



Statistics Committee
17th Meeting
25 September 2019
London, United Kingdom

**Delta Project Report: Update and Call for
Members to identify representatives and
review Sustainability Performance Indicators**

Background

1. At its 121st Session in Mexico City, Mexico, the International Coffee Council approved the establishment of a working group to support and monitor the implementation of the Delta Project on Bridging the Gap of Measuring Sustainability Performance. The Working Group is the platform to seek and consolidate views of the ICO Membership to provide input for the development of sustainability performance indicators that would allow measurement of the impact of sustainability for the coffee sector. The terms of reference detailing the activities to be carried out by the Working Group are contained in Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainability Performance Indicators, document [PJ-126/16](#).
2. The objective of the Delta Project is to develop a commonly agreed sustainability performance measurement and reporting framework for the agricultural component of the value chain. The framework will include a set of outcome and output indicators that will measure sustainability and track the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) commitments by the public and private sectors across several agricultural commodities. This framework is not intended to cover the entire value chain, which should be the focus of later work, but instead harmonizes reporting on sustainability in agricultural commodities.
3. Members are invited to nominate an expert to be a member of the Working Group to review a proposed set of performance indicators and meet in person or online on 7 November 2019 in London to approve the final indicator set. The attached document contains an update on the Delta Project including proposed impact focus areas.

Action

Members are invited to propose nominees by submitting an email to stats@ico.org, by 17 October 2019.

DELTA SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK ON BRIDGING THE GAP OF MEASURING SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE

1.1 Background

The Delta Project on Bridging the Gap of Measuring Sustainability Performance aims to develop a framework to support cotton and coffee stakeholders measuring, monitoring and reporting progress towards their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commitments. The 17 SDGs established by the United Nations in 2015 set priorities and aspirations for global actions towards reduced poverty and increased environmental sustainability by 2030. Orienting sustainability measures for the coffee and other agricultural sectors towards the priorities endorsed and established by the SDGs will enhance the opportunities to adopt a language and a purpose that is shared across the public and private sectors and to forge new partnerships to achieve the common goal of a sustainable global agricultural sector.

1.2 Scope, objectives and intended uses

The Delta Sustainability Framework will propose a core set of farm-level, outcome/impact indicators across the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. The indicators are intended to be applied worldwide to any cotton or coffee farming system. Further, they would bear the potential to be expanded to other (agricultural) commodities over time, such as cocoa, soy, palm oil and sugar. The framework covers only the agricultural component of the targeted supply chains.

The development and adoption of the framework is expected to strengthen collaboration within and across sectors; to increase credibility and transparency of agricultural production standards; and to improve data quality while reducing the effort and cost of data collection.

Potential intended uses of the impact data generated through its implementation include:

- National reporting on the commitments set by the SDGs and by the ratification of other relevant international conventions on chemicals, biodiversity and labour rights.
- Evidence-based recommendations to streamline sustainability in agricultural policies.
- Upgrading extension and other services to support continuous improvement at farm level.
- Improve transparency and communication with consumers on the actual value of sustainably produced goods.
- Strengthen business opportunities for sustainable value chains.

1.3 Process to develop the Delta Sustainability Framework

The Delta Sustainability Framework will build on the work already done by several commodity platforms and initiatives to define and harmonise sector-wide sustainability priorities and indicators, and in particular on the Coffee Data Standard developed by the Global Coffee Platform (GCP) and the Guidance Framework on Measuring Sustainability in Cotton Farming Systems developed by the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC). Consultations on sustainability priorities and metrics with the members of intergovernmental organizations, namely ICO and ICAC, UN agencies such as FAO, WHO, ILO, OECD, UN Environment; brand and retailers and other commodity boards are ongoing and will continue for the remaining part of the year. The set of impact and outcome indicators will be field tested in 2020 in two countries and refined by integrating the feedback from the field in 2021.

1.4 Sustainability impact focus area

As a first step in the development of the indicator set, a research study was carried out to assess what common ground already exists in terms of impact focus areas and related indicators across and within the coffee and cotton sectors. The research study covered 27 frameworks between commodity-specific and general sustainability initiatives (listed in Annex I). As a result, 15 impact focus areas across the three sustainability pillars emerged as common, core aspects of sustainability in the production of cotton and coffee (Table 1 below). This table shows the links between the impact focus areas and specific SDGs.

1.5 Next steps

Members are being asked to nominate members for the working group that have knowledge and expertise in monitoring and measuring economic, environmental and social sustainability of agricultural production. Representation from a broad cross section of the coffee sector, including academia, will be an asset to the working group. A separate communication will be issued on the process for nominating Members.

Once membership of the Working Group has been established, complete documentation on the methodology for selecting indicators as well as the proposed set of indicators will be shared with ICO Members as well as the Working Group. An in-person/online workshop will be held on 7 November where the Working Group will provide feedback on the proposed set of sustainability indicators that will be recommended to the ICO. A table with this timeline is contained in Annex II.

Table 1
Impact focus areas and sub-areas derived from the initiatives mapping exercise

SDGs	Pillar	Impact focus area	Impact focus sub-area
12, 3, 6, 13, 15	Environment	Pest and Pesticide Management Water Management Soil Management Biodiversity and Land Use Climate Change and energy use	Pesticide management Pest Management Water quality Water use Soil conservation Soil erosion Fertilizer use Land conversion Biodiversity conservation Energy use/ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Farmers' adaptation to climate change
1, 10	Economic	Economic Viability Economic resilience Poverty line Living conditions	Income Profit Productivity Price Debts Asset Yield volatility Price volatility Payments Credits Poverty reduction Access to drinking water, electricity, sanitation
2, 8, 10	Social	Decent work Child labour Worker Health and Safety Equity and Gender Labour rights Food security	Wages Pensions Social protection Child labour/forced labour Children at school Fatalities and non -fatal accidents Health care facilities Water/sanitation Women empowerment Indigenous people No discrimination Democratic organisations Freedom of association Access to food

List of initiatives reviewed

1. 4C Association
2. Better Cotton Initiative
3. Committee on Sustainability Assessment (COSA)
4. Cotton Connect / REEL code
5. Cotton LEADS
6. Cotton Made in Africa (CmiA) & CmiA Organic
7. Fairtrade Foundation (Certified Cotton Mark) and Fairtrade Coffee
8. Fairtrade Foundation (Fairtrade Cotton Sourcing Program™)
9. Forum for the Future - Cotton 2040
10. Global Coffee Platform/ Coffee Data Standard
11. Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
12. HERproject™ - empowered women
13. IFOAM Organic 3.0
14. ISEAL Common Core Indicators
15. Living Income Community of Practice
16. My Best Management Practices (MyBMP)
17. Organic Cotton Accelerator
18. Organimark
19. Rainforest Alliance – UTZ
20. Responsible Brazilian Cotton (ABR)
21. Responsible Sourcing Network (RSN)'s YESS (Yarn Ethically and Sustainably Sourced)
Cotton Lint Standard
22. Sedex and Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Collaboration
23. ICAC SEEP Expert Panel
24. Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) project on forced labour alignment
25. Sustainable Coffee Challenge (SCC)
26. Textile Exchange - Organic Content Standards (OCS)
27. World Fair Trade Organization (Asia)

ANNEX II

Action	Deadline
Deadline to submit nominations for the Working Group	17 October 2019
Documents on methodology and proposed set of indicators circulated to members of the Working Group	22 October 2019
Workshop to provide feedback on the proposed indicators	7 November 2019