau Veritas Mombasa Laboratory, North Belgravia Place, Zanzibar Road, Shimanzi, Tel: +254 (41) 2220866/7, Cell: +254 714 993133 Email: laboratory.mombasa@bureauveritas.com P. O. Box 41622 – 80100, Mombasa, Kenya</p> |
| <p>MOMBASA OFFICE Bureau Veritas Kenya Limited, 4th Floor, Harbour House, Moi Avenue, Tel: +254 (41) 2314463; 2314022, Email: agriken@bureauveritas.com P. O. Box 41622 – 80100, Mombasa, Kenya</p> | |
| <p>KAMPALA OFFICE – UGANDA Bureau Veritas Uganda Limited, Regency Plaza, 1st Floor, Plot 30, Lugogo Bypass, Tel: +256 708 280 000, Email: bv.uganda@bureauveritas.com P. O. Box 104427 Kampala, Uganda</p> | <p>DAR ES SALAAM OFFICE – TANZANIA Bureau Veritas Tanzania Limited, ZO Spaces, 3rd Floor, Plot 04, New Bagamoyo Road, Tel: +255 688 288 280 Email: conformity.tanzania@bureauveritas.com Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</p> |
| <p>KIGALI OFFICE – RWANDA Bureau Veritas Rwanda Limited, Rimera Sector, Gasabo District, Ikaze House, 2nd Floor, Tel: +250 780 962 042 Email: samy.batoum@bureauveritas.com Kigali, Rwanda</p> | <p>ADDIS ABABA OFFICE - ETHIOPIA Bureau Veritas Ethiopia Project Office, 22, Djibouti Street, Tsega Business Centre, 7th Floor Phone: +251-910-419106 Email: mahtem.haile-mariam@bureauveritas.com Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.</p> |