

Advisory Committee Meeting 1/17

31 January 2017 / 15:00 – 16:30 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: GotoMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/526739549>

Participants

James Lomax	UN Environment (Chair)	Bruce Tolentino	IRRI (Co-Chair)
Mushtaq Memon	UN Environment	Matthias Bickel	GIZ
Mr Hammad Naqi Khan	WWF-Pakistan	Paul Nicholson	Olam International
Ladda Viriyangkura	Thai Rice Department	Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat
Luc Beerens	Mars Food	Peter Sprang	SRP Secretariat
		Lea Las Pinas	SRP Secretariat

Regrets

Christ Vansteenkiste	Vredeseilanden-VECO
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Meeting Report (draft)

1. Chairman's remarks and adoption of agenda

- BT called the meeting to order at 15:05 and declared the meeting quorate. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. Secretariat Report

- WE presented January 2017 updates on SRP membership, operations, programme activities, and key priorities for 2017 (Annex 1).
- WE highlighted the urgency of trademarking the SRP logo. BT informed that IRRI is ready if requested to apply for and hold trademark protection for the SRP logo on SRP's behalf, until such time as a legal entity is formed. This was welcomed by the group.
- WE also reported on plans to convene a high-level strategy workshop to deliver a transformative agenda and organizational vision for SRP- Chis Brown (Olam) is preparing TORs for an expert external facilitator. BT proposed the workshop could be held in Jakarta following the forthcoming Responsible Business Forum for Food and Agriculture (13-16 March). This was agreed.
- LB inquired if private companies were being actively invited to join Working Groups 1 and 2, which have fewer members than expected. WE assured continuous and active member recruitment by the Secretariat.
- In response to a question on WG reporting, it was agreed that WG leads should submit regular reports to WE for presentation to the AC during AC meetings. MB reiterated that AC should provide guidance as necessary to all WG's.
- WE reported outcomes of a meeting with IBC (Informa) to plan organization of the 7th Annual Plenary 2017- to be called the Global Rice Sustainability Conference (working title). A first meeting is to be convened soon with the Conference Steering Committee, with recommendations to be made to the next AC meeting.
- A relaunch of the Sustainable Rice Platform website is planned; AC members were invited to pre-view the site at <https://sustainablericeplatform.github.io> and provide feedback. LB congratulated LLP on this initiative.

- Unauthorized publication by UTZ: In September 2016 UTZ published a document “3rd Party Audit Protocol for the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation” (Annex 1, Appendix 3) without prior content vetting, knowledge or consent of SRP. The document bears the SRP logo but provides only UTZ contact details. WE informed the AC that this breach is unacceptable, and since it carries legal implications, he has requested WG3 to review the document and make recommendations as necessary.

[Working Groups to finalize draft TOR’s for approval by AC]

[WE to invite new private sector members to join WGs 1 and 2]

[BT/JL to discuss arrangements for trademarking and present joint recommendation to AC]

[Secretariat to finalize Conference Steering Committee meeting 1-17]

[AC members to provide inputs on the new web platform]

[WG3 to review UTZ Audit Protocol document and make recommendation to AC]

[Secretariat to post clear statement on website on procedures for clearance of SRP documents and use of Sustainable Rice Platform logo]

3. Legal Entity

- In December 2016, BT shared documentation on IRRI Foundation Singapore with JL, as an example of an entity that could be organized under Singapore law. JL was then tasked with checking with UNEP’s Legal office on whether or not UNEP can do this.
- WE also raised the urgent need for registration of trademark protection for the SRP name and logo. BT has checked with IRRI legal, and informed that should the AC and SRP membership agree, then IRRI can trademark the SRP name and logo ON BEHALF OF THE SRP MEMBERS, in the meantime while the SRP legal entity does not yet exist.

[JL to obtain legal clearance from UNEP and present a recommendation to AC in March in regard to a possible legal entity for SRP]

4. Member Dues (Annex 2)

- LLP reported that the recent member survey yielded 8 responses, with 5 respondents preferring Option 3.1. and 3 respondents opting for Option 3.
- HK requested clarification on the categorization of international NGOs with country offices. MM stressed that from an operational standpoint, individual country office membership would be of more benefit in supporting SRP activities, provided not more than 2-2 national chapters of any organization joined at national level. In regard to payment of dues by INGOs, it was suggested that in-kind contributions may be considered.
- JL acknowledged that further discussion on this point is needed and proposed an offline discussion with MM.
- In order that invoices can be raised, JL proposed adoption of Option 3.1. with 2 years’ contributions (2017-2018) to facilitate cash flow, and deferment of the decision on dues level for INGOs to next AC meeting. The motion was seconded by BT, and carried without objection.

[Secretariat to inform members of adoption of Option 3.1. as SRP’s new dues structure]

[Secretariat to prepare invoices for signature by UN Environment Paris]

[JL/MM/Secretariat to discuss arrangements for INGOs and finalize recommendation by next AC]

5. Mars on-pack SRP logo (Annex 3)

- LB presented the new Uncle Ben's rice pack layout for a market pilot in France, and offered an opportunity to raise SRP's visibility through display of the logo or inclusion of appropriate on-label messages re SRP. He emphasized that this represents a narrative of Mars' sustainability journey, and there would be no sustainability claim.
- WE welcomed the offer, citing growing interest among other retailer members/exporters for a similar initiative. This is SRP's first real opportunity to raise visibility among consumers.
- HK expressed the importance of setting clear guidelines e.g. on licensing, claims and safeguards for member use. LB proposed that logo policy review and formulation be included in WG1 deliverables. LLP noted that support would also be needed from WG3 on this topic.
- MB proposed that the AC accepts Mars' initiative to offer SRP logo and statements on-pack; BT seconded the motion and informed that IRRI is willing to assist in trademarking SRP logo on SRP's behalf.

[WG1 to review policy on logo use in liaison with WG3, and propose to AC]

[LB to share final pack layout with AC, on a confidential basis]

6. Others

- PN proposed that AC should continue to meet on a monthly basis in order to maintain momentum. This was agreed by all.
- BT proposed that SRP strategic planning and visioning workshop be conducted in parallel with RBF event in Jakarta. This was also agreed.
- JL informed that UN Environment has chosen SRP as one of 7 case studies to be presented to its Committee of Permanent Representatives (COPR) in Nairobi on 7-8 March. Pakistan was selected by UN Environment's senior management as a case study, although all key activities will be covered. This is a major opportunity to raise SRP's profile at national level as well as within UN Environment itself.
- BT informed the meeting that IRRI will hold its IRRI Annual Science Week from 13-17 February, presenting an orientation opportunity for PS, who will be able to meet/discuss with all IRRI scientists.

The meeting adjourned at 16:20 SEA standard time.

Annexes

1. Secretariat Report January 2017
 - Appendix 1: Working Group Membership
 - Appendix 2: Strategic objectives and milestones 2017
 - Appendix 3: UTZ audit protocol unauthorized publication
2. Member Dues proposal
3. Mars Food Uncle Ben's Rice pack layout