

Approved Subcommittees
Sustainable Agriculture Standards Committee Meeting - May 27-28, 2009

1. Criteria Development – Economic Sustainability

Tasks:

- a) Develop minimum number of specific, measurable criteria that will meet the goals of Economic Sustainability, starting with the Mission & Principles Sustainable Agriculture Document
- b) Select best metrics used in other standards that measure these criteria and clarify what we want to measure if existing metrics are not adequate

* Consider *time-scale, macro factors* (cumulative effects of farming practices), and *impacts of existing and emerging technologies*

2. Criteria Development – Social Sustainability

Tasks:

- a) Develop minimum number of specific, measurable criteria that will meet the goals of Social Sustainability, starting with the Mission & Principles Sustainable Agriculture Document
- b) Select best metrics used in other standards that measure these criteria and clarify what we want to measure if existing metrics are not adequate

* Consider *time-scale, macro factors* (cumulative effects of farming practices), and *impacts of existing and emerging technologies*

3. Criteria Development – Environmental Sustainability

Tasks:

- a) Develop minimum number of specific, measurable criteria that will meet the goals of Environmental Sustainability, starting with the Mission & Principles Sustainable Agriculture Document
 1. Pest Management
 2. Agro-ecology/Soil Management
 3. Water Use Management/Conservation
 4. Integrated Waste Management
 5. Species Diversity
 6. Other issues
- b) Select best metrics used in other standards that measure these criteria and clarify what we want to measure if existing metrics aren't adequate

* Consider *time-scale, macro factors* (cumulative effects of farming practices), and *impacts of existing and emerging technologies*

4. Reference Library and Information

Tasks:

- a) Develop Glossary of Terms – continuing work of Metrics and Methodology Task Force

- b) Build Standards Comparison Database – continuing work of Reference Documents Task Force
- c) Collect and assess quality of metrics from existing standards – continuing work of Metrics and Methodology Task Force
- d) Provide information from input companies that is relevant to standards development
- e) Interface with Regulatory and Agricultural Policy
 1. Government compliance (including food safety)
 2. Import, export, and international trade
 3. Producer incentives and rewards
 4. Discussion of ***how standards will affect other sustainability efforts around the world***

5. Structure and Process of Standard Development

Tasks:

- a) Make recommendations on stakeholder engagement
- b) Make recommendations on collaboration with other efforts
- c) Make recommendations on modular standards development planning (including crop-specific and supply chain modules)
- d) Make recommendations on certification & labeling
- e) Discussion of ***thresholds for sustainability and inclusivity/exclusivity of standards***
- f) Discussion of ***co-existence of different kinds of producers***
- g) Discussion of ***what constitutes scientific evidence***
- h) Farm management plan
- i) Make recommendations on Standards Committee composition
- j) Expedite recommendations about the types of standards to be developed and the level of detail to be expected

6. Fundraising and Communications

- a) Continue work of Committee Funding and Outreach Task Forces, including
 1. Public outreach and education (including reaching out to groups that have opposed the process)
 2. Assist in fundraising for the duration of the process

7. Leadership / Executive Committee

- a) To be comprised of the Standards Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Vice Secretary, as well as the Chair and Co-Chair of each of the other six subcommittees

*Interaction across all of the subcommittees regarding the social, economic, and environmental components of sustainability is required. *

* The items listed under each subcommittee serve as guidance and are not limiting. The subcommittees have the discretion to develop their work plans and to add to this list.*

Community Issues – Incorporate into social criteria as appropriate

- b) Food Security
- c) Rural Infrastructure
- d) Intellectual Property
- e) Agricultural Product Safety and Quality
- f) Small-to-medium scale farms
- g) Corporate Concentration
- h) Rural communities- including quality of life and local hiring etc.