

Sustainable Rice Platform

The Future of Rice: Partnerships for Sustainability

4th Annual Plenary Meeting and Stakeholder Dialogue

27-28 October, 2014

Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok

Executive Summary / Key Outcomes

Since the 2013 Plenary, SRP has progressed on several fronts- institutionally, in development of the SRP standard and indicators, through wider collaboration with IRRI, and in enhanced recognition by the international stakeholder community. Membership has grown; several external projects are in progress and new partnerships are developing, aimed at upscaling SRP activities.

The 4th SRP Annual Plenary and Stakeholder Dialogue: “The Future of Rice”, held in Bangkok, was attended by 115 delegates from 22 countries, representing a range of stakeholder groups, including development partners and the diplomatic community. All presentations are available at the SRP website, including those from a Special Symposium: “Mainstreaming Sustainable Rice: Rice Supply Chain Transformation” co-convened by Kellogg’s and SRP on 30 October as part of the 4th International Rice Congress 2014.

Key outcomes:

Progress accomplished by SRP members and the Secretariat over the past 11 months include the following key outcomes:

- 10 new SRP members since 2013
- Draft SRP Standard and Performance indicators for Sustainable Rice Cultivation announced
- Several private sector members declared their commitment to pilot the SRP standard
- SRP now participates as a partner in externally-funded pipeline projects (CCAC, SDC) with potential to broaden impact and upscale SRP
- SRP is supporting proposals for GEF funding for climate-smart agriculture projects in several countries, and is seeking new institutional funding to upscale its outreach effort.
- Increased stakeholder visibility as part of presentations at international conferences including the 4th International Rice Congress.
- Agreement between UNEP and IRRI to enhance institutional cooperation on SRP.

Next steps for standard development:

The SRP Standard and Performance Indicators are at an advanced stage of development, led by Aidenvironment, UTZ Certified and IRRI, and supported by the Secretariat. A final draft will be released for field testing by SRP members in the coming months following finalization of additional supporting elements:

1. **SRP draft Standard:** with 3 levels of performance, a scoring and classification system and an improved reference between each requirement and its intended impact;
2. **SRP Performance Indicators:** with quantitative indicators and scorecards in line with the standard;
3. **Standard testing and verification protocol:** including user guidelines, reporting framework and feedback questionnaire;
4. **Performance indicators testing protocol:** including user guidelines, reporting framework and feedback questionnaire; user guidelines will include sampling approaches and baseline studies.
5. **Field support strategy:** this defines the roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat and SRP members in coordinating, implementing and supporting field implementation.

A 2-day consultation workshop for SRP members will be held in Bangkok on 16-17 February 2015 to discuss the Standard, indicators and implementation protocol. The final draft will be announced in March 2015 via a Press Release to be disseminated via the networks of all members as well as UN media channels.

UNEP and SRP have agreed to absorb additional expenditures incurred by Aidenvironment and UTZ Certified in completing these actions as a matter of urgency. Thereafter, the commitment of members to participate meaningfully in the implementation phase will be crucial to success, through both in-kind and cash support for implementation.

Action points for members

SRP members are encouraged to pay special attention and provide feedback via the Secretariat on the following matters:

1. Feedback on the content of the draft Standard
2. Institutional commitment to field-testing the SRP standard
3. Interest in participating in the forthcoming Standards and Indicators Workshop to be held in Bangkok on 16-17 February 2015 (space will be limited to 25 participants).
4. Other questions and recommendations.