

## Advisory Committee Meeting 4/17

27 July 2017 14:30-15:30 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/149048885>

### Participants

James Lomax	UN Environment	Bruce Tolentino	IRRI
Mark Radka	UN Environment	Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat
Paul Nicholson	Olam International	Peter Sprang	SRP Secretariat
Hammad Naqi Khan	WWF-Pakistan	Lea Las Pinas	SRP Secretariat

### Apologies

Matthias Bickel	GIZ BRIA	Ladda Viriyangkura	Rice Department of Thailand
Luc Beerens	Mars Food	Christ Vansteenkiste	Vredeseilanden-VECO

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## (Draft) Meeting Report

### 1. Welcome and Chairperson's remarks / Introduction to Mark Radka

- JL welcomed AC members and other participants to Advisory Committee meeting 5/17 at 14:42. He also welcomed Mark Radka (MR), who will be the new UN Environment representative to, and Co-Chair of, the SRP Advisory Committee.
- MR heads UN Environment's Energy, Climate and Technology Branch, within which the Sustainable Rice Platform is now situated following a recent reorganization. MR reiterated the strengthening of institutional commitment and support from UN Environment. He was warmly welcomed by all present.
- Indicating his continued close engagement operationally with the SRP, JL thanked AC members for their continuous support over the past 6 years. JL will now focus on leadership of Working Group 2 (Public Sector Engagement).

### 2. Approval of report of last meeting (4-17) and adoption of agenda

- JL recognized BT as Chair of the meeting. Although a quorum was not established, it was agreed that the meeting will be continued on a 'for information' basis. Decisions, therefore, will need to be deferred until next quorate meeting.
- WE proposed moving Agenda Item 5 (Conference Update) as the first agenda item, in order to allow Sukumar Verma (SV) of IBC Asia to report updates and priority next steps. The change was accepted and the agenda was adopted unanimously as amended.

### 3. Conference update

- SV was invited to join the call to update the AC with progress in organizing the First Global Sustainable Rice Conference and Exhibition (4-5 October). SV's briefing covered programme development, confirmation of speakers and corporate sponsors. Confirmed sponsors and exhibitors at the of time of meeting include Bayer (\$20,000), Buhler (\$10,000), Netafim (\$10,000), SGS Transparency One (\$4,500) and Peterson/Control Union (\$4,500).
- HNK recommended a session by ISEAL in order to highlight lessons learned from other commodity standards. PN noted that the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators revision process must clearly identify target outcomes and next steps before the General Assembly.
- MR requested SV to clarify IBC's priorities and targets in terms of expected number of participants and sponsors. IBC estimates a total of 250 attendees, including guests, speakers, sponsors and paying participants. SV sought AC's support through promotion of the Conference among their respective networks.

**[Action: SV to provide Conference Brochure for AC members to circulate via respective networks]**

#### 4. Secretariat and Working Group Reports

- WE presented an update of operations, followed by updates on each Working Group, presented by LLP, JL and PS, respectively (Annex 3, Secretariat Report June-July 2017). Key issues raised were as follows:
  - Visioning Exercise and Governance  
As a result of WE's negotiation, Richard Rogers (Rogers MacJohn) has submitted a revised proposal delivering major savings via a phased and streamlined approach, which will enable the exercise to proceed based on SRP's priorities and financial capacity. PN sought clarification on the level of commitment of SRP co-conveners (UN Environment and IRRI) in acting upon findings and recommendations that could arise from the Visioning Exercise. He added that Olam's ad hoc financial contribution to support this exercise is predicated on commitment to an actionable outcome.

**[Action: WE to clarify budget sufficiency before proceeding with contracting]**

PN further noted that the Sustainable Rice Platform's current status is a "UN Environment project", indicating that responsibility for governance rests wholly with UN Environment. In light of the ongoing discussion on legal identity and governance, MR noted that some UN Environment 'spinoffs' have been unable to sustain interest among their original stakeholders. However, he noted UNEP-Finance as a successful initiative established by UN Environment, that has remained under UN Environment management and governance. UNEP-FI now over 250 members.

Nevertheless, MR assured the AC that UN Environment will act in the best interests of the initiative, following the outcome of the Visioning Exercise. BT stressed that the governance and legal identity discussion has been ongoing for almost 2 years, and therefore, frustration among members could be anticipated. He likewise expressed IRRI's full support for the initiative, and its readiness to undertake key operational functions (including financial administration) as needed. JL agreed the AC should explore all alternatives and organizational arrangements that would further strengthen the SRP.

○ Assurance Model

PN requested clarification on the structure of the SRP Assurance Model, particularly on the role of organizations including GLOBALG.A.P. and UTZ, as well as potential revenue stream for the SRP. PS responded indicating that this was a topic to be discussed at the forthcoming Standard and Indicators Revision Workshop in Bali (21-25 August). WE stressed that Sustainable Rice Platform's organizational governance and legal structure would need to accommodate the needs of the emerging assurance scheme, given its commercial nature. JL reminded the AC that the SRP was not established as a certifying body, rather as a multi-stakeholder initiative for sector transformation. PN emphasized the synergy and inter-dependence between the private sector supply chain initiatives and the public sector policy agenda. There is a need to clearly define the meaning of 'Assurance' for different stakeholders.

## 5. COP23 Participation

JL identified 3 possible events where the SRP agenda could be introduced at COP23, organized by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Helvetas Intercooperation and the CCAC Paddy Rice Initiative, respectively. He confirmed that MR, himself and possibly WE, will attend. JL encouraged AC members to submit recommendations on other possible events.

PN stated that Olam is exploring biomass for energy/fertilizer, which is aligned with SRP's current positioning within UN Environment's Energy, Climate and Technology branch. JL proposed creation of a new Working Group, which could focus on biomass, mentioning IRRI's ongoing projects on post-harvest efficiencies. It was agreed that further discussion should continue offline.

## 6. AOB

- Since quorum was not established, approval of Meeting Report 4-17 will be deferred until next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 16:21 SE Asia Standard time.

**Annexes:**

1. Draft Meeting Report 4/17 8 June 2017
2. Conference update: revised programme and timeline
3. Secretariat update and Working Group reports (June-July 2017)
4. Revised budget proposal for Strategic Visioning Exercise by Rogers MacJohn
5. Capability Statement by Global Initiatives