

Advisory Committee Meeting 3/17

Wednesday, 3 May 2017 13:00-14:00 Philippine Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/525781893>

Participants

James Lomax	UN Environment	Bruce Tolentino	IRRI
Matthias Bickel	GIZ	Luc Beerens	Mars Food
Paul Nicholson	Olam International	Ladda Viriyangkura	Thailand Rice Department
Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat	Christ Vansteenkiste	Vredeseilanden-VECO
Peter Sprang	SRP Secretariat	Lea Las Pinas	SRP Secretariat

Apologies

Hammad Naqi Khan	WWF-Pakistan
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Meeting Report

1. Introduction

- The teleconference was initiated from the IRRI Headquarters in Los Banos, Philippines, where an SRP Training Strategy Workshop was simultaneously being conducted. In the meeting room were BT, PN, LV, WE, PS and LLP. Online attendees were JL, MB, LB and CV.

2. Adoption of agenda

- BT called the meeting to order at 13:04. LB inquired about the inclusion of the assurance program in the discussions, whether in SRP AC meeting 3-17 or 4-17 (tba). WE clarified that the assurance programme was currently under discussion in Los Banos, with the presence of Control Union, UTZ and GLOBALG.A.P., and the outcome would be reported to the next AC meeting. The original agenda was therefore adopted unanimously.

3. Secretariat and Working Group Reports (WE/LLP/PS, Annex 1, for info)

- WE presented highlights of SRP operations between April-May 2017, followed by working group activities as presented by LLP, JL/WE and PS, respectively. Further discussions focused on WG3 activities and target outcomes.
- PN requested for clarity on WG3 deliverables and timeline. PS confirmed that WG3 will present its recommendation for an SRP Assurance Programme to the AC by late June. MB clarified that following deliberation and AC approval, the final scheme will be presented and launched at the October conference.
- WE reported progress on organization of the First Global Sustainable Rice Conference and Exhibition, as follows:
 - Call for papers and speaker invitations have been sent out by IBC

- UN Environment will be represented by Dr Dechen Tsering (Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific) instead of Mr Erik Solheim (Executive Director, UN Environment).
- Under WG2's purview, preparation for SRP participation at COP23 (Bonn, 6-17 November) and the SRP Visioning Workshop ("The Future We Need") were discussed. Noting the COP23 preparatory meeting in Bonn from 8-18 May ([UNFCCC Newsroom](#)), MB recommended that UNEP/SRP prepare a pitch and secure visibility for SRP. JL reported that UN Environment's Climate Change Team would participate

[Action: JL to introduce Chris Brown (Olam) to the UN Environment Climate Change participants]

- For the Visioning workshop, WE reported that 4 EOIs have been received and will be forwarded to WG2 members and the AC for review.

[Action: COP23- JL/WG 2 to develop action plan and submit to AC]

[Action: WE to develop evaluation framework for EOIs for the Visioning Workshop]

4. Secretariat governance (Annex 2, proposal for legal entity / financial operations, for decision)

- (Discussion of this item was deferred from the last AC meeting).
- JL reported that internal discussions were proceeding within UN Environment. BT requested an update on the timeline of these discussions and on the MOU between UN Environment and IRRI, and expressed hope that this could be signed at the October conference.
- MB expressed strong support for creation of a legal entity for SRP (under the full control of SRP trustees) and requested regular updates on the progress of UN Environment's internal discussions.
- BT agreed to circulate the draft MOU among AC members.
- PN clarified the timeline for confirmation of the MOU, and reiterated the urgency to finalize the decision.
- PN moved to continue the discussions and finalize AC decision on Secretariat governance to next meeting. The motion was seconded by BT and agreed unanimously.

[Action: JL to provide timeline for discussion of IRRI-UNEP MOU]

[Secretariat to circulate draft UNEP-IRRI MOU among AC members]

[Secretariat to include the topic in the agenda for the next AC meeting]

5. Approval of revised publication policy (Annex 3, for decision)

- WE reported (During Agenda Item 3) that IRRI's Legal Office has already submitted a trademark protection application in the Philippines, as an interim measure until Sustainable Rice Platform can take ownership of IP as a juristic person.
- WE presented the draft revised Publication Policy, which expands on the original policy for use of the SRP logo to cover publications. This formalizes the understanding that all documents

produced by partner organizations on behalf of SRP and /or using its logo must be reviewed and cleared by SRP prior to publication and distribution in any form.

- The policy also allows members to use on-pack corporate core value statements, as distinct from a certification claim.
- Responding to PN's comment that consumers make little or no distinction between value statements and on-pack claims, BT expressed the view that the publications and claims policies are complex, and that the current guidelines represent a good first step. He moved to adopt the Publication Policy, and revise as necessary. PN seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

[LLP to post the Publication Policy in the Members' Area of the website and inform members by mail]

6. AOB

- PN announced that Olam International is partnering with GIZ for a project that will introduce sustainable rice production and the SRP Standard in Nigeria.

[LLP to update list of countries with pilot field implementations of the SRP Standard to include Nigeria and the Philippines]

The meeting adjourned at 14:17 Philippine Standard Time

Annexes

- 1. Secretariat Update and Working Group Reports (March 2017)**
- 2. Proposal for Joint Ownership of SRP**
- 3. Sustainable Rice Platform publication policy (draft revision)**