Overview of the SRP Internal Management System Standard
July 2021

Why are Internal Management Systems important?

An Internal Management System (IMS) is a set of procedures and processes to be implemented by a producer group to ensure and demonstrate that it can achieve specified requirements.

Under the SRP Assurance Scheme, **producer groups must establish an IMS to provide transparent oversight and ensure with confidence that all individual producers within the group meet the requirements of the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation**. The IMS plays a vital role in supporting learning for individual producers, to achieve higher levels of compliance against the SRP Standard over time.

Having a functioning IMS allows the SRP's Assurance Service Provider to delegate inspection of individual group members to an identified body within the group (e.g., IMS Team/Manager) for an effective and streamlined assurance system.

The SRP IMS Standard

The SRP IMS Standard for Producer Groups operating under the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation sets out the formal requirements used by internal and external auditors to assess compliance of the IMS, and against which the IMS can evaluate itself.

The IMS Standard comprises 14 requirements under the responsibility of the IMS Team/Manager. All requirements have several possible levels of compliance and allow for stepwise compliance to encourage and reward progress toward full compliance.

The SRP Assurance Scheme

- The SRP Assurance Scheme is the world's first and only sustainability management system that links buyers in global markets to rice producers who manage their land and production in a sustainable manner.

- The Scheme is based on the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation, the only voluntary sustainability standard developed specifically for rice and underpinned by science-based, proven best practices.

- For producer groups implementing the SRP Standard, the Scheme requires producer group self-management and internal control mechanisms following the SRP Internal Management System Standard.

- The Scheme is complemented by the SRP Chain of Custody Standard for supply chain traceability.

Figure 1. Requirements Under the SRP IMS Standard

1) Legality, establishment and organization of IMS	2) Impartiality	3) Producer list	4) Producers agreements	5) Gender equality	6) Risk assessment	7) Internal inspection
8) Approval and sanction system	9) Self-evaluation	10) Group management plan	11) Chain of Custody Requirements	12) Complaint management	13) Service providers	14) Claims and use of SRP-Verified Label

The total score against the IMS Standard is presented on a 0-100 scale. This score is based on the total number of points scored, divided by the maximum achievable number of points (42), multiplied by 100. The essential compliance level (threshold) for each requirement in the IMS Standard is indicated by an asterisk (*) next to the corresponding level of compliance.

Eligibility for the claim of sustainable rice cultivation is achieved with a minimum score of 90% against the SRP Standard and a minimum score of 75% against the SRP IMS Standard (while meeting all thresholds) by producer group members externally verified.

Learn more

Download the SRP Internal Management System (IMS) *Standard* for Producer Groups operating under the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation.

See the SRP Internal Management System (IMS) *Guidelines* for Producer Groups for supplementary guidance to producer groups on the proper function of the IMS to ensure effective and transparent organisation and management of the group.

A list of approved Verification Bodies (VBs) to conduct external verifications of producer groups is available at: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/sustainable-rice-plattform.

Contact us by email at info@sustainablerice.org or visit our website at www.sustainablerice.org.