

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

Led 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 90 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 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 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 SRP Standard and Performance 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

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Our work contributes to...



International Rice Research Institute

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.

Sustainable Rice Production in Action

CAMBODIA

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), Mars Food and Battambang Rice Investment Co. Ltd. launched a partnership in 2018 to promote sustainable development of Cambodia's rice industry. Improving rice production and enhancing linkages with the global rice value chain will help Cambodia's agri-sector expand market access, increase export value, and improve farmers' livelihoods. Over the next 3 years about 9,000 smallholder farmers will benefit from exposure to sustainable farming practices, climate smart agriculture technologies and financial literacy training. Adoption of the SRP Standard is expected to lead to a 20% increase in yields and a 25% boost in farmer income by 2025.

In 2016 Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia (WCS) launched an SRP trial in collaboration with Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP), Battambang Rice Investment Company (Brico), Mars Food and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). Farmers in the Prolay commune have benefited from a shortened, integrated, supply chain, linking them with international buyers. Seed rates were reduced by introduction of high quality seeds. After 3 years, the 350 participating households produced 1,400MT of jasmine paddy in accordance with the SRP Standard. New partners are now joining, including IFAD and OXFAM, to address all aspects of sustainability and bring the project to scale.

PAKISTAN/INDIA

SRP partners with Helvetas, Mars Food, Rice Partners Ltd and WWF-Pakistan in implementing a CHF 6.6 million project on water management in rice and cotton, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. This 3-year project, which links small farmers to export markets, has been extended for a second 3-year phase to cover 100,000 farmers. The project has seen significant reductions in use of water and agrochemicals, as well as higher incomes for rice farmers.

THAILAND

In July 2018 GIZ, Olam and SRP launched the Thai Rice NAMA project with 11 Thai government agencies. The project will support 100,000 rice farming households in Thailand to shift from conventional to low-emission rice farming, reducing emissions of irrigated rice by 29%. The project marks the first time that GHG improvements in rice cultivation will count towards a government's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement on climate change.

In the same year, Mars Food, Ebro Foods, GIZ and the Thai Rice Department launched the Sustainable Aromatic Rice Initiative - Thailand (SARI-T) with an aim of building the capacity of 1,200 Thai rice growers in Roi Et province in adopting sustainable best practices while enhancing farmer livelihoods.

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 sustainable rice value chain for export markets.

SUSTAINABLE RICE LANDSCAPES CONSORTIUM

The SRL Consortium was established as a unique consortium led by UN Environment, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, SRP, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, International Rice Research Institute and GIZ to promote adoption of proven, landscape-level solutions for rice sustainability. The initiative will contribute to meeting national GHG reduction targets under the Paris Agreement, as well as restoring degraded landscapes and conserving biodiversity. SRL is now developing a \$50-80 million proposal for a Global Impact Programme to be funded by the Global Environment Facility, targeting a number of Asian countries for national-level actions.

Contact: Wyn Ellis, Coordinator | Secretariat@sustainableice.org

"Helping smallholders, protecting the environment"