
Sustainable Rice Platform Assurance Scheme v 1.3 Information Note No. 5



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About the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)

The Sustainable Rice Platform e.V. (SRP) is a global multi-stakeholder alliance comprising over 100 institutional members from public, private, research, civil society and the financial sector. 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 not-for-profit member association, working with its partners to transform the global rice sector by improving smallholder livelihoods, reducing the social, environmental and climate footprint of rice production, and by offering the global rice market an assured supply of sustainably produced rice.

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INTRODUCTION

This **Information Note No 5** has normative status and is intended as notification of additional requirements to the SRP Assurance Scheme v 1.3 and shall be used in conjunction with this and other related documents governing the SRP Assurance Scheme. All such documents are made publicly available for download at the SRP website. www.sustainablerice.org/resource

This document supersedes and replaces information and guidelines provided in Assurance Scheme v 1.3, issued in September 2020 and SRP CoC P&S v 2.0 issued in February 2022 which established requirements for SRP CoC Multi-site, SRP CoC Auditor and SRP CoC inhouse trainer qualification requirements.

This document is intended to provide further explanation for Participant Operators who apply SRP CoC Multi-site operations. And for SRP authorized Verification Bodies to clarify the transition period of VB's IHT and VB's Auditor qualifications.

Adding clarification to 2.1 Chain of Custody audit scope

Multi-site Participating Operator registration

SRP CoC Multi-site Participating Operators (P.O.) may apply for a CoC Multi-site audit to any SRP Authorized Verification Body, under the following conditions:

- ✓ The Multi-site system administrator shall define the geographic area, the number and identity of sites, the supply chain model and the types of operations covered by the scope of their multi-site chain of custody system.
- ✓ The SRP supply chain model of a representative sample from the participating site will be reviewed and verified by the VB during the verification audit.
- ✓ The Multi-site system administrator acting as Internal Management System (IMS) office is considered as a participating site and shall always be part of the sampled site.
- ✓ A Multi-site system administrator that has a processing and handling site is counted as a Participating Site.
- ✓ Wholly-owned subsidiaries of a group of companies can apply for SRP CoC Multi-site Verification, under the following conditions:
 - Wholly-owned subsidiaries have the same source (SRP-Verified farm) within the supply chain and can demonstrate their supply chain relationship on submission of the application to the VB.
 - The Participating Site can be in different regions; the P.O. must provide the VB with proof of their relationship at the application stage.

If outsourced contractors are used by the wholly-owned subsidiaries within the supply chain, the VB shall conduct a risk assessment to determine whether an audit of the outsourced contractor is required. (SRP CoC P&S v 2.0 no. 2.1.5).

- ✓ Supply chain example: SRP Verified Claims available at SRP CoC P&S v 2.0 Annex 4.

Responsibilities of the Participating Operator

- ✓ The Multi-site system administrator shall justify the grouping of operational sites into sets according to activities undertaken.
- ✓ The Multi-site system administrator shall have a centrally administered and documented IMS for management and implementation of the SRP Chain of Custody Requirements.
- ✓ The Multi-site system administrator shall appoint a management representative with overall responsibility for ensuring that all operational units comply with the SRP Chain of Custody Requirements.

Extension period for qualification of VB's in-house trainers (IHT)

SRP and GLOBAL.G.A.P. have agreed to extend the transition period for VB in-house trainers to qualify for the SRP Chain of Custody Policy & Standard v 2.0.

This will allow adequate time for VBs to prepare to meet their SRP CoC IHT qualification requirements as stipulated in the SRP Chain of Custody Policy & Standard v 2.0.

IHTs must now complete their qualifications within 6 months after the SRP Chain of Custody Policy and Standard v 2.0 became mandatory on 1 July 2022, i.e. **by 31 December 2022**.

(Reference AS Info. Note No.3: Transition Arrangements 3.1.)

VB's In-House Trainer Examination

After completing an In-House Training course for Auditors of the SRP Authorized Verification Body, participants must pass the course examination conducted by GLOBAL.G.A.P. with a pass score of at least 80%. IHTs are required to be registered in the GLOBAL.G.A.P. database after passing the examination.

Extension period for VB Auditor Qualification

To allow adequate time for VBs to prepare to meet the requirements for auditors under the SRP Chain of Custody Policy & Standard v. 2.0. SRP and GLOBAL.G.A.P. have agreed to

extend the transition period for VB auditors to qualify to conduct verification audits against the SRP Chain of Custody Policy & Standard v 2.0.

The new timeframe for completion of VB auditor qualification is within 6 months after the SRP Chain of Custody Policy and Standard v 2.0 became mandatory on 1 July 2022, **i.e. by 31 December 2022.**

(Reference AS Info. Note No.3. Transition Arrangements 3.1.)

Reference documents

SRP Assurance Scheme v 1.3
SRP Assurance Scheme Information Note No.3
SRP Chain of Custody Policy & Standard v 2.0

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