

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF SUSTAINABLE RICE STAKEHOLDERS



International Rice Research Institute

RICE is key to climate resilience and food security.

A global challenge

Rice is the main staple for 3.5 billion people, and it provides livelihoods for 1.5 billion people worldwide.

However, we pay a high environmental price for our rice. Up to 40% of the world's irrigation water is used for rice production, and up to 10% of global methane emissions come from rice fields.

To feed a growing population, the International Rice Research Institute estimates that production needs to increase by 25 percent over the next 25 years.

Inasmuch as rice contributes to climate change, it is also highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Rice farmers are increasingly suffering from adverse impacts such as drought, rising temperature, flooding and salinity.

A transformation, therefore, in the global rice sector is needed if we are to meet future global demand in a sustainable way.

Sustainable Rice Platform

Co-convened by UN Environment and the International Rice Research Institute, the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) is a multi-stakeholder alliance to promote resource efficiency and sustainability both on-farm and throughout rice value chains.

The alliance works with over 80 institutional partners in the public and private sectors as well as international organizations, NGO and the international research community to promote climate-smart best practices among rice smallholders in key rice-growing countries.

Join a growing global multi-stakeholder alliance of rice stakeholders!

Be part of our journey towards rice sector transformation

Collaborative initiatives

Leverage from the outcomes of collaborative research that would be otherwise costly to conduct independently, or participate in collaborative projects to address sustainability challenges

Innovative tools & technical support

Get access to tools and advice from the experts to manage social and environmental risks, and capture opportunities to enhance sustainability of the supply chain due to improved supply of rice

Supply chain representation

Connect with national, regional and global institutions involved in rice production, input supplies, milling, processing, trading and marketing, and community development

Policies and best practices

Help influence policies that promote best practices in sustainable rice production and get involved in high-level global forum for discussion, collaboration and innovation

Corporate social responsibility

Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and increase visibility and recognition for your corporate commitment to sustainability

How can we measure what 'sustainable' means for rice smallholders?



IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS
BETTER CROPS
HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

The world's first rice sustainability standard

In 2015 we launched the world's first Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation, together with a set of Performance Indicators to enable monitoring of progress and impact.

Together, the Standard and Indicators can serve as a working definition for sustainable rice production, and enable benchmarking and objective comparison of the sustainability of any rice system.

The Standard can thus offer policymakers a practical and widely-accepted normative basis for policy and incentive measures.

The launch of the Standard triggered commitments by a number of private sector actors to achieve 100% sustainable sourcing within their global corporate supply chains.

Pilot field implementation of the SRP Standard in 2016-17 was evaluated by IRRI, and saw examples of real benefits to rice farmers and the environment, such as:

- 20% savings in water
- 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- 10% increase in farmer's incomes



International Rice Research Institute

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Our work contributes to...



Our Programme Objectives

The Sustainable Rice Platform pursues the following objectives:



DEVELOP a context-dependent modular standard for sustainable rice production and processing (including decision making tools and quantitative sustainability impact indicators);

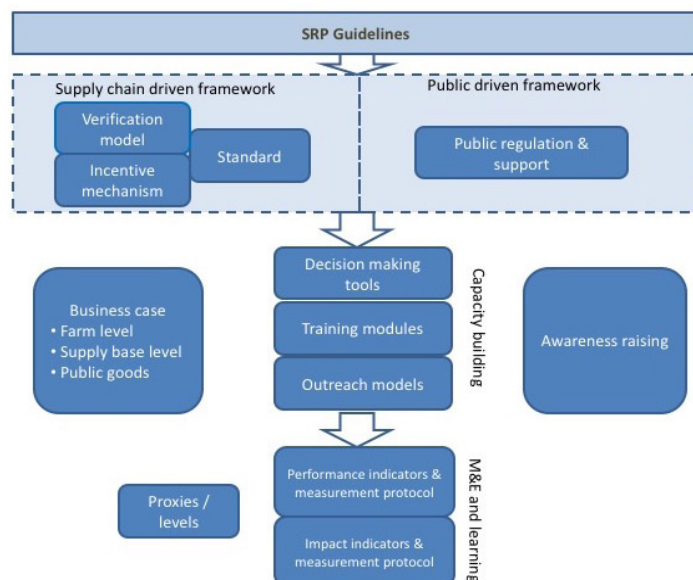


DEVELOP and promote outreach models that enable large-scale adoption of best practices through supply chain mechanisms and public policy development;



ESTABLISH an international platform globally recognized for its role in promoting continuous improvement in sustainability in the rice sector with a broad participation from all actors throughout the value chain, the public sector and non-profit organizations.

Our aim is to offer the global rice supply chain a proven set of instruments to facilitate wide-scale adoption of sustainable best practices. Figure 1 below shows the linkages among these instruments.



To get involved, please contact:

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Sustainable Rice Production in Action

CAMBODIA

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) trained 150 farmers in Kampong Thom Province to produce rice according to the SRP Standard. Working with Battambang Rice Investment Co. and Mars Food, WCS developed a farmer diary in Khmer to record farm operations.

AMRU Rice, with support from the International Finance Corporation launched a 3-year joint project to implement the SRP Standard into the company's supply chain. This partnership aims to equip 2,000 farmers with knowledge and tools that will allow rice growers to respond to an emerging market demand for sustainably produced rice.

INDIA

Rice farmers in Haryana state were invited to field-test the SRP Standard. Mars, in collaboration with UTZ, piloted implementation of a farm management system and an Internal Management System to strengthen the capacity of participating farmers and millers to adopt sustainable practices in rice production.

PAKISTAN

In Pakistan; Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Mars Food and Rice Partners Ltd, are implementing the Water Productivity Project (WAPRO) with 500 Basmati farmers, focusing on supply chain development and policy interventions, using a digitized data entry system to assess compliance with the SRP Standard.

THAILAND

Thailand's Rice Department partnered with GIZ Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA), Olam International and UTZ to pilot test the SRP Standard among 2 farmer groups in Ubon Ratchathani. This activity was one of BRIA's interventions to improve market access for resource-poor rice farmers.

VIETNAM

Loc Troi Group identified three provinces in the Mekong Delta to implement the SRP Standard. Preliminary findings include higher profits and productivity, as well as improved nutrient-use efficiency among participating farmers.

Together with the International Finance Corporation and the International Rice Research Institute, Loc Troi Group aims to expand its project to reach 4,000 farmers, and develop a certified sustainable rice value chain for export markets.

"Helping smallholders, protecting the environment"