Sustainable Rice Platform

SRP

SRP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System Report

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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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1. Introduction

Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) is a global multi-stakeholder alliance launched in 2011 by the International Rice Research Institute and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), comprising over 100 institutional stakeholders that include public and private sector stakeholders, research, civil society and the financial institutions. 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 sustainable best practices throughout rice value chains. SRP's goal is to minimize environmental impacts of rice production and consumption while enhancing smallholder incomes and contributing to food security.

This report aims to provide a public summary of the SRP Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system. It explains how the system was developed, how different components of the MEL system (e.g., Theory of Change, indicators, evaluations, etc.) are linked. and how the MEL system is designed with different levels of monitoring to give a broad and in-depth understanding of the impact of our program. It also describes the procedures of how SRP collects, analyses, and manages MEL data and reports results. It shows how SRP plans to use its MEL system to measure outputs and outcomes, to understand how this contributes to long-term impacts and how this information will be used for accountability to stakeholders (prove) and for internal learning (improve).

This report provides an overview of the current system that SRP has in place for the MEL of its strategies, effects, both intended and unintended, and progress made towards desired impacts. The MEL system is continuously improving and developing, and the report also describes future additions to it.

The SRP is committed to building effective and credible systems that support its mission to catalyse transformation in the global rice sector. A robust MEL system is a critical component underpinning all of SRP's strategies to deliver its impact.

MEL Objectives

1. To inform and guide overall organizational strategy, related to the Theory of Change (ToC) that include:
    a. enabling target setting and performance reporting,
    b. indicating which programme attributes have the most influence success, and
    c. validating ToC assumptions.
2. To link what we do (activities such as training) to why we do it and how that change comes about.
3. To improve focus and strategic impact of limited resources.
4. To identify the research and learning agenda.
5. To learn from successes and failures to improve effectiveness.
6. To facilitate improvements for particular areas or issues of concern.
7. To provide necessary evidence and demonstrate credibility to stakeholders for engagement and support.
8. To keep track of the performance and impact of selected activities.

9. To ensure the program uses the right interventions/strategies and is able to adjust them within the implementation period to help the program reach the identified outcomes and objectives.
10. To emphasize the do no harm principle in every aspect of organization's actions.

1.1. Scope and Boundaries of the SRP MEL system (ISEAL 5.1/5.4)

The SRP MEL system scope is based on the SRP Theory of Change (ToC), which applies the SRP system as a whole and the strategies to realize change. The ToC was developed with internal and external stakeholder participation. It reflects the long-term goals, intended outcomes, and impacts, as well as the strategies used to achieve them. These include three mutually reinforcing pathways around increasing supply, increasing demand, and creating an enabling environment to drive scale contributing to its vision and mission. These are reflected in the strategic pillars: serve as a knowledge hub, develop sustainable rice value chains, and create partnerships for scale (see Our Impacts - Sustainable Rice Platform). The intended impacts are captured in the 12 SRP Performance Indicators around Improved Livelihoods, Resource Use Efficiency, Life on Land, Climate Action, Consumer Needs, Labor Conditions and Social Development. (See SRP Performance Indicators for Sustainable Rice Cultivation.)

As a young system, not every issue can be monitored, nor every aspect of the ToC tested, especially in the initial phase of the MEL system build-up. Currently, the scope of the MEL system is focused on performance monitoring at producer level, directly linked to the SRP through Registered SRP Projects and Assurance Scheme. The SRP Performance Indicators cover social (livelihoods, labour and empowerment) and environmental aspects (resource use, biodiversity and greenhouse gas).

Monitoring is currently focused on reach indicators, including number of members, number of SRP authorized trainers, number of SRP farmers reached engaged through Registered SRP Projects and Assurance Scheme, and SRP verified rice area. Current monitoring efforts include case stories/studies on Registered SRP Projects and member-reported outcomes and impacts.

The scope of our MEL system is limited due to resources and availability of data, especially considering the predominance of smallholders and limitations of collecting data through the audit process.

MEL Plans for Expansion (ISEAL 5.3)

SRP has done more work to refine and define indicators related to its ToC by identifying potential indicators to monitor and evaluate all critical pathways, including unintended consequences and establishing learning topics and priority research questions for outcome and impact evaluations. This is part of the overall MEL principle of continuously improving and learning.

SRP is conducting field research for SRP impacts studies at the farm level, where the SRP farmers are engaged through projects and the Assurance Scheme. The objectives are to evaluate the SRP ToC and relevant SRP Standard adoption impacts. While the scope focus is at the producer level, monitoring will be also done at the supply chain level through traded volumes in an upcoming traceability platform (i.e., SRP RiceTrace).

Roles and Responsibilities

The overall coordination of the design, development, and management of the SRP MEL system is with the Impact, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit.

All SRP staff play a role in MEL, as data collectors and/or data consumers. The Impact, Monitoring, and Evaluation Manager works closely across the organization to develop MEL capacity. Responsibilities related to data collection and data management are provided in Annex 1.

In addition to SRP staff, the MEL program also works with consultants to deliver on specific aspects of the SRP MEL system (e.g., impact evaluation). In 2022, SRP created a separate budget line for MEL at 17% of the total SRP budget. The financial resources for the MEL system come from the general SRP budget. In 2024, SRP allocated the budget for SRP impacts research studies for 30,000 Euros for the solid and trustable data.

1.2. Towards Transformative Change (ISEAL 1.2)

Rice is key to global food security since it is the main staple of half of the world's population. It is highly sensitive to climate change and thus a key factor in social stability. Rice also has a large environmental footprint in water usage (40% of the world's irrigation water) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It has the highest GHG emissions per calorie of any staple crop and emits around 10% of global methane emissions.

Most rice farmers are considered smallholders; many live below the poverty line, with only 40% able to access markets and 60% with limited access to financial, knowledge, and other resources. Moreover, most of the production is for local consumption or subsistence. There is also insufficient investment in irrigation and infrastructure leading to sub-optimal yields and wastage. Women farmers also have unequal access over inputs. Lastly, there is limited government engagement in key producing countries on enabling policies for smallholders and regulatory requirements of companies in GHG targets. Fostering a viable business environment for sustainable rice farmers, while also driving domestic and export demand for sustainable rice, is expected to lead to SRP's ultimate intended impacts[1].

Vision and Mission

SRP's Vision is to "Feed the world. Sustainably", transforming the global rice sector through an alliance that links research, production, policy making, trade, and consumption. The vision articulates a new norm in rice, where the sector delivers healthy, high-quality, nutritious rice to consumers, helps farmers achieve better lives, and protects the environment.

SRP's Mission is to catalyse global rice sector transformation by developing tools and mobilizing rice stakeholders to promote on-farm adoption of sustainable best practices, link farmers to markets, and offer an objective normative basis for policymaking. SRP plays three key Roles to leverage SRP's assets to achieve transformative change within the global rice sector: (1) Scheme owner (Standard and Assurance), (2) Convenor/Project partner, and (3) Policy influencer.

[1] Based on SRP 2018 Visioning Workshop ©Rogers MacJohn LLC

Realizing SRP's vision and mission requires a cross-cutting, collaborative approach to leverage resources across the stakeholder community and drive transformative change. With interventions needed from farm to policy level, SRP's three Strategic Pillars provide an overarching framework for action:

(1) develop sustainable value chains,
(2) create partnerships and incentives for scale, and
(3) serve as a knowledge hub.

SRP aims to increase the adoption of climate-smart sustainable practices lowering soil, water, and land usage as well as reduced energy and greenhouse gas emissions among smallholders and supported by a viable economic model of production and trade, which provides food security and livelihoods. Public programs incentivize farmer adoption of sustainable management practices and protection of biodiversity in rice landscapes and are committed to reducing GHG emissions from rice paddies, contributing to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In addition, women are empowered, climate change resilience is achieved, and consumers recognize and reward sustainable rice.

1.3. Theory of Change Framework (ISEAL 1.1, 1.3)

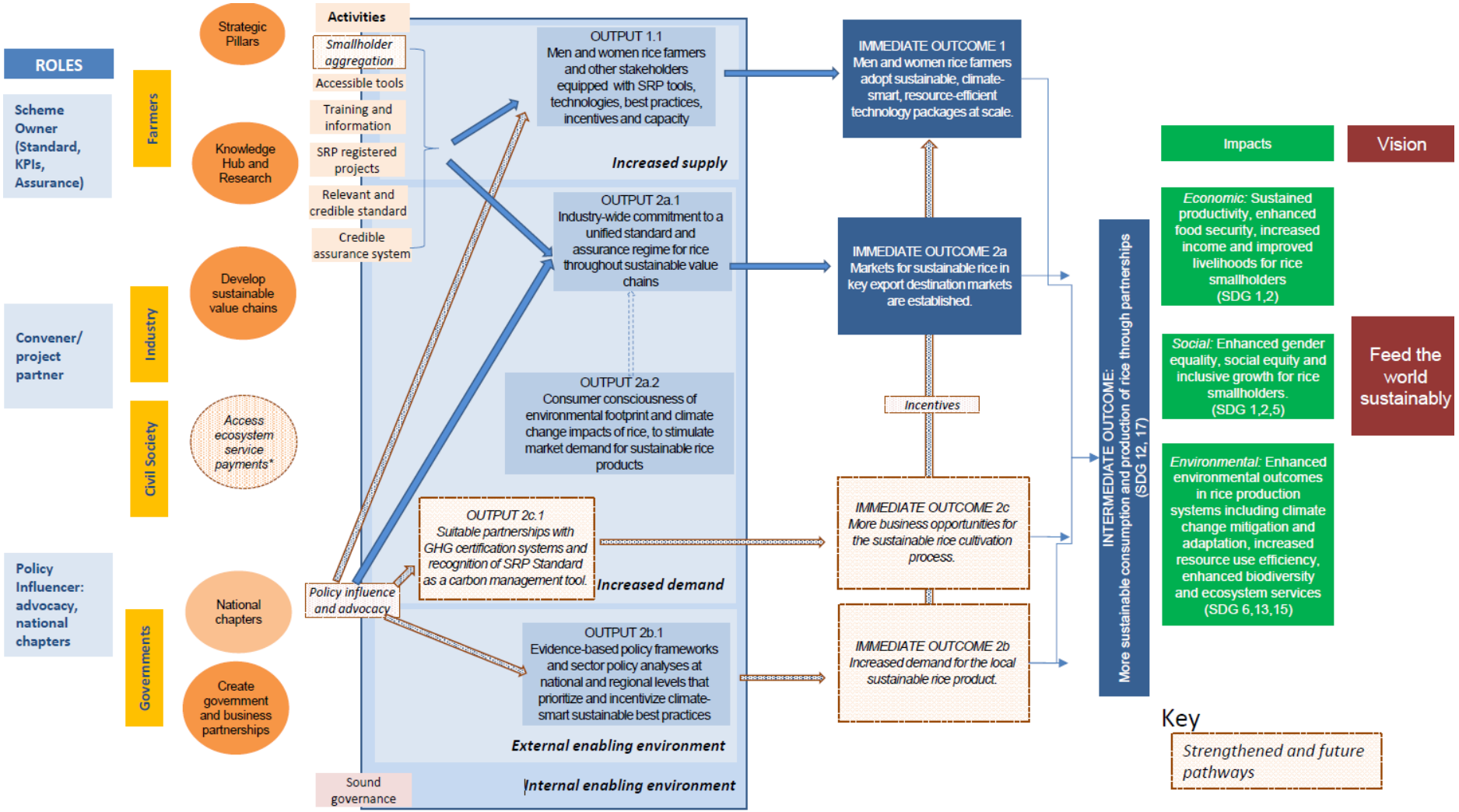
The Theory of Change (ToC), through the infographic and supporting narrative, describes the intervention logic for achieving SRP's aspiration to catalyse transformation towards a sustainable global rice sector. It aims to foster strategic thinking, serve as a communication tool, and a basis for monitoring, evaluation and risk management.

The ToC provides a guiding framework for the SRP MEL System to provide insights into the effectiveness of strategies, supporting activities, and underlying assumptions. Based on causal chains, indicators are identified to monitor and evaluate progress from outputs, outcomes, and impacts on critical pathways, as well as to develop key evaluation questions. The indicators also use reference points, such as the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) common core indicators and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through monitoring and evaluation, SRP can assess progress, performance, and impact, including learnings and evidence to substantiate claims.

The ToC was approved in 2022 via consultative process with extensive stakeholder engagement in line with ISEAL Impacts Code 2.0. The current version also considers the new and integrated ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems 1.0. The ToC highlights three interdependent dimensions of change that contribute to SRP's desired impacts, based on SRP's differentiated roles as scheme owner, convener, and policy influencer, as well as the synergies across these roles. It visualizes pathways to deliver impacts on markets and sector transformation. This framework is intended for use as part of best practice, to support SRP's engagement with internal and external stakeholders and foster alignment towards defining and realizing shared goals.

As a roadmap to visualize the path towards sector transformation, the ToC framework (Figure 1) illustrates the logical flow, specifying activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts as well as the underlying assumptions.

Figure 1. SRP Theory of Change Framework[2]



[2] The output numbers in this figure have been re-numbered to provide a clearer logical flow of the anticipated changes.

Defining the Elements of the Theory of Change

Figure 1 outlines the basic framework, starting on the left with the SRP Roles and Strategic Pillars as outlined in the Sustainable Rice Platform 2021-2025 Strategy. Interventions are the sets of activities and investments by SRP, its members and partners.

Outputs are the shorter-term direct results of SRP activities and investments. Over time and as more actors are involved, these lead to medium- to long-term results, also known as Outcomes. SRP can influence these, but there are many other factors that affect whether these are achieved. There are also preconditions affecting the achievement of outputs and outcomes, which are identified as key assumptions. These are multiplied (scaled) and supported by other enabling efforts leading to ultimate Impacts. The three mutually reinforcing pathways to reach impacts are increasing supply, increasing demand, and creating an enabling environment to drive scale. The enabling environment is both internal and external. Internal enabling environment includes good governance and effective data management systems, while external enabling environment includes public and private stakeholders dialogue and actions to realize effective national and international regulations, incentives for sustainable production, technical assistance, and investments. Laws, regulations, policies, and international trade agreements can facilitate or hinder global rice sector transformation. It is important to note that the framework does not capture all of the details or nuances of the change theory.

Activities

Members, partners, and other stakeholders will implement a wide range of interventions to drive local and systemic change. These include, but are not limited to, smallholder aggregation, access to tools, training and information, market access, Registered SRP Projects, the SRP Assurance Scheme and SRP-verified label, policy and advocacy engagement, all grounded in the principles of good governance.

Outputs

Outputs are the products, capital goods, and services that result directly from interventions of the SRP, SRP members, and partners. The ToC lists the following key outputs:

Increased Supply

- Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools, technologies, best practices, incentives, and capacity. (Output 1.1)

Increased Demand

- Industry-wide commitment to a unified Standard and Assurance Scheme for rice throughout sustainable value chains. (Output 2a.1)
- Consumer consciousness of environmental footprint and climate change impacts of rice, to boost market demand for sustainable rice products. (Output 2a.2)
- Suitable partnerships with GHG certification systems and recognition of SRP Standard as a carbon management tool. (output 2c.1)

Enabling Environment

- Evidence-based policy frameworks and sector policy analyses at national and regional levels that prioritize and incentivize climate-smart, sustainable best practices. (Output 2b.1)

Outcomes

Outcomes are the likely or achieved medium- to long-term results from the implementation of SRP interventions[3]. These include changes in social, environmental, and farm productivity outcomes, as well as in policies/business practices. More specifically:

- Men and women rice farmers adopt sustainable, climate-smart, resource-efficient technology packages at scale. (Immediate Outcome 1)
- Markets for sustainable rice in key export destinations are established. (Immediate Outcome 2a)
- Increased demand for the local sustainable rice product. (Immediate Outcome 2b)
- More business opportunities for sustainable rice cultivation process. (Immediate Outcome 2c)
- More sustainable consumption and production of rice through partnerships (SDG 12, 17). (Intermediate Outcome)

Impacts

Impacts are the positive and negative long-term effects resulting from SRP interventions, either directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.[4] SRP's intended impacts can be categorized into three domains:

- *Economic*: Sustained productivity, enhanced food security, increased income, and improved livelihoods for rice smallholders (SDG 1,2).
- *Social*: Enhanced gender equality, social equity, and inclusive growth for rice smallholders. (SDG 1,2,5).
- *Environmental*: Enhanced environmental outcomes in rice production systems, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, increased resource use efficiency, enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services (SDG 6,13,15).

Assumptions

Between and among the different components reflect underlying assumptions on which the ToC is based that need explicit consideration for ISEAL Code compliance. Some key assumptions include:

- Adequate organization of smallholders for the delivery of inputs, services and connection to markets, including eliminating barriers for women.
- Incentives for a balanced number male and female members of farmer organization.
- Sufficient incentives for smallholders.
- Suitable partnerships with GHG certification systems.
- Evidence-based decision-making for companies and policy makers.
- Quality assured data for market-based incentive mechanisms, including GHG accounting.

Unintended Effects

SRP operates in a complex environment, and while the ToC outlines the anticipated changes, it is important to identify and monitor both positive and negative unintended effects. These can be spillover effects, the result of SRP direct actions, or longer-term effects that SRP has limited direct control. Positive effects can be opportunities for learning and duplicating while negative unintended effects need to be mitigated and be included in the risk management plan.

[3] ISEAL, adapted from OECD Glossary, 2002
[4] ISEAL, adapted from OECD Glossary, 2002

To identify the unintended effects of SRP interventions, SRP collects feedback from stakeholders on unintended effects as part of the Standard setting process and oversight. These threats (see Annex 2) are monitored for learning and improvement to mitigate negative unintended effects. According to research and SRP partner interviews, possible unintended effects relevant to SRP include:

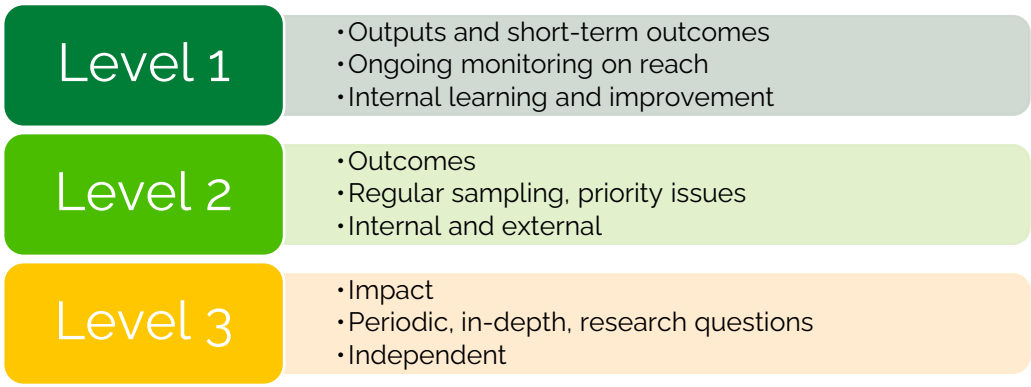
- Companies may benefit from an improved internal management system and training that is required to adhere to the Standard, resulting in increased efficiencies of logistics and worker skills.
- Drawing attention to worst practices (e.g., undocumented labour).
- Rigor of standard is too high forcing out those who most need to change.
- Membership costs/requirements favour larger/better resourced organizations.
- Documents in English limiting participation.
- Smallholders earn premium for growing sustainable rice. To earn more income, they start to destroy the land forest to grow more rice.
- The smallholders who got supported by investors that are sponsors/downstream supply chain actors covering assurance cost might be left alone after the donors left, making them cannot afford the audit cost.

Influencing Factors

Aside from unintended effects, the SRP ToC process identified several influencing factors, including market and producer structure, access to inputs for production, and policy incentives. A critical influencing factor will be the development of carbon markets and acceptable cost-effective tools and methodologies to incentivize smallholder rice producers. Based on research and other sustainability systems, the existing level of organization of producers has a positive influence on the adoption of good agricultural practices, record keeping, and internal management systems. The outcome and impact evaluations will be used for targeted deep dives into research questions of what is working, under what conditions, and to help identify influencing factors.

1.4. Monitoring and Evaluation (ISEAL 5.3)

Based on the ToC, the MEL system has been designed to support ongoing monitoring of results and incorporate learnings to adapt the SRP programs. While the purpose of the SRP MEL system is to track and report progress on results at all levels – from outputs, outcomes to impact, as well as to test the assumptions articulated in the ToC, it would be challenging to do all. Thus, SRP is taking a strategic approach to looking at different levels of monitoring and evaluation:



Currently, SRP does regular Level 1 monitoring and some limited Level 2 and 3 evaluations. While the SRP digital data management system is being upgraded to obtain the SRP farmers' data to measure the impact level, SRP conducts the SRP impact evaluation in cooperation with independent consultants and SRP members who operate the projects at farm level. As the number of Registered SRP Projects increases, more focus will be given to overarching data analysis and trend identification among Registered SRP Projects and verified producers.

There have been several external studies on the social and environmental impacts of sustainable rice production. One such study often cited is the pilot field implementation of the SRP Standard in 2016-17. This was evaluated by IRRI and revealed farm-level benefits, such as savings in water up to 20%, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by up to 50%, and an increase in farmers' net income by 10% (see Annex 3).

The MEL system has a holistic approach, as described in this report. The indicators have been divided into three different levels; some will be completely enumerated (Level 1) while others will be sampled using specific tools that can be replicated in different contexts (Level 2). A third group of indicators will be rigorously evaluated through impact evaluations commissioned by independent parties (Level 3).

1.5. Performance Monitoring

The SRP MEL system is being implemented through a staged process, in which resources, commensurate with the size of the organization and uptake of the Standard and other tools, will be invested in MEL. During the initial stage and revision of the Standard and Assurance Scheme, focus will be given to learning and improvement of the Standard and MEL system, with more direct engagements with Registered SRP Projects.

The following activities are being undertaken:

- Monitoring of farmers who adopt the Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation through Registered SRP Projects.
- Monitoring of producer groups who produce SRP-verified rice and corresponding rice area through the Assurance Scheme.
- Evaluation of effectiveness of SRP training modules and other capacity development activities.
- Monitoring of complaints and feedback from verified units and projects.
- Monitoring of SRP members' engagement and activities.

Indicator Selection Process

A long list of relevant indicators was identified from the ToC. Indicator prioritization was conducted using key criteria: (1) Is this indicator critical for the ToC? and (2) Is it possible to collect this data in a cost-effective way? Indicators that were critical and feasible to collect were prioritized. The identification and prioritization exercises were conducted in a workshop within the SRP Secretariat. An indicator found to be critical for the ToC but difficult and costly to collect are included in the research agenda.

The list of current and planned indicators, based on the ToC, can be found in Annex 1. The indicators have been mapped to the list of SDGs and ISEAL common core indicators.

There are 19 priority indicators that were selected based on their relevance to the ToC and are available from the existing data management system (e.g., SRP Assurance platform, Glue Up). The breadth and depth of indicators will be expanded once the upgraded data management system is fully operational.

1.6. Outcome and Impact Evaluation (ISEAL 5.2)

The topics and area of focus of outcome and impact evaluations will be determined based on the strategic needs of the organization, as well as the requests from stakeholders. The outcome level data will be used for these periodic analyses for both internal learning purposes and external reports. In addition, SRP will collect case studies and publications to assist with evaluation of impacts. An impact evaluation study focusing on socio-economic impacts is expected to be completed in 2025. Results of all outcomes and impact evaluations will be made publicly available on the SRP website once they are finalized. SRP also intends to post publications, including SRP-commissioned impact evaluations, on the ISEAL Evidensia platform.

Outcome and impact evaluations will enable SRP to:

- Test the SRP Theory of Change;
- Learn and improve SRP Assurance performance;
- Understand the impacts and demonstrate the value of SRP;
- Ensure and provide reliable research on impacts of SRP Standard to SRP members and other stakeholders; and
- Establish solid, scientific and reliable data on SRP Performance Indicators.

SRP's Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit takes responsibility to co-develop the evaluation plan from the design research questions and methodology process until the reporting to ensure that the results of SRP research studies on outcomes and impacts are robust and reliable.

1.7. Coordination and Cooperation

Registered SRP Projects refer to the farm-level projects that directly work with producers. It aims to encourage transition from conventional rice cultivation to sustainable rice cultivation through adopting the SRP Standard led by SRP members. Scaling is being done through capacity building, awareness raising, and incentives or market access. SRP undertakes its MEL work on outcome and impact evaluations in close coordination with the different partners engaged in the implementation of the Project.

1.8. Data

Priority indicators are (Level 1) collected periodically from SRP partners and existing data management systems. Some of the priority indicators are not yet systematically collected. These indicators will be mainly used to monitor the reach and scale of the program and to provide data on outputs and short-term/intermediate outcomes. These data points are also used for calculating more complex indicators.

SRP's data systems have evolved organically, created by different users in response to specific needs. SRP data mainly resides within reports or is manually extracted into a spreadsheet-database cloud-based software. While the SRP standard includes a robust set of Performance Indicators, these are not yet systematically collected or managed. Data is not connected, and the existing systems do not capture the data elements needed to support the monitoring and evaluation of the causal chains set out in the ToC.

A data value chain workshop was organized within the SRP Secretariat to draw the process of data management for each data from collection to maintenance, ensuring data collected was accurate, secure, and usable. Recommendations are being reviewed in order to address barriers and issues related to data use.

Data are gathered from various sources as identified in the priority indicators list. SRP has developed an in-house assurance platform, improving data documentation, collection, and archiving of assurance-related data from third-party assessment. This also ensures data integrity and better understanding of data requirements of both SRP management and relevant stakeholders. Data collection tools for farm-level assessments (e.g., Farmer checklist, Performance Indicators) are also being explored.

To protect confidentiality of data, the SRP Secretariat applies the procedures contained in SRP data policy. Information deemed sensitive is not required from Projects and Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs). All publicly disclosed data will be anonymized unless specific permission has been given for its public use.

1.9. Stakeholder Engagement

In line with the overall SRP Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, stakeholders relevant to MEL were identified and mapped. Stakeholder categories are identified at the organizational level and managed to facilitate coordination of stakeholders across SRP to avoid stakeholder fatigue. Mapping includes identifying the needs of SRP from the stakeholders and vice versa.

Stakeholders have been consulted at different stages of the development of the MEL system, including the updating of the ToC. The process starts from developing the detailed impact pathway by Secretariat staff to ensure the causal linkages between activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts in the ToC. This was presented to the SRP Board for review and collecting feedback. SRP Secretariat then filled in the gaps identified, and a public webinar was conducted to present the ToC to SRP stakeholders.

1.10. Learning and Improving

SRP's MEL system is continually being revised and improved through engagement across the organization and SRP members. Priority indicators will be published in the SRP Annual Report. Intended and unintended effects will be monitored through Registered SRP Projects and commissioned impact evaluations, and shared through stakeholder engagements and reporting (e.g., SRP annual report, Newsletter).

1.11. Transparency and Public Information

The MEL System Report will be published on the SRP website. SRP encourages members, stakeholders, and any interested parties to give feedback and comments on the MEL System Report and related activities. All feedback and comments will be considered during further development and implementation of the MEL system. For questions or comments on this document or the SRP Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning program, please contact:

Email: info@sustainablerice.org

Annex 1: Priority MEL Indicators

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Achievement 2024	SRP data ownership	Reporting
Outcome 1 - Men and women rice farmers adopt sustainable, climate-smart, resource-efficient technology packages at scale	Number of SRP farmers reached logged in the Assurance Scheme Platform	0	8,326	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually
Outcome 2a - Markets for sustainable rice in key export destinations are established	Number of verification statement holders against the SRP Standard for Rice Cultivation	28	13 <u>Country (Total)</u> Argentina: 1 Cambodia: 1 India: 2 Italy: 1 Pakistan: 3 Spain: 1 Thailand: 2 Uruguay: 1 Vietnam: 1	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually
Outcome 2a - Markets for sustainable rice in key export destinations are established	Number of verification statement holders against the SRP CoC Standard for Supply Chain	31	12 <u>Country (Total)</u> Cambodia: 1 France: 1 India: 1 Italy: 2 Pakistan: 1 Romania: 1 Thailand: 2 United Kingdom: 1 Uruguay: 1 Vietnam: 1	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually
Outcome 2a - Markets for sustainable rice in key export destinations are established	Total SRP-verified rice area registered with CABs	66,255.38 ha	18,280.55 ha <u>Country (Total)</u> Argentina: 2,617 ha Cambodia: 1,813.78 ha India: 1,471.18 ha Italy: 1,250 ha Pakistan: 2,667 ha Spain: 2,951 ha Thailand: 874.59 ha Uruguay: 4,572 ha Vietnam: 64 ha	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Achievement 2024	SRP data ownership	Reporting
Outcome 2a - Markets for sustainable rice in key export destinations are established	Number of participating operators requesting SRP verification on the on-pack label	15	7	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually
Output 1.1 - Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools, technologies, best practices, incentives and capacity	Number of SRP Authorized Trainers for SPI	537	202 Gender Male: 128 Female: 74 Country Bangladesh: 1 Benin: 4 Bhutan: 2 Cambodia: 67 Ivory Coast: 30 India: 4 Indonesia: 9 Italy: 2 Laos: 1 Myanmar: 1 Nigeria: 1 Pakistan: 6 Philippines: 26 South Korea: 2 Sri Lanka: 2 Tanzania: 27 Thailand: 2 Uruguay: 6 Vietnam: 9	Capacity Development Manager	Annually
Output 1.1 - Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools, technologies, best practices, incentives and capacity	Number of SRP Authorized Trainers for CoC	56	20 Gender Male: 14 Female: 6 Country Cambodia: 5 India: 2 Indonesia: 7 Pakistan: 4 Vietnam: 3	Capacity Development Manager	Annually
Output 1.1 - Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools, technologies, best practices, incentives and capacity	Number of SRP Authorized Trainers for IMS	55	20 Gender Male: 13 Female: 7 Country Cambodia: 9 India: 2 Uruguay: 4 Vietnam: 5	Capacity Development Manager	Annually
Output 1.1 - Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools,	Number of training sessions provided to SRP Authorized Training Providers for each type of training.	47	16 Type Standard and Performance Indicators: 7	Capacity Development Manager	Annually

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Achievement 2024	SRP data ownership	Reporting
technologies, best practices, incentives and capacity			Chain of Custody Policy and Standard: 3 Assurance Scheme: 3 Internal Management System: 3		
Output 1.1 - Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools, technologies, best practices, incentives and capacity	Number of Registered SRP Projects	24	33 <u>Country (Total)</u> Benin: 1 Burkina Faso: 2 Cambodia: 4 Congo: 1 Cote d'Ivoire: 1 Dominican Republic: 1 Ghana: 1 India: 3 Indonesia: 2 Italy: 1 Mali: 1 Myanmar: 1 Nigeria: 1 Pakistan: 2 Senegal: 1 Sierra Leone: 1 Spain: 1 Tanzania: 2 Thailand: 6	Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager	Annually
Output 1.1 - Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools, technologies, best practices, incentives and capacity	Number of SRP tools downloaded	0	11,564	Communications and Membership Manager	Annually
Output 1 - Men and women rice farmers and other stakeholders equipped with SRP tools, technologies, best practices, incentives and capacity	Number of members by category and region	110 <u>Category (Total)</u> Supply chain actor: 26 Service, input and equipment provider: 16 Civil society organization: 24 Public sector: 23	111 <u>Category (Total)</u> Supply chain actor: 38 Service, input and equipment provider: 19 Civil society organization: 29 Public sector: 25 <u>Region (Total)</u>	Communications and Membership Manager	Annually

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Achievement 2024	SRP data ownership	Reporting
			Africa: 4 Americas: 11 Asia: 60 Europe: 34 Oceania: 2		
Output 2a.1 - Industry-wide commitment to a unified standard and assurance regime for rice throughout sustainable value chains	Number of CABs in SRP Assurance Scheme per coverage	4	1	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually
Output 2a.1 - Industry-wide commitment to a unified standard and assurance regime for rice throughout sustainable value chains	Number of qualified auditors registered in SRP Assurance Scheme	29	14	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually
Output 2a.1 - Industry-wide commitment to a unified standard and assurance regime for rice throughout sustainable value chains	Number of complaints/ disputes logged in the system	0	0	Standard and Assurance Manager	Annually
Output 2a.2 - Consumer consciousness of environmental footprint and climate change impacts of rice, to stimulate market demand for sustainable rice products	Number of reached audience on sustainable rice awareness campaigns by type of communication platform	0	Reach/Impressions (social media): 421.5K Page views (website): 94.3K	Communications and Membership Manager	Annually
Output 2b.1 - Evidence-based policy frameworks and sector policy analyses at national and regional levels that prioritize and incentivize climate-smart sustainable best practices	Number of potential countries that have begun the formal process and achieved to form national chapters in Protocol Step 1	7	2 Country Bangladesh, Vietnam	Capacity Development Manager	Annually

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Achievement 2024	SRP data ownership	Reporting
Output 2b.1 - Evidence-based policy frameworks and sector policy analyses at national and regional levels that prioritize and incentivize climate-smart sustainable best practices	Number of potential countries that have begun the formal process and achieved Protocol Step 2	6	1 Indonesia	Capacity Developme nt Manager	Annually
Output 2b.1 - Evidence-based policy frameworks and sector policy analyses at national and regional levels that prioritize and incentivize climate-smart sustainable best practices	Number of established National Chapters	4	2 Country Cambodia, Pakistan	Capacity Developme nt Manager	Annually

Annex 2: SRP Risk Management[5]

As requested by the Governance and Risk Committee (GRC), the SRP Secretariat has reviewed and updated the Risk Register to include the outcomes of the EU Compliance Risk Assessment (covered elsewhere in this document), revised the language and tone, reviewed risk scores, and removed risks deemed redundant or of low relevance to SRP.

The revised Risk Register v 2.0 (November 2024), developed by the Secretariat, now comprises 92 generic risks, prioritized according to their likelihood, potential impact on SRP, and target risk. The risk items are categorized as follows:

a) Governance & Management
b) Standard & Assurance Scheme
c) Market Conditions
d) Reputation & Influence
e) Political and Regulatory
f) Threats at Local Level

The Risk Register ranks the top ten risks for SRP based on scoring from likelihood, impact, and target risk, which results in a 'Risk Gap' representing the difference between actual and optimal risk. For the top 10 identified risks, corresponding mitigation measures appropriate to the scale and severity of priority risks identified are also proposed (to be further articulated following GRC/Board endorsement).

The outcomes of this exercise (based on the current Top 10 Risks) are detailed in the table below:

Table: Risk Registry v 2.0 (November 2024): Top Ten Risks

Domain	Threat	Mitigation Measures
Governance	Loss of strategic focus through Board's overinvolvement in operational matters, leading to diminished Board effectiveness	Board ToRs are well articulated and reviewed in management review; agendas circulated at least 7 days ahead of Board meetings.
Communications, information & learning	Emergence of competing standards and insufficient strategic communication on SRP's relevance, leading to confusion and diminished visibility for SRP	Benchmarking exercise of SRP with other standards and implement a clear communication strategy. Engage stakeholders, collaborate with other organizations, and adjust based on feedback to ensure SRP's relevance and clarity
Standard & Assurance	Over-complex auditing requirements for Chain of Custody verification	Streamline audit requirements
Standard & Assurance	CABs become "Too big to fail"	Define a max % of total as warning value
Governance	Potential gaps in specific Board competencies hampers effective governance	Establish a diverse, skills-based Board performance self-evaluation
Governance	Quality of Board decisions impacted by disproportionate influence of individual Board members or groups	Uphold due process in conduct of Board and Committee meetings; demarcation of roles
Human Resources	Diminished institutional memory as a result of frequent staff transitions, impacting continuity	Ensure timely recruitment, proper onboarding, exit interviews, handover protocol for exiting staff

[5] Excerpts from "SRP Risk Management Report", November 2024

Communications, information and learning	Inadequacy of high-level strategic communications capacity (Secretariat, Board) hampers SRP's visibility, access and influence at high-level fora (e.g. COP, WEF, governments, MFIs, UN)	Employ PR consultancy specializing in this area to build the Srp brand among key strategic spheres of influence
Standard & Assurance	Perceived lack of separation of function between CABs and training roles	CABs that have a training unit or are registered as Authorized Training Providers must demonstrate an adequate system to ensure no conflict of interest.
Market	Lack of consumer awareness or market interest	Enhance retailer / consumer engagement by integrating on-pack QR codes and storytelling.
Reputation & Influence	Non-rigorous practices (e.g., SRI, Regenerative Agriculture) are equated with SRP and compete for attention and donor support	Conduct/commission benchmarking against other systems and develop data-based differentiation to show SRP's advantages, e.g., scope, rigour, cost-benefit to farmers.
Reputation & Influence	Overclaiming by SRP market actors	Ensure claims can be substantiated; strictly scrutinize proposed label claims by downstream actors before approval. Build the evidence base for impact.
Political & Regulatory	Inadequate capacity of value chain actors to generate data to substantiate compliance with EU CRSD requirements covering human rights and environmental risks along the supply chain (including child labour, forced labour, unsafe working conditions, and environmental degradation)	Integrate and implement further due diligence processes into SRP's operating model. This includes conducting risk assessments of main human rights and environmental risks in the operations SRP verifies, articulating actions to help members prevent, mitigate, and address these risks. Implement a policy and procedure to empower SRP to mandate transparency, data sharing and continuous improvement, including a grievance and reporting mechanism for human rights violations and environmental impacts

Updated Milieu Centraal Certificate Guide

Milieu Centraal was established in 1998 as an initiative of the then Ministry of the Environment, Netherlands as an authoritative and independent source of information on sustainability for consumers. Its recently updated Certification Guide included the SRP-Verified label as one of the top 12 sustainability labels in the Netherlands, giving SRP wider visibility and recognition as a credible sustainability assurance label. With growing consumer awareness and demand for transparency in sustainability claims, Milieu Centraal's wide-ranging efforts to combat misleading logos directly align with SRP's goals to enhance credibility and trust.

The updated guide aims to enhance consumer awareness about the reliability of certification labels and help consumers better distinguish between legitimate and deceptive certifications —particularly crucial as SRP continues to develop its risk management strategy to minimize reputational risks. By aiming to be included each year in Milieu Centraal's top-ranked labels, SRP can strengthen its brand and ensure consumers recognize and trust the rigorous standards underpinning the SRP-Verified label. This reduces the risk of greenwashing and enhances trust in the SRP brand.

ISEAL Code Compliance: 2023-2024 Improvement Plan

Priority areas for system improvement	Improvement objectives and how they serve to support closer alignment with the desired outcomes of ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice	Key planning and execution milestones
M&E: learning and improvement	Continually develop, document and implement a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system compliant with the ISEAL Codes. Impacts Code 5.1	MEL Report is complete and reviewed ahead of sharing with SRP members in late December or early January.Q2 and Q4 2024 Bi-annual Reporting will continue as a routine practice in 2024 and beyond. Q2 2024 Internal capacity building for Secretariat staff will continue via workshops and training sessions. Q3-Q4 2024 Convert the MEL system into a digital platform. A new Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager will join the Secretariat team by February 2024.
System governance	Secure sufficient, skilled staff members and consultants, and a commensurate long-term budget for the development and implementation of a credible MEL program, including data management systems and evaluations. Impacts Code 5.4.1	Q1 2024 Strengthen/diversify revenue streams identified during recent review of the 5-Year Strategic Plan (including newly revised Assurance Scheme). Q1 2024 Assurance Scheme V2.0 published in November 2023. This will bring significant changes: the Assurance Program will be fully overseen and managed directly by the SRP Secretariat. SRP has developed its own data management system (SRP Assurance Platform). This will support the path to ISEAL Code Compliance and generate increased revenues for SRP.Q1 and Q2 2024 Completion of online farmer training project in collaboration of FAO; implementation of expanded assurance and carbon finance integration (funding support from ISEAL Innovations Fund to be requested).\Q3 2023 Start a partnership to initiate digital MEL system for data management and develop the transaction certificates platform to support the assurance program.Q4 2024 Pilot trials of newly built Digital MEL system and Credit Trading Platform.

M&E: learning and improvement	Use the updated ToC as the backbone of our MEL system for improved monitoring of our results, efficiencies and effectiveness, to focus and strengthen data collection and analysis to increase the evidence base and learning agenda. Standard Setting Code 6.1.1, 6.1.2 Impacts Code 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7 Assurance code: 4.4.2	Q1 2024 Sharing of impact data results with members. Identification of gaps, deficiency in the data collection templates and system and improvement in the system. Q2 2024 Development of plan for digitalization of MEL system - conversion of templates and other reporting templates into digital platform. Q3 2024 Development of digital platform.	Q1 2024 Sharing of impact data results with members. Identification of gaps, deficiencies in the data collection templates and system, and improvement in the system. Q2 2024 Development of a plan for the digitalization system. Q system - conversion of templates and other reporting templates into digital platform. Q3 2024 Development of digital platform.
M&E: learning and improvement	Use the updated ToC as the backbone of our MEL system for improved monitoring of our results, efficiencies and effectiveness, to focus and strengthen data collection and analysis to increase the evidence base and learning agenda. Standard Setting Code 6.1.1, 6.1.2 Impacts Code 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7 Assurance code: 4.4.2	Q1 2024 Survey to be completed. The monitoring system will be based on the updated TOC and the three ISEAL Codes for the quarterly reporting cycle. Risk Register and Risk Management Plan is pending Board approval and will be implemented thereafter.	Q1 2024 Survey to be completed. The monitoring system will be based on the updated TOC and the three ISEAL Codes for the quarterly reporting cycle. Risk Register and Risk Management Plan is pending Board approval and will be implemented thereafter.

M&E: learning and improvement	Use the updated ToC as the backbone of our MEL system for improved monitoring of our results, efficiencies and effectiveness, to focus and strengthen data collection and analysis to increase the evidence base and learning agenda. Standard Setting Code 6.1.1, 6.1.2 Impacts Code 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7 Assurance code: 4.4.2	Q1 2024 As above, MEL system and monitoring will be based on the updated ToC. The SRP Research Agenda is complete and will be shared with members via webinar and website to inform SRP stakeholders on research priorities and impact key areas. The Research Agenda will also be shared with ISEAL Community Members to seek collaboration with organizations with shared interests. Research Ethics Guidelines completed, to be used to guide researchers implementing all SRP-commissioned or collaborative research. This also aligns with SRP's good data governance as required by the ISEAL Impact Code.Q1 2024 The Internal Research Checklist will be used to guide the commissioning of research and conduct impact assessment studies. December 2023 (In progress)	Q1 2024 As above, MEL system and monitoring will be based on the updated ToC. The SRP Research Agenda is complete and will be shared with members via webinar and website to inform SRP stakeholders on research priorities and impact key areas. The Research Agenda will also be shared with ISEAL Community Members to seek collaboration with organizations with shared interests. Research Ethics Guidelines completed, to be used to guide researchers implementing all SRP-commissioned or collaborative research. This also aligns with SRP's good data governance as required by the ISEAL Impact Code.Q1 2024 The Internal Research Checklist will be used to guide the commissioning of research and conduct impact assessment studies. December 2023 (In progress)

		Analyse data across all SRP's programmes in relation to the MEL plan as an input to refine the 2024 Work Plan. Q1 2024 Analysis of the result of benchmarking of Gold Standard against SRP Standard as a baseline to develop carbon module, this will be an add on module to the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation. Q2-Q3 2024 Work to develop a carbon module/add on to support SRP Standard in order to quantify impacts of SRP practices on carbon emissions.	Analyse data across all SRP's programmes in relation to the MEL plan as an input to refine the 2024 Work Plan. Q1 2024 Analysis of the result of benchmarking of Gold Standard against SRP Standard as a baseline to develop carbon module, this will be an add on module to the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation. Q2-Q3 2024 Work to develop a carbon module/add on to support SRP Standard in order to quantify impacts of SRP practices on carbon emissions.
Data and information management	Actively collaborate and partner with other organizations in the implementation of the SRP MEL system to achieve efficiencies, facilitate cross organizational learning and increased understanding of sustainability impacts. Impacts Code 5.9.1	Q1 2024 Summary of outcomes and impact evaluation studies will be made public when finalized. Q1 2024 onwards Agreement with Evidensia is established. SRP will encourage researchers to post reports as well as SRP commissioned research on the Evidensia Platform.	

Data and information management	Design and develop a robust digital data management system to support our MEL system for driving and demonstrating impact. Ensure quality data and effective use through the collection, storage, aggregation, analysis and reporting for internal and external stakeholders. Assurance Code 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 5.2.2, 5.2.3 Impacts Code 5.6, 5.7, 8.4, 9.1, 9.2	Q1 2024 Launch and implementation of Data Policy and development of Data Platform in 2024.Launch of SRP Assurance Platform on 1 January 2024 to manage the SRP Verification Audits.Q3 2024 Start developing the Transaction Certificate system as traceability platform to monitor the SRP-Verified products. Q4 2024 Introduce the Transaction Certificate system and traceability platform to SRP members.	Q1 2024 Launch and implementation of Data Policy and development of Data Platform in 2024.Launch of SRP Assurance Platform on 1 January 2024 to manage the SRP Verification Audits.Q3 2024 Start developing the Transaction Certificate system as traceability platform to monitor the SRP-Verified products. Q4 2024 Introduce the Transaction Certificate system and traceability platform to SRP members.
Data and information management	Provide a credible, global base of evidence to build a body of knowledge on best practice adoption and impact, to support maintenance and revision of the SRP Standard and our assurance system; establish a channel for engagement and knowledge exchange with our users, including farmers. Assurance Code 4.4.2, 6.1.1 Standard Setting Code 5.1.1c, 6.1.3 Impacts Code 8.2, 8.3, 8.10, 10.3	Q1 2024 Reach out to stakeholders for feedback on field data collection app. Q2 2024 SRP will select a compatible field data app to input into the SRP system. Q3 2024 Develop a hybrid/digital data solution that will act as a flexible data management platform for use among different stakeholders.	Q1 2024 Reach out to stakeholders for feedback on field data collection app. Q2 2024 SRP will select a compatible field data app to input into the SRP system. Q3 2024 Develop a hybrid/digital data solution that will act as a flexible data management platform for use among different stakeholders.

Data and information management	Maximize system inter-operability with existing systems and platforms (e.g., indicators, data collection applications) in both private sector and public domains to maximize connectivity and leverage existing data sets. Impacts Code 5.9 8.8	Q1 2024 Implement new Assurance Scheme v 2.0 and continue its development (additional functionality). Q3 2024 Start analysing the data from the SRP Assurance Platform as part of quarterly report.
Data and information management	Implement data quality assurance measures to ensure quality, reliability and accuracy of data for prioritized MEL indicators and assurance data. Impacts Code 8.4, 5.9.2, 8.8.1 Assurance Code: 4.4.3	Q1 2024 Training modules modification in accordance with Assurance Scheme 2.0. Start to modify in Q4 2023 and will continue in Q1 2024. Initiate two sessions of SRP Assurance Scheme pilot training in Q1 2024 to support SRP Authorized Training Service Providers and CAB build capacity.
System governance	Develop a risk management plan to better understand where the highest risks and opportunities exist to guide our policy development, assurance system, monitoring, and capacity building. The risk management plan facilitates good business practice and ongoing services to stakeholders. Assurance Code 4.2, 4.4.1, 4.5.1, 4.5.2 Standard Setting Code 5.1.1 Impacts Code 7.4	Q1 2024 New Risk Register and Risk Management Plan pending Board approval and will be implemented thereafter.
Stakeholder engagement and management	Ongoing review and revise SRP stakeholder identification, mapping, engagement and monitoring, to ensure we understand who our stakeholders are, their interests and any constraints they may face in engagement with us. Standard-Setting Code 5.2 Impacts Code 6.1, 6.2, 7.3.1	Q1 2024 Sharing of the MEL system report through webinar after completion of due process, the impact evaluation study results will also be shared. S&A: Monthly meeting of CABs to get updates and stay connected with CABs. Regular webinar to support Assurance Actors, introducing new tools and approach e.g. how to develop root cause analysis and corrective action plan. First introductory webinar of this series was conducted in December 2023 to introduce changes to Assurance Scheme v 2.0.eTrainings: Regular Bi-monthly meetings by Training unit with Authorized Training Providers to keep a track and improve the training program. Bi-monthly meetings with National Chapters/National Representations as a part of stakeholder consultation and to

		improve National level operation with better monitoring.	
Assurance: system	Ensure a credible, efficient assurance system, and consistency with the ISEAL Assurance Code. Assurance Code – ALL	Q1 2024 Following the launch of Assurance Scheme V2.0 in November 2023 which will be effective start 1 January 2024. All related documents including training modules are undergoing updates to align. Full consultation with CABs and SRP value chain actors maintained throughout preparation with support from Technical Committee prior to launch the system and tools, including normative documents and supporting guidelines and templates. Q3 2024 Further development of the SRP Assurance Platform, including development of Transaction Certificate system and traceability platform (RiceTrace). Both platforms will be used by CABs and SRP members for the Assurance Scheme and impact data management.	Q1 2024 Following the launch of Assurance Scheme V2.0 in November 2023 which will be effective start 1 January 2024. All related documents including training modules are undergoing updates to align. Full consultation with CABs and SRP value chain actors maintained throughout preparation with support from Technical Committee prior to launch the system and tools, including normative documents and supporting guidelines and templates. Q3 2024 Further development of the SRP Assurance Platform, including development of Transaction Certificate system and traceability platform (RiceTrace). Both platforms will be used by CABs and SRP members for the Assurance Scheme and impact data management.
Assurance: management	Develop a robust Assurance Integrity program that includes assurance related activities as well as quality control measures	Q1 2024 Continuing successful integrity	Q1 2024 Continuing successful integrity

	and integrity checks for the credibility of the system. Assurance Code 4.2, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 5.1.13, 5.2.3	program completed in November 2023 by SRP Standard & Assurance unit. SRP expanded the oversight program to plan witness and compliance audits. There will be a comprehensive audit from 2024 onwards. Q2 2024 Desktop review to verify the CAB's assurance system. Q3 and Q4 2024 Witness audit and Compliance audit assigned to SRP staff auditor that have been trained.	program completed in November 2023 by SRP Standard & Assurance unit. SRP expanded the oversight program to plan witness and compliance audits. There will be a comprehensive audit from 2024 onwards. Q2 2024 Desktop review to verify the CAB's assurance system. Q3 and Q4 2024 Witness audit and Compliance audit assigned to SRP staff auditor that have been trained.
Assurance: system	Foster continual improvement to maintain effectiveness of the Assurance system. Assurance Code 4.5.1	Q1 2024 After launch of Assurance Scheme V2.0 in November 2023. SRP has held a webinar to give an overview of the Assurance Scheme 2.0. This will be followed with a series of webinar and pilot training sessions targeting authorized trainers and in-house trainers to familiarize them with changes introduced in Assurance Scheme v 2.0.Pilot sessions and exams for calibration of master trainers against the	Q1 2024 After launch of Assurance Scheme V2.0 in November 2023. SRP has held a webinar to give an overview of the Assurance Scheme 2.0. This will be followed with a series of webinar and pilot training sessions targeting authorized trainers and in-house trainers to familiarize them with changes introduced in Assurance Scheme v 2.0.Pilot sessions and exams for calibration of master trainers against the

		Assurance Scheme (calibration of trainers attached to CABs and Authorized Training Providers as Master Trainers).All Authorized trainers will also be required to be calibrated by attending training sessions and exams through the Authorized Training Service Providers within 6 months of the effective date of Assurance Scheme 2.0 (1 Jan 2024).	Assurance Scheme (calibration of trainers attached to CABs and Authorized Training Providers as Master Trainers).All Authorized trainers will also be required to be calibrated by attending training sessions and exams through the Authorized Training Service Providers within 6 months of the effective date of Assurance Scheme 2.0 (1 Jan 2024).
Grievance	Q1 2024 Grievance Policy and Procedure approved by SRP Board. Maintain the email address grievance@sustainablerice.org as one of several channels for submission of grievances. Q2/Q3 - 2024 Introducing SRP Grievance Procedure to all SRP members and stakeholders through a webinar.		

Annex 3: SRP Examples of Impacts

SUSTAINABLE RICE PLATFORM (SRP)

Examples of impact

Global rice cultivation is responsible for the highest water consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to other crops[6]. In addition, rice farming has a significant association with poverty[7]. Changes in rice farming cultivation practices, therefore, have a strong potential socio-economic ecological impact. The actual impact depends on the baseline (or situation before intervention through key factors such as rice field irrigation (water impact); fresh organic material flooding (GHG emission impact); and extreme agrochemical usage (profitability and ecological impact).

Since the launch of the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators (PIs) in 2015, the consequential impact on farmer's profit and environmental footprint have been measured.

Empowering Farmers through the Sustainable Aromatic Rice Initiative Thailand (SARI)[8] by GIZ

Over five years of implementation in Roi-et and two years in the Central Plain, the Sustainable Aromatic Rice Initiative Thailand (SARI) has made a profound impact on farmers' livelihoods, environmental sustainability, and the resilience of the rice value chain. By introducing Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) practices and supporting farmers with capacity-building and certification, the initiative has achieved measurable improvements across key impact indicators.

1. Increase: A Sustainable Boost to Farmers' Livelihoods
The integration of sustainable practices into rice farming has significantly boosted farmer incomes:

- In Roi-et, participating farmers saw a 1,459% increase in income compared to the provincial average, largely due to a 48% reduction in production costs and premium access to sustainable rice markets.
- From 2022 to 2023, farmers in the Central Plain experienced a 6.35% increase in rice revenue, growing from USD 1,198/ha to USD 1,283/ha.
- Overall, 70% of farmers' total income now comes from rice cultivation, demonstrating the pivotal role of sustainable rice farming in their financial stability.
- These income gains were supported by:
- The sale of 41,951 MT of Hom Mali paddy, achieving 91% of the 46,000 MT target.
- Establishment of a robust sustainable value chain with 1,205 certified SRP farmers in Roi-et and 240 SRP trainers in the Central Plain.

2. Reduced Water Usage: Advancing Climate-Resilient Farming
SARI introduced efficient water management practices that have dramatically reduced water consumption:

- From 2022 to 2023, farmers in the Central Plain cut water usage by 41% per kg of paddy, dropping from 2,391.82 litres/kg to 1,419.63 litres/kg.
- At the field level, water use per hectare decreased by 35%, while water productivity improved by nearly 70%.

[6] Oxfam, Food Commodity Footprints
[7] http://ricecrp.org/reduced-poverty/
[8] SARI Mars Final Report_Ha_USD FINAL.pdf

- These gains not only ensure long-term resource conservation but also demonstrate the project's alignment with climate-smart agriculture principles.
-

3. Reduced Fertilizer Usage: Cutting Costs and Emissions

SARI has also led to more efficient fertilizer use:

- Fertilizer reduction accounted for 35% of the total production cost savings.
- In both regions, farmers decreased their input costs without compromising yield, average yields increased by 10% in the Central Plain and ranged from 2,700 to 3,300 kg/ha in project areas versus a provincial average of 2,170–2,180 kg/ha in Roi-et.