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Capgemini's Continuous Assurance Program (CAP) has enabled a harmonized approach for assessment and reporting of internal control effectiveness. It provided the right support to enable a country compliance organization to focus on leading the development and execution of global and regional financial compliance strategy.”

Jim Arbor

*Head Group Financial and IS Compliance,
Syngenta*



Syngenta's Continuous Assurance Program for Compliance

Capgemini supports the world's leading agribusiness to deliver continuous control monitoring via its Continuous Assurance Program (CAP).

Standardizing the control and compliance environment

How does a leading global agriculture business with an impressive product portfolio developed over the last 15 years transform and standardize its control and compliance environment?

Syngenta, the world's largest crop chemical producer, ranking third in seeds and biotechnology sales, has been growing exponentially, both organically and through acquisitions. With sales almost doubling in the last 10 years, this growth has increased complexity, customization, and the duplication of processes and the compliance environment. The company was managing compliance through a set of traditional processes across multiple units and countries, operating an extremely diverse process and application landscape that was making it difficult to maintain its control and compliance environment.

Overview

Customer: Syngenta

Industry: Agriculture

Location: Basel, Switzerland

Client Challenges / Business Need: a compliance program providing better assurance that risks are proactively identified and mitigated.

Solution-at-a-glance: design and implementation of “Continuous Control Monitoring” called the Continuous Assurance Program (CAP).

Results:

- Cost savings
- Improved control performance
- Agility (near real-time visibility)
- Increased efficiency



The Collaborative Experience

The Collaborative Business Experience™ is central to the Capgemini philosophy and is a pillar of our service delivery.

- Governance – the CAP team and Syngenta's Compliance Team have their own independent governance process to review the assurance program and its results.
- Common objectives – they are one team with a common objective to achieve a best-in-class compliance environment.
- Global coverage – end-to-end process compliance is delivered offshore from Bangalore, and the CAP team works in different shifts to ensure working hours of all regions are considered.

Taking the risk out of compliance

Syngenta recognized the need to make the compliance program more effective and proactive, achieve better visibility, and optimize the cost of compliance. They wanted a compliance program that provided better assurance that risks would be proactively identified and mitigated, and one that also met the requirements under Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX).

The backbone of Syngenta's compliance program

Capgemini responded by leveraging its Global Process Model© (GPM©) to standardize Syngenta's compliance processes across geographies. Capgemini also leveraged its expertise in the area of compliance to design and implement "Continuous Control Monitoring" from its GRC practice, which has become the backbone of Syngenta's compliance program. Known as the Continuous Assurance Program (CAP), it has some unique features, that include:

- Moving from traditional periodic testing to continual testing and walkthroughs
- Using representative sample methodology to assess the control environment
- Proactive remediation
- Test results fed a Global Process Owners' organization
- A central team – a single point of contact for all stakeholders

Run by a dedicated and independent team of compliance experts under the leadership of a Capgemini Compliance Manager, the scope of CAP includes:

- Continuous internal control evaluation – process walkthroughs and control testing are performed on a continual basis with monthly Service Delivery Reviews to report results and discuss remediation. Additional process walkthroughs and control testing are performed to ensure that SOX requirements are met.
- Internal audit recommendations follow-up – Internal audit recommendations are tracked globally and reported to proactively identify and assess issues that have become overdue or need special attention. An independent audit is performed to ensure that recommendations have been sustainably implemented.
- Access controls process – research and risk analysis of ERP access for each request is carried out to ensure risk-free access in line with Segregation of Duties (SOD) specifications. Audit and approval of emergency access ensures that usage is within requirements. Monthly reporting that includes insights into the current status of SOD risks and emergency access usage allows for the identification of improvement areas in role design and reduction in emergency access usage.

Results count – increased confidence in the compliance environment

Implementation of the CAP resulted in a significant increase in confidence among stakeholders in the compliance environment. The CAP enforces the Control Framework across business units, which proved to be challenging before its implementation kept the full stop.

An independent CAP team based out of Capgemini's Global Competency Center in Bangalore enabled Syngenta to free up resources in its headquarters, regions, and country teams. This led to some specific tangible benefits including:

- Cost savings – the cost of CAP offset a reduction in internal compliance resources by more than 35%, substantially reduced contract compliance resources, and reduced external audit fees.
- Agility – a centralized CAP team allows Syngenta to respond to compliance requirements resulting from new business changes with much more agility and less cost.
- Transparency – monthly reporting provides visibility on a near real-time basis on open risks and their remediation status.
- More objective controls testing – the CAP team is fully independent from control performers and managers.
- Increased efficiency – Syngenta has remained SOX compliant at all times.
- Risk free SOD – continuous provisioning with risk free roles and remediation helps reduce SOD risks to a minimum globally.

In addition, CAP implementation has seen Syngenta's reputation grow, as this is the first time that a continuous controls program has been implemented in the Agribusiness industry. Syngenta is also being perceived as a role model, and continues to receive visits from other companies asking for guidance.

About Capgemini

With more than 190,000 people, Capgemini is present in over 40 countries and celebrates its 50th Anniversary year in 2017. A global leader in consulting, technology and outsourcing services, the Group reported 2016 global revenues of EUR 12.5 billion. Together with its clients, Capgemini creates and delivers business, technology and digital solutions that fit their needs, enabling them to achieve innovation and competitiveness. A deeply multicultural organization, Capgemini has developed its own way of working, the Collaborative Business Experience™, and draws on Rightshore®, its worldwide delivery model.

Learn more about us at

www.capgemini.com

About Syngenta

Syngenta is a leading agriculture company helping to improve global food security by enabling millions of farmers to make better use of available resources. Through world class science and innovative crop solutions, our 28,000 people in over 90 countries are working to transform how crops are grown. We are committed to rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalizing rural communities.

Learn more about client at:

www.syngenta.com

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