



**FLOCERT**  
assuring fairness

“ The GSCP and FLOCERT have a common goal: driving positive change in social and environmental sustainability along the supply chain. Conducting the EP benchmark and sharing the results gives us the opportunity to support GSCP’s initiative, and to deepen our exchange with different market actors. ”



## OUR POSITION

The Fairtrade mission is to connect producers and consumers in a way that lifts people from poverty. FLOCERT is a mission-driven leading global certification body, providing sole certification to Fairtrade and offering verification services for social, trade and environmental standards as well as private codes of conduct. Founded in 2003, we are working with all types of organizations, from small producers to internationally recognized brands, in order to promote fairness in global trade. Our accreditation as a “Social Enterprise” demonstrates our commitment to social business values.

Part of our mission is to:

- deliver best-in-class certification, verification, and related services
- provide confidence within global supply chains that the relevant social, economic and environmental standards are met
- offer all our services with credibility, reliability, integrity, and efficiency

FLOCERT’s audit process is applied in the certification of all Fairtrade Standards. For the benchmark against the Audit Process and Methodology Reference tool the focus was set in relation to the Fairtrade Standard for Hired Labour.

FLOCERT welcomed the initiative of Fairtrade International to go through the EP and thus joined the project for the APM reference tool.



**SUGUMAR RAMAN,  
DIRECTOR OF  
OPERATIONS,  
FLO-CERT  
GMBH**

## OUR ACTIONS - USING THE EP

The EP self-assessment was a highly valuable exercise since it gave us an in-depth view on our policies and procedures. As an ISO 17065 accredited certification body it is natural for us to be transparent about the way we work and we are always interested in improving our assurance approach. The self-assessment inspired us to directly incorporate minor improvements into our procedures and policies. It was interesting to evaluate our audit process with a special focus on workers protection.

We found that the EP expert review was a very thorough process, which in the end did add more clarity on the intention and detail of the GSCP requirements. The explanations given by the EP expert for situations where our and the expert grading were different were very helpful.



## OUR RESULTS - AFTER THE EP

Already during the EP self-assessment, we incorporated a number of smaller improvements into our procedures and policies. These were areas that, while being an integrative part of our methodology, had not sufficiently been described in our documentation. This was the case in the area of instructions to auditors.

We have also identified areas where FLOCERT's processes do not cover the GSCP requirements. In a thorough review of these areas, some requirements were taken on as input for upcoming process revisions. Other requirements were identified as not relevant in the specific circumstances we are working in.

We have had a very fruitful discussion resulting from the EP benchmarking process that might be of future value. In general, it has been of high value to go through our processes in depth in light of a different perspective than the ISO 17065 Norm and to be able to identify areas of improvement.