

11. OVERVIEW OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder Engagement in Normative Tools Development and Revision

SRP tools are designed and regularly updated through a collaborative consultative process involving extensive engagement with key stakeholders. The development process generally involves support and expertise from working groups, and concurrently retains consultation with SRP members. Further information relating to stakeholder engagement for each key SRP tool is provided below.

SRP Standard and Performance Indicators

The SRP Standard and Performance Indicators were developed over a two-year period with broad participation across the stakeholder spectrum. The first public version of the SRP Standard v 1.0 and Performance Indicators v. 1.0 were released for field-testing in October 2015. SRP members and stakeholders conducted pilots using the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators with farmers in diverse agro-ecological contexts over a period of one to two crop seasons.

To address issues identified during the field pilots and improve the utility of the tools, SRP held a Standard and Performance Indicators Revision Workshop in August 2017 and subsequently opened an online public consultation for additionally proposed changes, following ISEAL Guidelines. Over 400 comments were assessed and incorporated during December 2017 to November 2018, led by the SRP Working Group on Farmer Support, Performance Measurement, and Assurance.¹

The resulting SRP Standard v 2.0 and Performance Indicators v 2.0 were launched in January 2019, followed by a minor revision to the currently used Version 2.1 for both tools.

SRP Assurance Scheme and Chain of Custody Standard

Development of the Assurance Scheme and Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard was also led by the SRP Working Group on Standards, Assurance and Impact.² The Working Group convened in February 2017 and in May 2017 to discuss the broad framework and scope of the Scheme, including rules and processes for accreditation of certification bodies, auditor qualifications and group internal control systems.

Following the recommendations of a SRP Strategic Visioning Workshop in May 2018 the focus of the Assurance Scheme shifted from certification to verification.

GLOBALG.A.P. provided further technical specification in 2019, resulting in an updated draft that was published for a 30-day online public consultation during March–April 2020. Over 200 comments were received; responses were incorporated in the current SRP Assurance Scheme Version 1.3 as endorsed by the SRP Board in August 2020.

¹ Africa Rice Center, Croplife Asia, Ebro Foods, GIZ, GLOBALG.A.P., Mars Food, PRIME Agri, Rikolto, Syngenta, Van Sillevoldt Rijst, WCS Cambodia, Winrock, WWF Pakistan, together with IRRI technical experts

² Control Union, Ebro Foods, GIZ, GLOBALG.A.P., IRRI, Mars Food, Preferred by Nature (NEPCon), PRIME Agri, Rikolto, Syngenta, UNEP, UTZ, Van Sillevoldt Rijst, WCS Cambodia, Winrock and WWF Pakistan

The SRP Chain of Custody Policy and Standard was subsequently prepared by an SRP expert group led by Control Union and Preferred by Nature (NEPCon). Development of the Policy and Standard was supported by a Chain of Custody Task Force following extensive consultation with SRP members and external stakeholders, with a key contribution from GLOBALG.A.P, as SRP's Assurance Service Provider (ASP).

SRP Internal Management System (IMS) Standard

In order to enable producer groups to measure improvement and compliance with the requirements under the SRP Standard, the IMS Standard was first drafted in 2017 by UTZ and reviewed by the SRP Working Group on Standards, Assurance and Impact, based on the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation v 1.0.

In 2019, GLOBALG.A.P., SRP's Assurance Service Provider (ASP), revised the document to improve alignment with the SRP Assurance Scheme. The text was subsequently further revised by Preferred by Nature (NEPCon), a member of SRP, and separated into two documents based on their respective target audiences: SRP IMS Standard and SRP IMS Guidelines.

Stakeholder Engagement in SRP Theory of Change Development

2018: Visioning – Positioning the Sustainable Rice Platform to Transform the Global Rice Sector

The SRP engaged an independent consultancy (Rogers MacJohn LLC) to facilitate a Strategic Visioning exercise and generate recommendations for a clarified direction for the organization. Structured interviews were conducted with 29 SRP members and stakeholders³ to formulate hypotheses for SRP's vision and strategic priorities. The hypotheses were refined and expanded through an online survey of all 84 SRP members at that time.

SRP then followed up with a 2-day Visioning Workshop held in Bangkok in May 2018, to review candidate vision statements. The draft formulations were tested and new formulations proposed. A vision statement and the first iteration of an SRP theory of change was agreed by stakeholders at the workshop. Attendees included the two co-chair organizations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Advisory Committee (AC) members, private and public funders of the SRP, as well as technical experts from Oxfam and UTZ.

2019 - 2020: From Vision to Field

Resulting from the visioning exercise, SRP announced its revised vision, mission and goals in 2019. These aspects are highlighted in the Articles of Association of the SRP e.V. (2019) in the SRP's transition from a voluntary partnership hosted by UNEP to an independent registered legal entity incorporated under German Law.

³ R&D (IRRI); Input suppliers (BASF, Bayer, DowDupont, Jebsen&Jebsen, Syngenta); Producers/exporters (Ebro, Kellogg, Loc Troi, LT Foods, Mars, Olam, SunRice, Tilda, Van Sillevoldt Rijst, Veetee, Westmill); NGOs (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Oxfam, Rikolto, UTZ, WWF); Government (GIZ, Thai Rice Department); Other (International Finance Corporation, UN Environment, Petersen Consulting, The Rice Trader)

Our vision is to “Feed the world. Sustainably”, transforming the global rice sector through an alliance that links research, production, policy making, trade and consumption. The vision articulates a new norm in rice, where the sector delivers healthy, high-quality, nutritious rice to consumers, helps farmers achieve better lives, and protects the environment.

Our mission is to catalyze global rice sector transformation by developing tools and mobilizing rice stakeholders to promote on-farm adoption of sustainable best practice, link farmers to markets and offer an objective normative basis for policymaking.

Our goal is to reach one million farmers adopting climate-smart, sustainable best practice by 2023- by developing tools to promote on-farm adoption of proven technologies; by linking farmers to markets; and by supporting market actors with tools to support sustainable procurement, de-risk their supply chains and communicate achievements transparently.

A roadmap was also developed for implementing the strategic direction over the coming five years (SRP Five Year Strategic Plan 2021-2025).

2021: Completing the SRP Theory of Change

In January 2021, SRP formed a Monitoring & Evaluation Committee, whose responsibility includes finalizing a theory of change and supporting development of data and monitoring systems for the organization. The new Committee will grow to a maximum 7 representatives, including Full Members, Observers and (at the Committee's discretion) external experts as dialogue partners on a pro bono basis.

In April 2021, the new Committee held an online workshop, facilitated by an external expert, on to identify gaps in the first version of theory of change and plan for further stakeholder consultations; plan for the development of a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system; and plan for a database for activity and impact reporting. As a result of the workshop, a draft SRP Theory of Change v 2.0 was developed.

Agreed next steps are to expand participation and stakeholder engagement in the process are described in the table below.

Timeline	Activities
June 2021	Conduct 1 st virtual workshop on SRP Theory of Change (and MEL system) with a full M&E Committee plus interested stakeholders
	Present draft SRP Theory of Change (Version 2.0) to SRP Board
July 2021	Share draft SRP Theory of Change (and draft MEL system) with SRP members and stakeholders as part of open consultation
	Compile and address comments received
August 2021	Compile and address comments from ISEAL (if application proceeds)
	Conduct 2 nd virtual workshop to present the proposed SRP Theory of Change (and MEL system) to SRP members and stakeholders, and collect final inputs
September 2021	Finalize and publish SRP Theory of Change (and MEL system) and upload on SRP website for public access.

SRP encourages stakeholder input at any time on the SRP and SRP workstreams. If you are interested in understanding how to be involved or provide input on SRP processes, please email info@sustainablerice.org.

Annex: 11a. [SRP Membership Programme Manual v 1.0](#)