

## Advisory Committee Meeting 5/18 Interim Board Meeting 1/18

10 September 2018, 15:00-17:00 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/636026349>

### Participants

Ha Chu (HC)	Bayer	Elizabeth Hernandez (EH)	Corteva Agriscience
Devi Kusumaningtyas (DK)	Corteva Agriscience	Diederik Pretorius (DP)	Ebro Foods
Matthias Bickel (MB)	GIZ	Suriyan Vichitlekarn (SV)	GIZ
Jackie Hughes (JH)	IRRI	Huynh Van Thon (HVT)	Loc Troi Group
Jai Sheel Oberoi (JSO)	LT Foods	Luc Beerens (LB)	Mars Food
Paul Nicholson (PN)	Olam International	Mark Radka (MR)	UN Environment
James Lomax (JL)	UN Environment	Hammad Naqi Khan (HNK)	WWF Pakistan
Rab Nawaz (RN)	WWF Pakistan	Wyn Ellis (WE)	SRP Secretariat
Lea Las Piñas (LLP)	SRP Secretariat	Peter Sprang (PS)	SRP Secretariat
Charlie Butcher (CB)	Syngenta		

### Apologies

Christ Vansteenkiste (CV)	Rikolto	Ladda Viriyangkura (LV)	Thai Rice Department
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## Meeting Report

### 1. Chairperson's remarks

- The joint Advisory Committee meeting 5/18 and Interim Board 1/18 was called to order at 15:04 SE Asia Standard Time. MR invited JSO to make some opening remarks as the nominated Chair of the Interim Board.
- JS stated he was honoured by the nomination, and expressed his commitment to working with the Interim Board to oversee implementation of the recommendations of the Strategic Visioning Exercise in order to drive SRP's success. He noted that discussions have taken place since the Visioning Exercise which should provide additional information to formulate options and enable clear decisions to be validated at the forthcoming Annual Plenary and General Assembly.
- In MB's view, SRP's top priority must now be to operationalize the Interim Board and take pressing decisions resulting from the Strategic Visioning Exercise.
- WE noted that the Interim Board (as per Annex 7) includes all members of the Advisory Committee and should be viewed as an expanded AC, offering broader member representation.
- The IB's composition was agreed, including current representation of the Thai Rice Department.

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

- The draft report of the last Advisory Committee meeting (4/18) held on 4 July 2018 was approved without amendment and will be posted to the Members' Area.
- The agenda of meeting 5/18 as circulated was adopted unanimously.

## 3. Secretariat Report (Annexes 2-5)

- The Secretariat (WE, LLP, JL and PS) provided updates on operations, priority issues, key events and Working Group activities. Key points were as follows:
  - Secretariat operations: WE reported the Secretariat's recent priorities have been on finance, strategy, supporting Working Group 3, and development of project proposals, including the GEF-7 Inclusive Rice Landscapes Global Impact Programme. Finance, in particular, requires closer monitoring of member contributions to support Secretariat operations. Additional Secretariat capacity has been provided to SRP by GIZ, with Sandra Khananusit devoting 50% of her time to leading revision of the SRP Standard and supporting WG3 work products, and Joren de Neve (GIZ intern) joining for 6 months to support development of communications materials. WE expressed appreciation to GIZ for this invaluable support.
  - Social media outreach and new short videos: Following the SRP Communication Strategy, a social media outreach activity is now being implemented in collaboration with SRP members with strong online following in five (5) priority countries (Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam). Details of the planned activity are provided in Annex 3. EH (who was formerly a Facebook executive) recommended training to boost SRP's social media profile, its footprint and interactivity. DK inquired about content development, which is guided by a social media editorial calendar. To encourage members to disseminate SRP-related content more widely, SRP has curated a collection of publicly available creative materials via Trello board. In addition, new video materials are being developed, all to be finalized by the Plenary.
  - UN Environment-led projects: WE reported new projects contributing to SRP upscaling. NORAD has agreed in principle to support a proposed Climate-Smart Rice project in Myanmar (with Helvetas and Prime Agri) and budget negotiations are expected to be finalized soon. JL reported that a CCAC-funded scoping study is also being conducted in collaboration with IRRI with a view to developing a larger project proposal for funding by the Global Climate Fund.
  - New WG3 work products: Revision process of the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators is being led by Sandra Khananusit (GIZ), for launch of version 2.0 at the Plenary. The SRP Assurance Framework will be further revised after receiving new feedback. Also, to ensure robust and quality SRP training, GIZ is preparing to submit a proposal for an official SRP curriculum and integrated training programme.

## 4. SRP Assurance Framework (Annex 6)

- The Advisory Committee meeting 4-18 resolved to invite GLOBALG.A.P. to submit a costed proposal to manage implementation of the SRP Assurance Framework as SRP's first Assurance Service Provider.

- A proposal was subsequently received and reviewed by WG3, and revised by GLOBALG.A.P. following feedback from Working Group members. PS presented the proposal as well as the WG3's analysis and recommendations. It was noted that in addition to operating the GLOBALG.A.P. programme itself, GLOBALG.A.P. also manages over 30 proprietary standards under the roles of the respective scheme owners (e.g. supermarkets, Alliance for Water Stewardship et al). As an active member of Working Group 3 since January 2017, GLOBALG.A.P. is familiar with the SRP, its aims and goals.
- LB requested clarification on producer fees. PS clarified that these are fees to be paid by farmers to verification/certification bodies (auditors) and not fees paid to SRP. The cost model for producers wishing to participate in the SRP assurance scheme will be determined by SRP itself, not GLOBALG.A.P. LB further inquired if such fees are negotiated between a verification body and contracting company, which could result in reduced cost for more audits. JSO expressed the view that small producers should be incentivized rather than required to pay. PS noted that the SRP model could indeed adopt a 'no producer fee' model for small farmers. Options for fee models will be discussed and negotiated as part of the development phase.
- RB inquired if other proposals should be considered, to which PS explained that additional Assurance Service Providers may in future submit proposals since the SRP Assurance Framework does not exclude other providers. CB asked which Standard will serve as the basis, to which PS responded that the SRP Standard (not the GLOBALG.A.P. Standard) will serve as the foundation of the SRP Assurance Framework and its implementation.
- JSO underscored the need to clarify non-exclusivity. WE confirmed that full exclusivity will not be granted to GLOBALG.A.P.
- MR highlighted options to proceed as follows; a) Approve the proposal; b) Find competitive proposals; and c) Review the proposal and negotiate with GLOBALG.A.P.
- LB stressed the urgency to respond to GLOBALG.A.P. in order to maintain confidence and ensure a viable Assurance Framework can be developed in the remaining 4 months ahead of the scheme's planned launch at the Plenary.
- LB proposed that SRP proceed with GLOBALG.A.P. for an agreed initial period, followed by a review and if needed, a re-negotiation. This was seconded by SV and it was agreed to proceed, subject to further negotiation.

**[Action 1: Secretariat to circulate summary of discussion with feedback]**

## **5. SRP 8<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting and General Assembly**

- WE confirmed the final date and venue as 22-23 January 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- The event will be organized together with the International Finance Corporation and will include a national-level event and a field visit to nearby rice-growing area of Battambang, where SRP-related projects have been implemented.
- A new Conference steering committee will be convened to provide guidance and oversight of planning of the SRP 8<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting and General Assembly as well as the Second Global Sustainable Rice Conference in Q4 2019. CB expressed interest to participate in this steering committee.

**[Action 2: Secretariat to convene a Conference steering committee]**

## 6. SRP Strategic Visioning Exercise

- WE provided an overview of the SRP Strategic Visioning Exercise and its outcomes. In order to implement these outcomes and recommendations, a draft transition plan has been developed as a basis for the work of the Interim Board in the coming months.
- Identification of a legal entity for SRP was one of the key recommendations emerging from the consultation. A joint proposal by UN Environment and IRRI was presented by JH, proposing that SRP be established as an autonomous Foundation as a subsidiary of the IRRI Foundation Singapore. This would grant full autonomy to SRP in the form of a multi-stakeholder board, and a vehicle that could undertake key functions such as a Treasury function, ability to hold IP and other assets, litigate and provide tax-exemption for member contributions. She highlighted that IRRI legal Counsel has been consulted, and a number of clarifications remain to be made e.g. in terms of compliance with national law and the relationship with the Secretariat based at UN Environment in Bangkok.
- Within the context of SRP as a UN Environment project, PN enquired the level of negotiations and decisions that the Interim Board can enter into in relation to the possible agreement between the co-convenors.
- JL remarked that from a legal perspective, the SRP is hosted by UN Environment, the project's core is the 'wide-scale promotion of sustainable best practices'.
- To allow members to further review the proposal and foster continuing discussion, MR recommended that the written proposal be circulated among IB members. New subgroups could then be formed to conduct parallel discussion on different fronts.

**[Action 3: JH to circulate the UN Environment and IRRI proposal to the IB for decision at next meeting]**

## 7. Next meeting

- PN recommended that AC meetings may be held separately from IB meetings. However, no resolution was made on this. JSO proposed that in view of the tasks ahead, IB meetings be held at 6-week intervals or more frequently as needed.

**[Action 4: LLP to conduct a Doodle poll to identify preferred dates for next meeting].**

MR thanked all participants, and the meeting was adjourned at 17:20 SE Asia Standard Time.

W W Ellis  
16 September 2018, Bangkok

## **Annexes**

- Annex 1: Meeting Report – Advisory Committee Meeting 4-18 4 July 2018
- Annex 2: Secretariat Report (July-August 2018)
- Annex 3: SRP Social Media Outreach Action Plan
- Annex 4: Draft Protocol for Establishing SRP National Chapters
- Annex 5: Draft Protocol for Developing SRP National Interpretation Guidelines
- Annex 6: GLOBALG.A.P. Proposal, Analysis and Recommendations
- Annex 7: Interim Board Composition, Roles and Responsibilities
- Annex 8: Draft Transition Plan
- Annex 9: SRP AC IB Comments on GLOBALG.A.P. proposal