
SRP Standard Setting and Revision Procedure



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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 private sector partners, SRP is an independent member association, working together 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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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
1. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	4
1.1. SRP Secretariat	4
1.2. Technical Committee Working Group	6
2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCEDURE	6
2.1. Overview	6
2.2. Format to submit comments	7
3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	8
4. DECISION MAKING	8
5. STANDARD DEVELOPMENT	9
5.1. Standard setting	9
5.2. Feasibility testing	9
5.3. Supplementary documents	10
5.4. Mandatory information	10
5.5. Transparency- Availability of documentation on SRP website	11
5.6. Standard revision	11
SRP Standard Setting and Revision: Roles & Responsibilities	12

INTRODUCTION

About the Standard Setting and Revision Procedure

SRP Standard Setting and Revision Procedure is applicable for the development and revision of SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation and its Performance Indicators. The first version of the SRP Standard Setting and Revision Procedure was published in April 2022; the current document is the second version. As SRP is a community member of the ISEAL Alliance, the procedure for revision of the SRP Standard is therefore designed with reference to the requirements of the [ISEAL Code of Good Practices for Sustainability System](#)¹.

The **objectives** of this Procedure are:

- To ensure the standard revision process is inclusive and transparent to affected stakeholders.
- To provide a robust review process that ensures the Standard effectively meets its respective goals.
- To ensure that the revision of the SRP Standard align with international best practices for standard, referencing the [ISEAL Code of Good Practices for Sustainability System](#)).

As well as contributing to robust and effective standards, the Procedure will facilitate high quality and credibility of assurance as well as monitoring, evaluation, learning and impact assessment processes that depend on the Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation and its Performance Indicators as a science-based foundation.

1. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SUSTAINABLE RICE PLATFORM e.V. (SRP)

The SRP Board is responsible for approval of substantive changes to SRP strategy, particularly in reference to any changes to the normative documents and scope of SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation. The SRP Secretariat shall be responsible for managing all processes for standard development and revisions, or, at its discretion, designate another party to do so.

1.1. SRP Secretariat

The SRP Secretariat shall be responsible for the following:

- 1.1.1. Ensuring that all standards and supporting documents are developed in accordance with this document.

¹ The ISEAL Code is effective from 1 March 2024, available in PDF and Excel format.

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- 1.1.2. Drafting the Terms of Reference (TOR) for any Standard setting or revision for approval by the SRP Technical Committee.
 - 1.1.3. Facilitate the setting up of Working Groups. Each Working Group led by Technical Committee members, following the Working Group topics approved by SRP Board and outlined in Term of Reference.
 - 1.1.4. Ensuring that all feedback is documented and timely shared with the Working Groups delegated by the SRP Technical Committee, including feedback deemed out of scope.
 - 1.1.5. Preparing a public summary comprising:
 - a. summary of TOR for Standard Setting and Revision;
 - b. steps in the standard-setting and revision process, including timeline;
 - c. decision making procedures;
 - d. outcomes of standard setting or revision;
 - e. key changes of the standard.
 - 1.1.6. Facilitation of 60 days public consultations. For new standard setting, it requires a second round of consultation of at least 30 days.
 - 1.1.7. Record-keeping for the development or revision process, including information shared with the Working Groups and other stakeholders, decisions made, and how feedback was addressed.
 - 1.1.8. SRP Secretariat contributing role to the process, the SRP Secretariat participation and contribution shall include staff members from various areas of knowledge and draw upon expertise from Conformity Assessment Bodies, Authorized Training Providers, SRP Registered Projects and experts in different fields.
 - 1.1.9. Determining and finalizing verification systems and labelling criteria for Verified producers, sites and products, criteria for Conformity Assessment Bodies, data collectors and the policies and documents governing the Standard system, such as this document.
 - 1.1.10. Ensuring Working Group members are selected according to experience, subject matter expertise, and stakeholder representation.
 - 1.1.11. Keeping information about the standard development or revision process publicly available, including, at minimum, details on the scope of the revision, estimated timeline, and how to participate.
 - 1.1.12. Keeping details and records of all standards development and revision activities for a minimum of five years, and available to stakeholders upon request, including the following:
 - a. Applicable Standard Setting and Revision Procedures at the time of the development or revision.
 - b. Stakeholder Identification, including any Working Group members.
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- c. Project plan for the standard, including the intended scope, goals, objectives, desired outcomes, needs justification, and plans to address risks identified in meeting the goals of the standard.
 - d. Draft versions of the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation; and
 - e. Feedback summary.
- 1.1.13. Organize any feasibility testing and reporting, as directed by the Working Group.

1.2. Technical Committee Working Group

- 1.2.1. The development and revision of SRP standards shall be led by an expert Working Group to be chaired by a member of the Technical Committee, reporting to the SRP Technical Committee (SRP TC) and SRP Secretariat.
- 1.2.2. The Working Group shall be composed of members of the SRP Secretariat and Technical Committee members, and others invited to ensure broad, balanced and appropriate stakeholder engagement in revision processes including decision-making.

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCEDURE

2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. SRP shall ensure that participation in the consultation process is open to all stakeholders; and claims to achieve a balance of interests in the subject matter and in the geographic scope to which the standard applies.
- 2.1.2. SRP publishes drafts of fundamentally changed or new documents for public consultation for 60 calendar days from date of publishing.
- 2.1.3. SRP invites all interested parties to provide feedback on the documents and will announce public consultations through SRP's communication channels to ensure the participation of and adequate balance among various stakeholder groups.
- 2.1.4. Where substantive unresolved issues persist after the first consultation round, or if feedback was insufficient (for example, inadequate representation of stakeholder groups relevant for the topic), SRP will conduct additional rounds of consultation that last for 30 calendar days. In case of necessity of another round, SRP will make the synopsis of the previous round publicly available to comment on it.
- 2.1.5. SRP will publish the feedback during the public consultation phase for reasons of transparency.
- 2.1.6. After the final round of public consultation, SRP will analyze and consider the feedback received. All feedback and responses thereto will be documented by the Working Group; reviewed impartially by the SRP Technical Committee and published following Technical Committee endorsement and Board approval.

- 2.1.7. SRP will announce the date from which the documents come into effect and planned dates of any subsequent review. SRP will allow an appropriate transitional period for all stakeholders to adapt to the adjustments or changes.
- 2.1.8. Please note that all finalized versions of the documents might be subject to further adjustments, which will be minor or non-substantive changes intended for clarification only.

2.2. Format to submit comments

- 2.2.1. A form, similar to the one below, will be made available for stakeholders to submit feedback or comments. This form will be made available for download on the SRP webpage. Once the form is completed, stakeholders could send it to info@sustainablerice.org with subject "*Feedback to Standard Setting or Standard Revision*".
- 2.2.2. Mandatory fields will be marked with an asterisk (*).
- 2.2.3. Stakeholders must tick off one statement whether the comments would be published as anonymously OR anonymously showing only stakeholder category OR full name and organization affiliation.
- 2.2.4. Following is the procedure how to complete the form:
- Feedback should be indicating the *section/ topic/ page*;
 - give *comment* in a very clear /concise way so that it could be easily addressed;
 - proposed revision or suggested new text* is not mandatory but highly recommended to assist WG;
 - By* is mandatory field for WG to follow-up if a specific comment requires further clarification;
 - WG response to comment* is mandatory to show that WG has reviewed the feedback;
 - change* to indicate if feedback is approved and results into changes to the document;
 - required* to indicate that the change is essential, and if further discussion is necessary, WG could reach out to relevant stakeholders.

Section /Topic/ Page Information*	Comment*	Proposed Revision/ Suggested New Text	By* (Name and Organization affiliation)	WG response to Comment*	Change	Required
					YES/NO	YES/NO

I authorize SRP to publish my statement on the SRP website:

- ☐ Yes, anonymously
- ☐ Yes, anonymously, showing only stakeholder category (private sector, civil society etc)
- ☐ Yes, with reference to full name and organizational affiliation

3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The SRP Secretariat and Technical Committee shall conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify potential stakeholders and interested parties for outreach, including:

- 3.1. Ensuring clear stakeholder participation goals are set and communicated for each stakeholder sector/ category. Goals ensure representation from all relevant stakeholders and affected geographic regions and market sectors of the given standard.
- 3.2. Ensuring under-represented or disadvantaged stakeholders are identified in the stakeholder mapping, or following the first consultation round, with strategies to proactively seek their contribution, including the possibility for a stipend at the discretion of the SRP Secretariat.
- 3.3. SRP shall provide stakeholders with appropriate opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation and Performance Indicators.

4. DECISION MAKING

- 4.1. Through the standard-setting process, the SRP Technical Committee shall be responsible for approval of the following:
 - a. The detailed project process, including intended scope, goals, objectives, desired outcomes, needs justification, timelines, responsibilities and plans to address risks identified in meeting the goals of the Standard;
 - b. Publication of revised drafts of the Standard for public consultation; and
 - c. Submission of recommendation for the final draft text of the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation to the SRP Board for final approval includes SRP Performance Indicators.
- 4.2. Decisions and recommendations of the SRP Technical Committee shall be made by consensus among its members, following its Terms of Reference. Consensus is determined by the absence of sustained expressions of dissent by a prespecified deadline or period during a meeting.
- 4.3. If consensus is not met in one of the three approvals outlined in 4.1, a majority vote shall be required within each stakeholder category (as outlined under 'Stakeholder Engagement').
- 4.4. The Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee specifies the decision-making process. Meetings must be quorate to proceed, having at least 50% + 1 of Committee members present in person or virtually, plus at least one representative from each stakeholder constituency. The Committee will strive to reach decisions by consensus, with the absence of declared opposition. If a consensus cannot be reached, any member may call for a vote. Where a vote is needed, Resolutions are carried with a simple majority of voting participants.

- 4.5. As the entity ultimately responsible for the Standard, the SRP Board reserves the right to make final decisions regarding standard content and shall publicly disclose any decisions, including reasoning, that differ from a Technical Committee recommendation.

5. STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

5.1. Standard setting

Standards shall be written to facilitate monitoring and evaluation against the goals of the standard. Conformity criteria within the Standard shall be articulated to ensure they are:

- linked to the goals and desired outcomes identified in the approved project plan;
- clear, objective, and verifiable;
- informed by best available science to contribute to the desired outcomes identified in the project plan, as well as by the latest policy and regulatory frameworks and market considerations; and
- do not potentially restrict trade in any way or give preference to one region, proprietary technology or company over another.

5.2. Feasibility testing

- 5.2.1. The Working Group should make a recommendation to the Secretariat for whether feasibility testing should be undertaken and what its objectives should be. In general, draft new or draft revised SRP standards or new requirements will be pilot tested on a specified number of sites to:
- Ensure clarity, practicality and feasibility;
 - ensure that the evaluation and auditability of new criteria are guided by the principles outlined in the [ISEAL Code of Good Practices for Sustainability System](#);
 - validate if the presumed outcomes of the standard can be achieved.
- 5.2.2. The tests may include field trials or mock audits, and measurement of impact and evaluation of risk as appropriate.
- 5.2.3. Where feasible, multiple pilot tests should be held to trial the new or revised standard in geographical regions which are significantly different from one another.
- 5.2.4. A report summarizing the results from testing shall be made publicly available on the SRP website as part of subsequent consultation materials.
- 5.2.5. Testing should be conducted prior to the final consultation opportunity.

- 5.2.6. Results of the field test shall determine any edits and changes necessary to the draft standard prior to final endorsement.

5.3. Supplementary documents

- 5.3.1. As a minimum, the Standard shall be accompanied by supplementary documents as described below:
- a. Guidance for local applicability where necessary or helpful (e.g., varying farming methods around the world) which is a primary task for National Chapters as part of the National Interpretation Guidelines;
 - b. An accompanying User Manual, providing additional guidance for organizations seeking Verification; and
 - c. Verification Procedures providing guidelines for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs).
- 5.3.2. Supplementary documents may be updated by SRP as often as deemed necessary without a formal revision process. The SRP Technical Committee may provide feedback on these and other supplementary documents, but they are not considered within the decision-making scope of the SRP TC.

5.4. Mandatory information

The following shall be noted in the Standard document:

- 5.4.1. Stipulation of English as the official language of the Standard, including the statement that in case of inconsistency between translated versions, the English version shall prevail;
- 5.4.2. Anticipated timing of next revision and process for submitting feedback and complaints;
- 5.4.3. Release date, effective date and version number (a new standard will be designated as Version 1.0);
- 5.4.4. Disclaimer stating that SRP will not be held liable for use of the Standard; and
- 5.4.5. Copyright statement. SRP strives to provide an open platform for collective co-creation of public domain tools to benefit smallholder rice farmers. Collective ownership of such assets is thus foundational to foster open discourse and sharing in a pre-competitive arena. Nevertheless, legal protection over intellectual property is required to uphold the brand value of SRP, particularly in relation to the Assurance Scheme, Training Scheme and related use of logos. Contributors to the revision process agree to abide by the SRP Policy on Intellectual Property Rights, which may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Board. All SRP-branded publications shall be the sole intellectual property of SRP e.V. and shall be published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike

4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA) license. This allows third parties to freely remix, amend and build upon SRP materials (including training curricula) on a non-commercial basis, provided SRP is duly credited and that the new creation is also licensed under identical terms and placed in the public domain. Attribution shall be given to all co-authors and contributors in order of contribution.

5.5. Transparency- Availability of documentation on SRP website

- 5.5.1. The following documents shall be publicly available on the SRP website:
- Final Standard as approved;
 - Feedback summary;
 - Summary of key changes;
 - Transition policy;
 - SRP Policy on Intellectual Property Rights.
- 5.5.2. A detailed list of all changes from previous versions (if applicable) must be made available upon request.

5.6. Standard revision

- 5.6.1. The SRP Secretariat may make minor revisions involving non-substantive changes to the standard without requiring a formal revision process or Technical Committee approval. Such changes shall be notified and recorded in the subsequent review and revision process. Stakeholders will be notified through various channels, including: 1) monthly updates for CAB; 2) SRP webpage; 3) social media; 4) webinars as necessitated to share detailed changes.
- 5.6.2. The SRP Standard shall undergo a review at least every 5 years, guided by the principles outlined in the [ISEAL Code of Good Practices for Sustainability System](#).
- 5.6.3. In addition to scheduled major revisions, major revisions may also be initiated for the following reasons:
- a. Standard criteria result in critical unintended consequences that may compromise the goals or desired outcomes of the Standard;
 - b. New developments that change or affect implementation, the assurance process, or known impacts of the Standard;
 - c. Expanded goals or scope in SRP strategy; or
 - d. At the discretion of the SRP Board.
- 5.6.4. All major revisions shall include the following steps as part of the process:
- a. Approval of a project plan by the Technical Committee;
 - b. Approval of the public consultation standard draft by the Technical Committee;
 - c. Public consultation of at least 60 days; and
 - d. Approval of the final Standard.

- 5.6.5. The process is shown schematically in the Process Flow Chart (see below).
- 5.6.6. The SRP Secretariat shall stipulate a transition period for each verified organization and Conformity Assessment Body to transition its internal processes to the revised version, starting from date of publication of the revised Standard.
- 5.6.7. The date of the revised Standard publication shall be recorded as the 'Standard version conformity date'.
- 5.6.8. As input to the standard's review and revision, SRP compiles and analyses relevant data and information including:
 - a. assessments of the effectiveness of the standard through its integrity program;
 - b. assessments of verified units' conformity, review through SRP Audit Management Platform;
 - c. feedback received from verified units, CABs and other stakeholders;
 - d. number of Assurance information notes published since the last revision of the standard;
 - e. external research and industry best practices;
 - f. changes to relevant legislation across the full scope of the standard.

SRP Standard Setting and Revision: Roles & Responsibilities

