

## Sustainable Rice Platform Capability Statement

### The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)

The Sustainable Rice Platform e.V. (SRP) is a global multi-stakeholder alliance comprising over 100 institutional members from the public, private, research, civil society and the financial sector. SRP works with its members and partners towards transforming 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.

SRP promotes resource-use efficiency and climate change resilience in rice systems (both on-farm and throughout value chains) and pursues voluntary market transformation initiatives by developing sustainable production standards, indicators, incentive mechanisms, and outreach mechanisms to boost wide-scale adoption of climate-smart, sustainable best practices among small farmers.

As well as partnering with market actors, SRP participates in a number of scaling projects supported by bilateral and multilateral agencies and implemented by SRP and its members. Such projects unlock an essential path to transformation of the global rice sector and to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This document outlines the types of support available via SRP for such implementation projects and provides a list of selected projects.

### SRP support to implementation projects

Directly and through its Secretariat, project consultants and membership, SRP delivers the following types of support to projects:

- 1 Provide an entry point for rice smallholders to access the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators, participate in the SRP Assurance Scheme or engage in a non-certified improvement programme.
- 2 Provide guidance, authorized SRP training and technical assistance for extension services, implementation partners and farmers, aligning with NDC commitments and supporting farm-level climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- 3 Value chain development: linking farmers to higher-value markets for sustainable rice through the SRP Assurance Scheme for rice smallholders based on the SRP Standard., including access to independent third-party Verification Bodies and downstream market actors.
- 4 Advocacy: contribute to development of rice policy measures to incentivize adoption of climate-smart sustainable best practice among smallholders, including landscape-level approaches.
- 5 Support institutional development to promote national-level commitment and embed the principles of sustainable rice production in policy and practice, through the support of national-level rice stakeholders from research, public and private sectors as well as civil society and the development community (e.g. through SRP

- National Chapters and development of National Interpretation Guidelines for the SRP Standard).
- 6 Serve to anchor public-private partnerships to implement scaling projects.
  - 7 Provide a robust benchmark to support authentication of sustainable rice finance instruments.
  - 8 Promote collateralization of the SRP Standard as a means of complementing and derisking financial services e.g. farm credit, carbon credits and crop insurance.
  - 9 Knowledge-sharing: SRP highlights project activities through its own global network via social media channels, as well as through the networks of its partners, including UN agencies, and also promotes peer-to-peer learning (South-South).

### Selected SRP projects (member-implemented)

- Asia:** ***BRIA II – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia:*** The cooperation between GIZ and Olam International Ltd. focuses on improving the livelihoods of 35,000 small farmers in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. In Thailand, up to 16,000 farmers are to be reached in 300 Community Rice Centres, 10,000 farmers in Vietnam and 9,000 farmers in Indonesia. The SRP Standard serves as a framework to ensure sustainable rice production among rice smallholders.
- Asia:** ***CORIGAP:*** The International Rice Research Institute leads an ongoing SDC-funded 6-country project: Closing Rice Yield Gaps in Asia with Reduced Environmental Footprint (CORIGAP). The project aims to improve food security and gender equity and alleviate poverty through optimizing productivity and sustainability of irrigated rice production systems in China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. The project is currently assessing farm-level impacts of sustainable best practices using SRP's Performance Indicators.
- Asia:** ***Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative (SRLI):*** SRP is a founding member of SRLI, a consortium comprising the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, UNEP, FAO, the International Rice Research Institute and GIZ. Project design is under way for a GEF-funded project in Thailand, as well as a 3-country initiative to establish sustainable rice funding facility for Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam. More projects are in preparation for Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Africa:** ***RRVCP:*** Working with Rikolto, the SRP Secretariat developed an M&E system to underpin the Islamic Development Bank's US\$200 million Regional Rice Value Chain Project, which covers 10 sub-Saharan African countries. This component was funded by SDC.
- Nigeria:** ***SRP implementation:*** Olam International is implementing the SRP Standard at its 6,000 hectare rice farming operation.
- Indonesia:** ***Rikolto Rice Cluster for Sustainable Rice Sector Transformation Project*** is based mainly in Indonesia and also operates in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, RD Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, and Vietnam** to contribute to sustainable rice sector transformation at national, regional and global levels, in order to provide safe, healthy, sustainable and quality rice to

consumers, generate decent profits and jobs for all actors along the value chain, especially for smallholder farmers (men, women and youth), reduce the environmental impact of rice farming and to preserve the environment for future generations.

**Cambodia:** ***Ibis Rice Project:*** Implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society's Cambodia Program (a member of SRP), IBIS Rice is an ambitious, not-for-profit conservation enterprise working with Cambodian farmers to produce world-class, Wildlife Friendly™, organic jasmine rice. The rice is sold at a premium, boosting household income and reducing food insecurity. In return, villagers agree to respect wildlife sanctuary laws.

**Myanmar:** ***Climate-smart Rice Project:*** A 3-year US\$5.5 million project led by UNEP, SRP, Helvetas and private sector partners aims to transform rice value chains through wide-scale adoption of climate-smart and resource-efficient sustainable best practices. The project is funded by NORAD and SDC.

**Pakistan/India:** ***Water Productivity Project (WAPRO):*** SRP partners with Helvetas, Mars Food, Westmill Foods, Galaxy Rice and WWF Pakistan in implementing the **Water Productivity Project** - a 6-year project to enhance water management in rice and cotton in the Punjab region. The CHF 6.6 million programme is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), with matching funding from private sector partners including Mars Food. The project has seen significant reductions in use of water and agrochemicals, as well as higher incomes for rice farmers.

**Thailand:** ***Thai Rice NAMA project,*** implemented by GIZ and 11 Thai government agencies. The project aims to reduce emissions by 29% for 100,000 irrigated rice farming households in Thailand. The project marks the first time that GHG improvements in rice cultivation will count towards a government's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement on climate change.

***Sustainable Aromatic Rice Initiative (SARI-T)*** implemented by GIZ, Mars Food, Ebro Foods and the Thai Rice Department. This ongoing project is building the capacity of 1,200 Thai rice growers in Roi Et province to adopt sustainable best practices and enhance their livelihoods.

**Vietnam:** ***SRP implementation*** by 4,000 farmers supplying Loc Troi Group, a major rice producer and exporter, supported by IRRI and the International Finance Corporation.

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