



# Sustainable Rice Platform

## Service information

### What is Sustainable Rice Platform?

The Sustainable Rice Platform e.V. (SRP) is a global multi-stakeholder alliance established in December 2011. Originally co-convened by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), SRP is now an independent membership association.

Together with its over 100 institutional members from public and private sector stakeholders, research, financial institutions and NGOs, SRP aims to transform the global rice sector. SRP offers the global rice supply chain a set of instruments to facilitate wide-scale adoption of sustainable best practices in the global rice sector:

1. [SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation](#)
2. [SRP Performance Indicators for Sustainable Rice Cultivation](#)
3. [SRP Assurance Scheme](#)
4. [SRP Chain of Custody \(CoC\) Policy and Standard](#)

*Click [here](#) to access SRP's other key resources.*

The SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation is developed specifically to address some of the main issues concerning rice cultivation, composed into eight major themes:

#### Farm Management

Crop calendar  
Record keeping  
Training

#### Preplanting

Heavy metals  
Soil salinity  
Land conversion and biodiversity  
Invasive species  
Levelling  
Pure seed quality

#### Water Use

Water management  
Irrigation system at community level  
Inbound water quality  
Groundwater extraction  
Drainage

#### Nutrient Management

Nutrient management (organic and/or inorganic)  
Organic fertiliser choice  
Inorganic fertiliser choice

#### Integrated Pest Management

Weeds  
Insects  
Diseases  
Molluscs  
Rodents  
Birds

#### Harvest and Postharvest

Timing of harvest  
Harvest equipment  
Drying time  
Drying technique  
Rice storage  
Rice stubble  
Rice straw

#### Health and Safety

Safety instructions  
Tools and equipment  
Training of pesticide applicators  
Personal protective equipment  
Washing and changing  
Applicator restrictions  
Re-entry time  
Pesticide and chemical storage  
Pesticide disposal

#### Labour rights

Child labour  
Hazardous work  
Education  
Forced labour  
Discrimination  
Freedom of association  
Wages

### Who can use the Standard on Sustainable Rice Cultivation?

The [SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation](#) applies to all farm-level processes in rice production, including postharvest processes under the farmer's control. The Standard can be applied by individual farmers, smallholder farmer groups, as well as larger farms, and focus on ensuring relevance, practicality and impact, especially for smallholder farmers in developing countries. To measure the sustainability improvements as a result from changes in farm practices, SRP designed the [SRP Performance Indicators for Sustainable Rice Cultivation](#). The Performance Indicators (PIs) complement the normative guidance provided by the Standard by offering a framework for benchmarking and monitoring impacts on-farm adoption of sustainable best practices.

If applied by a smallholder farmer group or group of growers, the Standard requires an internal management system (IMS) to support farmers in implementing the Standard, measuring results and identifying measures for continuous improvement. The [SRP Internal Management System Standard for Producer Groups](#) applies. There is also the [SRP Internal Management System Guidelines for Producer Groups](#) as guidance for group administrator to functioning the IMS.



### **What does the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation focus on?**

SRP's Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation is the world's first voluntary sustainability standard for rice production – developed over a 2-year period with broad stakeholder participation. It is used as an inclusive tool for practitioners in public and private sectors to drive wide-scale adoption of climate-smart sustainability best practices among rice smallholders. The Standard contains 41 requirements structured under 8 themes, each aimed at achieving a specific sustainability impact. It is designed for farm-level impact at producer level, each requirement is relevant, practical and under the farmer's control. The SRP Standard is complemented by a set of 12 quantitative PIs.

### **What are the objectives of the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation?**

The SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation supports two objectives:

- It recognises that improving sustainability performance is a journey that itself deserves recognition. However, improvement must be ongoing to maintain a claim of improvement.
- It enables users to claim level of performance. To support this claim, the SRP has defined for each requirement an essential performance level that should be achieved before a claim can be made. This is indicated for each requirement by an asterisk (\*) next to the level of performance. The SRP also recognises that some flexibility in performance should be allowed, taking into account the different contexts, farmer capacities and priorities.

### **What is the SRP Performance Indicators for Sustainable Rice Cultivation?**

The performance indicators are designed to complement the Standard by measuring changes resulting from adoption of on-farm sustainable rice cultivation. By identifying 'hotspots', the indicators enable users to monitor impacts of adopting climate-smart best practices – as well as other field interventions such as trainings. These tools are being used to develop an evidence base to measure the effectiveness of recommended practices, and to serve as a basis to develop sector-wide benchmarks.

Used together, the SRP Standard and Indicators offer an objective 'working definition' of sustainability that can serve as a normative basis for monitoring and evaluation, policy-making, as well as a benchmark for supply chain assurance schemes.

### **What about the SRP Assurance Scheme?**

The SRP Assurance Scheme defines rules for actors engaged in measuring compliance or demonstrating improvements, providing demonstrable evidence of compliance with the SRP Standard, PIs and the use of SRP trademarks (Claims, Logos or Label) upon achieving assurance.

The [SRP Assurance Scheme](#) came into force in September 2020, replacing all previous versions. The Scheme offers three assurance levels to accommodate a wide range of production modalities, and includes farmer registration in a central SRP database, self-assessments and verification of farmer groups through internal control systems.

### **What does the SRP Assurance process entail?**

The SRP Assurance Scheme focuses on Verification, is built on a strong internal assessment, and provides registration and self-assessment as a starting point. The SRP Assurance Scheme encourages innovative remote/landscape assessments, participatory schemes, individual producer assessments and producer group schemes using IMS. Verification can be carried out by second or third-party verification bodies whose auditors fulfil the qualification requirements.

In order to promote SRP's aim to drive wide-scale adoption of the Standard and PIs in a value-chain that has limited resources to pay for verification, the Scheme does not include certification for now but focuses on self-assessment and verification by second and third parties. There are three levels of assurance offered under the SRP Assurance Scheme. This way, producers may opt for the level that suits their needs best.



SRP Standard	SRP Indicators	SRP Assurance Scheme	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Doing the good practices	Measuring the right effects	Verifying the good practices	Self-assessment	2 <sup>nd</sup> -party verification	3 <sup>rd</sup> -party verification

  

Assurance Level	Registration	Self-assessment	Second-party verification	Third-party verification
Assurance level 1	X	X	-	-
Assurance level 2	X	X	X	-
Assurance level 3	X	X	-	X

### What is the SRP Chain of Custody (CoC) Policy and Standard?

A chain of custody verification is needed to support traceability of commercial rice from shelf to the source of production. The [SRP Chain of Custody Policy and Standard](#) is intended to be used in conjunction with the SRP Standard, Assurance Scheme and PIs to enable market actors to make verifiable sustainability claims for rice produced using proven, climate-smart, sustainable best practices. The Standard specifies requirements for all Chain of Custody-verified and applicant organisations with respect to sourcing, processing, labelling and sale of rice-based products as SRP-Verified.

All organisations in the supply chain – from farmer to the entity implementing final packaging of products carrying an SRP claim – shall be covered by the SRP CoC verification system, to be managed by an SRP-approved CoC verification body.

### Why should rice farmers join the SRP?

SRP directly addresses greenhouse gas emission reductions in rice fields. Smallholder farmers can achieve social and economic benefits when applying SRP practices due to the reduced consumption of fertilisers, efficient water drainage, and other cost-saving measures. These benefits may allow SRP models to commercialise without requiring significant financial support more quickly during incubation stages.

There is also consumer demand for SRP-produced and SRP-verified rice. Initial findings from a focus group in Vietnam demonstrate a willingness of consumers within domestic and international markets to pay a premium of 18% for SRP-Verified rice. Multinational corporations have committed to buying SRP-verified rice and have set target percentages for the share of rice that is SRP-verified in their supply chains.

### What is the cost structure?

The total verification cost consists of the costs related to the auditing services and the SRP Programme Fee. The auditing fee depends on the size and complexity of the company and farm. This is specified in our proposal when you express your interest to be verified by Preferred by Nature.

### What about confidentiality?

The SRP has authorised GLOBALG.A.P. as its Assurance Services Provider (ASP) to manage implementation of the SRP Assurance Scheme, globally. GLOBALG.A.P. will work with local verification bodies in each country and manage the global SRP database.

During registration, applicants provide written permission to GLOBALG.A.P. and the data collectors/verification body to use their registration data for internal processes and any sanctioning procedures. Aside from producer/company data and product & verification data, no other data will be released by the ASP or verification body to any third party without the applicant's prior written consent.