

Advisory Committee Meeting 4/18

4 July 2018 15:00-17:00 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/303146749>

Participants

AC Members/Secretariat

Mark Radka	UN Environment (Chair)	Christ Vansteenkiste	Rikolto (VECO)
James Lomax	UN Environment	Suriyan Vichetlekarn	GIZ
Jai Sheel Oberoi	LT Foods	Thomas Jaekel	Thai Rice Department
Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat	Lea Las Piñas	SRP Secretariat
Peter Sprang	SRP Secretariat		

Observer

Sanjay Sethi	Phoenix Global DMCC
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Apologies

Luc Beerens	Mars Food	Matthias Bickel	GIZ
Hammad Naqi Khan	WWF Pakistan	Jackie Hughes	IRRI

(Draft) Meeting Report

1. Chairperson's remarks

- The Advisory Committee meeting 4/18 was called to order at 15:05 SE Asia Standard Time.
- Sanjay Sethi (SS), Sustainability Director of Phoenix Global DMCC (invited observer) was welcomed and introduced as SRP's latest member. Phoenix is the world's third largest rice trader and is active across South and Southeast Asia. SS thanked the committee for the invitation and expressed Phoenix' commitment to engage actively in SRP's activities.

2. Approval of report of last meeting (Annex 1), and adoption of agenda

- The draft report of the last Advisory Committee meeting (3/18) held on 30 May 2018 was approved without amendment and will be posted on the Members' Area.

3. Secretariat Report and revised Communication Strategy (Annexes 2-4)

- Secretariat updates on operations, priority issues and Working Group highlights were reported by WE, LLP, JL and PS.
- SV provided an additional update on the latest GIZ project, 'Sustainable Jasmine Rice Initiative' (July 2018 – December 2020) to be implemented in partnership with Mars Food and the Thai Rice Department.
- Key points raised were as follows:
 - *Next steps on SRP Communication Strategy:* AC approval will be requested at the next AC meeting to secure budget allocation of \$30,000 for first year implementation.

- *New timeframe for the SRP Standard revision:* To be discussed by Secretariat team with Sandra Khananosit (GIZ Consultant) during the week of 9 July 2018.
- *Industry position on pest management within the revised SRP Standard:* PS to clarify and consult with input industry players on the issue of IPM and scoring system of the Standard v 2.0.

[Action 1: LLP to create a database of communication focal persons of SRP members, as suggested by MR]

[Action 2: JL to seek comments from UN Environment communication team on the revised SRP Communication Strategy]

[Action 3: JL to circulate GCF Concept Note to AC members, as requested by CV]

[Action 4: PS to consult input industry members on IPM, re-draft provisions on pest management within the revised Standard and discuss with WG3]

[Action 5: WE to amend Annex 2 to include the GIZ 'Sustainable Jasmine Rice Initiative' project in the SRP list of pipeline projects].

4. Strategic Visioning exercise (Annexes 5-6)

- WE reported that Rogers MacJohn had revised its Final Report and recommendations, providing more detail and supporting rationale, responding to feedback from the Advisory Committee. In doing so, the consultants had now fulfilled its contractual obligations as defined in the Terms of Reference. He requested the Advisory Committee to endorse final payment and closure of the contract. CV moved for the approval of the Rogers MacJohn final output, and was seconded by TJ. The proposal was approved unanimously.
- WE also presented a draft Transition Plan (Annex 6) as requested by the AC at its previous meeting. MR noted that in view of the strategic implications, UN Environment and IRRI are in discussions and will propose next steps towards implementation. He proposed that the transition plan be further fleshed out, identifying priority activities that can be immediately implemented while working on reaching clarity on the approach to the more complex recommendations.
- JL noted that the Strategic Visioning exercise has been valuable, however, implementation of recommendations may require further discussion and a process of reflection.
- As the Interim Board (IB) was proposed to oversee the transition phase, with its roles defined in broad terms by Rogers MacJohn, MR sought clarification on the process for establishing the Interim Board. WE noted that the Interim Board as nominated includes all current AC members (except for governmental representatives), with the inclusion of several new invited private sector members. Therefore, the Interim Board carries legitimacy as an expanded Advisory Committee, with a defined timeline to a full election by the membership at the General Assembly.

[Action 6: Approve final tranche of payment to Rogers MacJohn]

[Action 7: MR and JL to consult on ways forward and propose to the AC]

5. SRP Assurance Framework (Annex 7)

- WE and PS briefed the participants on progress on the draft SRP Assurance Framework, and consultation with members and external stakeholders on demand for verification as opposed to certification as a basis for assured supply chains.
- As a result of feedback from members (including discussion at the Strategic Visioning Workshop and meeting in London on 19 June) a verification-based approach was agreed.
- With growing interest in the SRP Assurance Scheme among downstream supply chain partners, the withdrawal of UTZ-Rainforest Alliance from the rice sector leaves GLOBALG.A.P. as SRP's only viable option as an Assurance Service Provider. GLOBALG.A.P. is well accepted by supply chain actors including retailers as an effective B2B assurance scheme as well as to administer proprietary supermarket quality and safety standards. GLOBALG.A.P. has been entrusted by the SAI Platform and the Alliance for Water Stewardship among others to manage their respective assurance and verification schemes.
- With no viable alternative a limited window of opportunity and a short lead time to launch, WE stressed the importance of the AC's giving clear and unequivocal support for GLOBALG.A.P. as an Assurance Service Provider if SRP is to deliver on its commitment to launch an assurance programme by Q4.
- The AC was therefore asked to give its support in principle to GLOBALGAP as a primary Assurance Service Provider for SRP, and to invite GLOBALG.A.P. to submit a costed proposal to develop and launch SRP's assurance programme at the 2018 Plenary, and operate the scheme for a defined time period. GLOBALG.A.P. would thus serve as a 'system operator', implementing SRP's own protocol and financial model.
- WE also noted the possibility of raising co-funding to cover establishment costs, and for the opportunity to generate a revenue stream from training services.
- Subsequent discussion raised the following issues:
 - Ownership of the Standard – this must remain with the SRP as Scheme Owner
 - Cost implications and rationale
 - Exclusivity of management of the Assurance Framework. While it will be important that a single service provider be empowered to establish and operate the system for an agreed initial phase, SRP should reserve the right to subsequently offer opportunities to other potential service providers on a competitive basis to broaden market coverage.
- CV expressed his support for designing programmes by building upon existing systems and structures following 'SRP's own rules', and stressed the importance of ensuring a clear understanding of the differentiation between certification and verification.
- WE proposed that the issues raised could be shared with GLOBALG.A.P. in order that they may be fully addressed in the GLOBALG.A.P. proposal.
- SV supported WE's proposal and echoed the urgency of the need to complete and operationalize the SRP Assurance Framework.
- MR summarized agreements as follows:

- Invite comments from members in regard to critical issues to be addressed
- Invite GLOBALG.A.P. to submit a proposal

The proposal was unanimously agreed.

[Action 8: WE to consult members regarding expected details on the GLOBALG.A.P. proposal]

[Action 9: WE to invite GLOBALG.A.P. to submit a fully costed proposal]

6. SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly (Annex 8)

- In light of the forthcoming transition phase, as well as the SRP's intention to launch the new structure and assurance programme during the annual plenary event, the Advisory Committee was requested to endorse a new venue and schedule for the next SRP Plenary Meeting and General Assembly.
- It was noted that IFC has agreed, in principle, to host the SRP event in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. A recommended date will be announced after consultation with partners.
- SV agreed that SRP readiness will be most crucial, therefore, the timeline must be realistic.
- A consensus was reached to approve Cambodia as the new venue.

[Action 10: WE to consult partners, inform IRRI of the decision, and confirm new schedule]

7. Next meeting

- LLP was asked to launch a Doodle poll for the period 1-14 September.

[Action 11: LLP to launch a Doodle poll for next meeting asap]

8. Any other business

MR thanked participants for their contributions; the meeting was adjourned at 17:05 SE Asia Standard Time.

W W Ellis

10 July 2018, Bangkok

Annexes

Annex 1: Meeting Report – Advisory Committee Meeting 3-18 30 May 2018

Annex 2: Secretariat Report (June 2018)

Annex 3: SRP Financial Statement Q2 2018

Annex 4: Revised Communication Strategy

Annex 5: Strategic Visioning – Final Outcome Document RMJ

Annex 6: Draft Transition Plan

Annex 7: Recommendations from informal member meeting 19 June, London

Annex 8: Proposal for SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly