

IAS 41 *Agriculture*

as issued at 1 January 2009

This extract has been prepared by IASC Foundation staff and has not been approved by the IASB. For the requirements reference must be made to International Financial Reporting Standards.

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting treatment and disclosures related to agricultural activity.

Agricultural activity is the management by an entity of the biological transformation and harvest of biological assets for sale or for conversion into agricultural produce or into additional biological assets. *Biological transformation* comprises the processes of growth, degeneration, production, and procreation that cause qualitative or quantitative changes in a biological asset. A *biological asset* is a living animal or plant. *Agricultural produce* is the harvested product of the entity's biological assets. *Harvest* is the detachment of produce from a biological asset or the cessation of a biological asset's life processes.

IAS 41 prescribes, among other things, the accounting treatment for biological assets during the period of growth, degeneration, production, and procreation, and for the initial measurement of agricultural produce at the point of harvest. It requires measurement at fair value less costs to sell from initial recognition of biological assets up to the point of harvest, other than when fair value cannot be measured reliably on initial recognition. This Standard is applied to agricultural produce, which is the harvested product of the entity's biological assets, only at the point of harvest. Thereafter, IAS 2 *Inventories* or another applicable Standard is applied. Accordingly, this Standard does not deal with the processing of agricultural produce after harvest; for example, the processing of grapes into wine by a vintner who has grown the grapes.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction. Costs to sell include commissions to brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and commodity exchanges, and transfer taxes and duties. Costs to sell exclude transport and other costs necessary to get assets to a market. Such transport and other costs are deducted in determining fair value (that is, fair value is a market price less transport and other costs necessary to get an asset to a market).

IAS 41 requires that a change in fair value less costs to sell of a biological asset be included in profit or loss for the period in which it arises. In agricultural activity, a change in physical attributes of a living animal or plant directly enhances or diminishes economic benefits to the entity.



IAS 41 does not establish any new principles for land related to agricultural activity. Instead, an entity follows IAS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment* or IAS 40 *Investment Property*, depending on which standard is appropriate in the circumstances. IAS 16 requires land to be measured either at its cost less any accumulated impairment losses, or at a revalued amount. IAS 40 requires land that is investment property to be measured at its fair value, or cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Biological assets that are physically attached to land (for example, trees in a plantation forest) are measured at their fair value less costs to sell separately from the land.

IAS 41 requires that an unconditional government grant related to a biological asset measured at its fair value less costs to sell to be recognised in profit or loss when, and only when, the government grant becomes receivable. If a government grant is conditional, including when a government grant requires an entity not to engage in specified agricultural activity, an entity should recognise the government grant in profit or loss when, and only when, the conditions attaching to the government grant are met. If a government grant relates to a biological asset measured at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, IAS 20 *Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance* is applied.