



COFCO INTL

COFCO International Responsible Agriculture Standard

Sustainability V.01 | March 2023

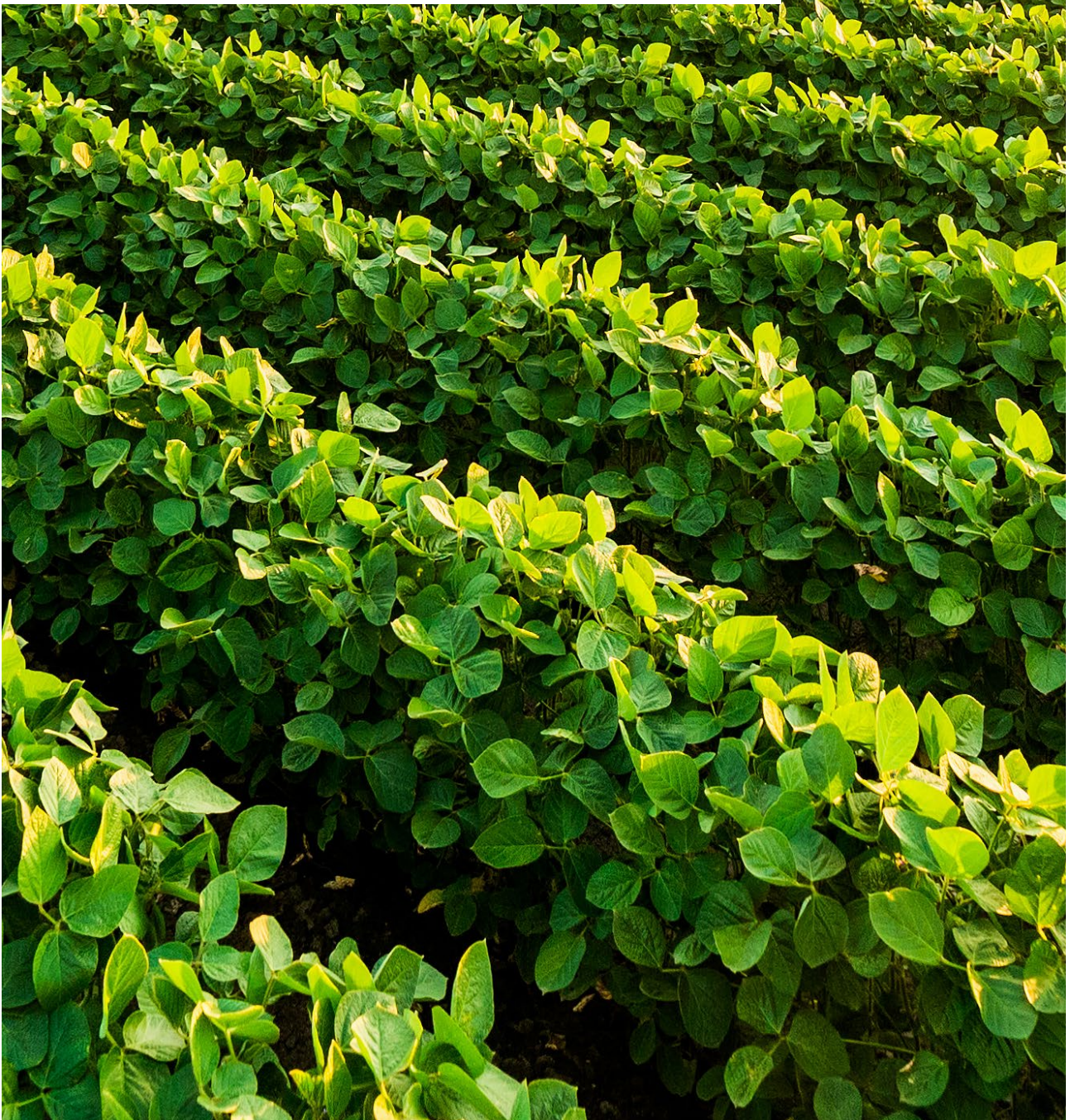
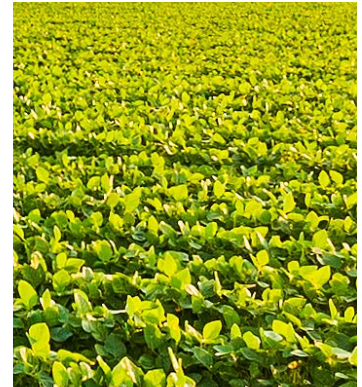


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1. Introduction

COFCO International is a global agri-business committed to supporting global food security in a responsible way. Our business covers the sourcing, storing, processing, trading and transporting of major commodities including grains, oilseeds, sugar, coffee and cotton. For further information about COFCO International and our journey, visit [Sustainability Reports](#) section of our website.

Based on our commitment to promote responsible agriculture, COFCO International has created the COFCO International Responsible Agriculture Standard (“Standard”) and an accompanying verification programme to support the mainstreaming of agricultural commodities that are produced in line with native vegetation conservation objectives and the principles of sustainability.

COFCO International will use the Standard as the instrument to assess and promote sustainable practices in our supply chains.

This Standard has been developed by COFCO International based on and incorporating the following: (i) [COFCO International’s set of policies](#), including its Supplier Code of Conduct and Sustainable Soy Sourcing Policy; (ii) responsible industry standards, mainly FEAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021; (iii) international principles such as International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Conventions and Recommendations, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and International Bill of Human Rights. If there are any material changes to these documents of reference and/or any documents are added to the Standard, the Standard may be reviewed following internal COFCO International control processes. All relevant stakeholders will be consulted and/or informed regarding any upcoming changes.

The Standard is addition to and does not have the intention to compete with, nor to replace, existing national and international responsible certification or verification schemes. Instead, it aims to offer products that comply with specific social and environmental criteria. Creating this Standard does not eliminate the criteria of producers’ “vetoes” for the sale of products, that already exist as required by local law.

2. Standard Scope

This Standard applies to select agri-commodity suppliers to COFCO International and its subsidiaries worldwide (meaning in any relevant jurisdictions), as determined at COFCO International sole judgement and discretion.

Throughout the document, “supplier” shall refer to a single producer (physical or legal person), a group of producers (for a farm certification), meaning persons (physical and/or legal) in a relationship of control (meaning controlling, in common control and/or under the control of) or a supplying company of grains, oilseeds and their by-products, such as soybean meal (for a chain of custody certification).

Modules

Considering the existing market demands for sustainable products, the Standard offers two modules of verification that suppliers can apply for (alternatively or in addition). Both modules were developed on the same set of criteria, as described in [section 3](#), with Module 1 focused specifically on traceability and non-conversion, and Module 2 encompassing a wider set of parameters.

	Module 1	Module 2
Farm-level traceability	X	X
Satellite image assessment	X	X
Supplier certification		X
On site verification		X
Cut-off date	Customisable*	No later than Dec 31 2020
GHG measurement data	Secondary	Secondary or Primary

* Respecting local legislations at both origination and destination countries.

All farms that obtain the certification for Module 2 are eligible for Module 1 sales as well, provided that the cut-off date attends to Module 2 requirements. However, any farm considered under Module 1 must go through a new audit process to be certified for Module 2.

3. Criteria

The below criteria form an integral part of COFCO International's set of policies. For Module 2, the criteria are further broken down into the list of specific requirements that will be verified during on-site inspection (please see [8. Annex: Module 2 Verification Checklist](#)).

3.1 Legal Compliance

The farmer must comply with all relevant local laws and regulations.

3.2 Respect for Human and Labour Rights

The farmer must respect human rights as set out in the ILO Conventions and Recommendations and as expressed in the International Bill of Human Rights. The farmer must treat workers with dignity and respect, in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (GPBHR).

This requirement encompasses the following areas:

- Child labour
- Forced labour
- Freedom of association and collective bargaining
- Discrimination and harassment
- Disciplinary practices
- Working hours
- Remuneration
- Grievance mechanism
- Occupational Health & Safety

3.3 Protection of Community Relations

The farmer must respect the local communities where they operate, including legal and customary land rights.

This criterion encompasses the following areas:

- Community rights
- Communication and dialogue with the local community

3.4 Environmental Responsibility

The farmer must commit to meet the environmental legislation and/or local or international Standards (if higher) inherent to its business activities and to attain to sustainable agricultural practices.

This criterion encompasses the following areas:

- Forest and native vegetation conservation
- Waste management
- Use of fossil fuels
- Water management
- Soil quality
- Good agricultural practices

4. Traceability and Mass Balance System

For application of either Module 1 or 2, there must be a traceability system in place to register eligible supplying farms' information and to create a link between these farms and final customers ("Mass Balance System"). Suppliers applying for a chain of custody certification shall have in place their own Mass Balance System. Suppliers should understand that the provided information will feed COFCO International's own Mass Balance System. In this sense, to assess traceability, all information presented in the evidence documents must confirm that the volume was sourced from a specific farm polygon(s) presented. It could include, but is not limited to:

- ID number of supplier
- Name of farm and producer
- Farm polygon

In addition to these items, the productive area of the polygon should be sufficient to produce the total amount received from the farm. For this productivity check, the most updated average productivity informed by local government agencies is recommended to be used as reference and shall be verified during the audit process. If the volume received is above this index, the extra amount must be excluded from the final certification scope unless an explanation is provided to and accepted by the auditors.

The volumes accepted under the certification scope must be registered into a Mass Balance System (as detailed above). It must be in place to trace and control verified volumes of the certified products throughout the supply chain, from producing farms to the eventual delivery to customers. The system should monitor the inflow and outflow of verified volumes to guarantee that the output of verified products never exceeds the input. In cases where the compliant volumes sold are lower than purchased volumes, the excess volume may be transferred to the following 12-month period and should be identified as "Transition Stock" at the beginning of the inventory period. The sale of this excess volume will be verified in the subsequent audit. The deadline for the sale of the Transition Stock will be 12 months. After that period, this volume must be cancelled and cannot be transferred again to a new inventory period.

For the initial audit, if the verification does not reveal any major non-conformities, any volumes that entered the COFCO International Chain of Custody system up to 12 months prior to the initial verification will be considered as volumes that comply with the Standard.

To the correct registration of the inflow and outflow, the mass balance system must include the production and/or loss coefficient(s) whenever applicable. For example, in case of soy by-products, such as soybean meal or oil, the industrial phase of the transforming process must be demonstrated to justify the production coefficient. For group certification, in case there are losses, the percentage must be informed as well.

Finally, all farms applying to receive Module 2 certification are obliged to inform if they have other certifications, including those compliant with the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines. To avoid double-counting with such norms, farms in this situation must inform the names and validity of other certifications, internal controls, and specific mass balance if applicable.

5. GHG Calculation

The Standard includes greenhouse-gas emissions calculation for both Module 1 and 2, by using a methodology aligned with RED II. The data to be used for the GHG calculation can be primary, with numbers directly measured out of the inputs and agricultural practices applied, or secondary, using average data in line with default values from RED II. The former is only possible for Module 2, up to client request, and must be supported by applicable records.

6. Certification Process

6.1 Audit Scope

Verification audits are conducted on individual farms or a group of farms by an accredited certification body. This entity will be appointed by COFCO International or the supplier, as settled in a case-by-case basis.

Farms that want to be certified as a group should belong to the same region (country or biome) and must all individually comply with the Standard requirements. The group manager is responsible to manage the farms' registration process, support the farms to prepare for the audits, and to ensure the farms meet the Standard requirements. The group may not include more than 100 participating farms.

The group manager must have a system of internal controls in place to monitor compliance with the Standard and perform checks on the farms on an annual basis or more frequently if required. The results of internal checks must be documented.

For group certification, the certification body will audit the compliance of the group of farms against the Standard on a sampling basis (see [section 6.4](#) for the sampling rules) and will check the effectiveness of the internal management system of the group manager.

All relevant information on the certification process is disclosed in this section. Still, if any action required for the certification is not fully described in this document, it needs to be previously aligned and formally approved by COFCO International before being implemented.

6.2 Validity of Certificate and Audit Frequency

Certification attesting compliance remains valid for 4 years ("validity period"). During the validity period, farms must undergo a third-party audit once every two years ("ongoing audits"). If at the end of the validity period a supplier wishes to renew their certification for another 4 years, a verification audit needs to be performed at least 90 days before the expiration of the certificate of conformity.

If major non-conformities are found in any ongoing audits (including along with minor non-conformities), certification shall be suspended until proven compliance. If minor non-conformities are found, the certification will not be suspended and the supplier will have 1 year to remedy the non-conformities identified. If the minor non-conformities are not remedied after 1 year, the certification shall be suspended until proven compliance. In all cases, observe [section 6.5.6](#).

Notwithstanding the above, the Standard may be periodically revised by COFCO International. In this case, if a new version of the Standard is launched, the old certificates of conformity lose their validity. Suppliers will have to demonstrate their compliance with updated requirements and a new certificate of conformity will be issued.

6.3 Audit Duration

The duration of an audit is determined by the certification body depending on the size of the property, number of locations, area, and other factors.

6.4 Sampling

The minimum sample size is determined by the certification body applying the following formula and rounding the result to the nearest integer:

Sample size = \sqrt{X} , where "X" is the number of farms in a group certification.

The certification body has a right to increase a number of farms in a sample at its discretion, if, according to their independent evaluation, there may be significant risks of non-compliance with the Standard requirements in the area. If some farms in a sample are found not in compliance, a new sample will be made.

6.5 Audit Process

The certification body will gather the evidence of compliance using the following sources of information (other sources of information may be used):

- Satellite imagery (for Module 1 and Module 2)¹;
- Relevant internal records from producers and a group manager (for Module 2);
- On-site inspections (for Module 2);
- Interviews with workers, farm managers and local communities (for Module 2);
- Municipal records (for Module 2).

¹ The satellite images for the audit must respect the minimum resolution of 30 meters. The methodology consists of satellite image interpretation, including images comparison and/or images overlapping. If the location where the standard will be applied has no-conversion risk, accurate proofs must be provided with region specific satellite images or other publicly available sources that clearly state that conversion of natural lands is not an issue.

The audit will follow the stages below.

6.5.1 Opening Meeting

In this meeting, the rules of the audit and the audit agenda will be confirmed. The opening meeting will begin with the introduction of the auditor and/or the team of auditors and aims to clarify the content of the audit. It will also confirm the resources and means needed to conduct the audit. At this stage, the scope of work and the methodology will be confirmed and the location and operations to be audited will be defined, as well as the focal points from each party. All guidance on how to proceed will be provided during this meeting. In addition, a grievance channel will be communicated to the auditee, in line with the appeals procedure described in [section 6.7](#).

After the opening meeting, the certification body must prepare an audit plan formalizing scope, content, and agenda of the audit. The document must be submitted for COFCO International's approval, and next, sent to the auditee.

6.5.2 Documents Review

At this stage, a certification body will review and analyse all the available records and documents that attest the auditee's compliance to the Standard requirements. In case of group certification, all maps of certified farms must be collected and stored by the group manager.

6.5.3 Field Inspection (for Module 2)

Verification of compliance with Module 2 will require a field inspection, where the certification body will examine the working premises and interview workers and other relevant stakeholders to gather the necessary evidence.

6.5.4 Closing Meeting

In this meeting, the audit findings and the next steps will be communicated to the parties. Should any non-conformities be identified, the auditor will provide two copies of the Non-Conformance report and present it at the closing meeting. The auditees will be informed about the timings and advised on corrective actions required to close the identified gaps. During the closing meeting, the farmers will have a right to ask for clarification of any points raised by the auditor. One copy of the Non-Conformance report will be signed by the auditee and returned to the auditor, and the other will remain with the auditee. Signatures could be physical or digital.

6.5.5 Preparation of the Final Report

Finally, the certification body will prepare a summary report containing the verification methodology and the process as well as the audit results presented during the closing meeting and will share it with the farmer. The audit report shall be stored for at least 5 years.

6.5.6 Corrective Actions

To obtain a certificate of conformity, producers must not have any major non-conformities. In case of identified non-conformities, the auditees are expected to submit a corrective action plan to the certification body within 30 days following the audit. The corrective action plan should include the steps the producers will implement in order to close the non-conformities. Compliance evidence needs to be submitted within 60 days for major non-conformities and 1 year for minor. The certification body will review the provided evidence and decide on the closure of non-conformities. The certification body will not be able to issue a certificate of compliance until all the major non-conformities are closed. If a major non-conformity is not solved within the indicated deadline, the producer will be suspended until proven compliance, and could be excluded from the certified group. If a minor non-conformity is not closed within the indicated deadline, it will be categorized as a major non-conformity, and the producer will be given 60 additional days for the follow-up action.

For the classification of non-conformities, please refer to the [section 6.6](#) of this document.

6.6 Types of Non-Conformities

Failure to meet any Standard criteria is registered as a non-conformity. The Standard distinguishes between two types of non-conformities: major and minor.

Non-conformities are considered major when they are of a systematic nature and demonstrate a fundamental failure in the management system. Major non-conformities must be closed within 60 days following the audit.

Non-conformities are considered minor when they are unsystematic in nature and demonstrate relatively small or temporary inefficiencies in the management system. Minor non-conformities must be closed within 12 months following the audit.

Please refer to [8. Annex: Module 2 Verification Checklist](#) for the further details on the major/minor non-conformities.

6.7 Appeals Procedure

If the auditee does not agree with the outcomes of the audit, they may submit a formal complaint or appeal to the certification body through a provided channel. The complaint must be reviewed by an impartial individual not involved in the original audit process and the grievant must be informed on the process and the outcomes. The results of the audit are subject to reevaluation should the auditee provide the necessary evidence of compliance.

If the auditee does not agree with the outcomes of the appeals procedure or has another complaint related to this program, they may refer the matter to COFCO International for further review:

sustainability@cofcointernational.com

6.8 Auditor Requirements

6.8.1 Team Structure and Qualifications

The team for annual third-party audits must be comprised of a lead auditor and a sufficient number of team members.

The costs with auditor will be supported by COFCO International or the supplier, as settled in a case by case basis.

Auditors must have proven experience with sustainability audits related to the soy and other grains and oilseeds supply chains, as well as experience in other certification protocols, such as RTRS, 2BSVs, ISCC or similar Standards. In addition, they must have the knowledge of all elements of the Standard, including the knowledge to interpret satellite images, for either Module 1 or 2. In order to guarantee that such requirement is met, COFCO International will provide a training session upon auditor's nomination and no less than every three years for nominated auditors. Any additional refreshing training session could be provided upon request by the certification body.

In order to successfully pass the selection process, certification bodies are expected to maintain external accreditations, such as ISO 17021, ISO 17065 or proven equivalents, provided by a third party affiliated to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or in compliance with ISO 17011. If the third party is not accredited based on ISO-norms, equivalency to the ISO-procedures should be demonstrated. Additionally, the certification body must have an effective grievance mechanism in place.

6.8.2 Responsible Conduct

Impartiality

To verify compliance with the certification body's impartiality requirement, some rules will be considered, namely:

- 1- The certification body must not act to gain market share or resources to the extent that it negatively affects impartiality in the exercise of its activities.
- 2- The certification body and COFCO International cannot be under control and/or common control of the same legal entity, nor can any contractor or one of its employees be involved in the ownership or management of COFCO International to the extent of negatively affecting impartiality in the exercise of their activities.
- 3- The service provider or any organisation to which it outsources certification/verification activities must not have performed an internal audit for or provided consultancy to the entity to be audited in the previous two years.

Confidentiality

The certification body must obligate itself, its administrators, employees, contractors, subcontractors, representatives and collaborators to maintain the most complete and absolute secrecy about any data, materials, information, documents, technical or commercial specifications, innovations or improvements used by COFCO International, of which or to which it may have knowledge or access, or which may be entrusted to it by reason of this program, whether in its own interest or that of third parties.

In this sense, the certification body must sign a confidentiality agreement, formalizing the provisions above, agreeing not to disclose any information related to inspections, certifications or verifications.

Glossary

Term	
ILO Conventions and Recommendations	Legal instruments created by the International Labour Organization to serve either as legally binding international treaties (Conventions) or as non-binding guidelines (Recommendations), and defining fundamental principles and rights at work.
International Bill of Human Rights	International treaty established by the United Nations which is a globally ratified international standard for human rights.
United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights	Voluntary global standard for States and companies to prevent and address human rights abuses committed in business operations.
FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines	Benchmarking programme for feed operators and chain partners representing the European feed industry's requirements for responsible soy production from within and outside Europe.
RED II	The EU Renewable Energy Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, that entered into force in December 2018.
Chain of Custody	Record of the sequence of entities that have custody over commodity occurring as it moves along the supply chain.
Mass Balance System	Sourcing system allowing certified and non-certified commodities and/or their by-products to become physically mixed at some stages of the supply chain.
Certification Body	Independent 3rd party organization contracted to perform supplier audits.
Certification Manager	Entity responsible to develop and manage the standard. COFCO International is the Certification Manager for the Standard.
Group Manager	Individual and/or entity responsible to manage the certification process for the farms that pursue group certification.

7. Stakeholder Feedback and Grievance Mechanism

For any suggestions, complaints or comments regarding this Standard, please send your message to sustainability@cofcointernational.com

To report any concerns related to COFCO International Policies, please access our Integrity Hotline: www.cofcointernational.com/integrity-hotline

The information you provide will be sent to us by EthicsPoint, a third-party service provider, on a totally confidential and anonymous basis if you should choose. You are encouraged to submit reports relating to violations stated in our Code of Conduct, as well as asking for guidance related to policies and procedure. Note, however, that making intentionally false statements or bad faith allegations is a violation of COFCO International's Code of Conduct and of this Standard.

8. Annex: Module 2 Verification Checklist

Number	Criterion	Indicator	Type of non-conformity
(I) Legal Compliance			
1.1.1	Legal compliance	Farmer complies with all the applicable local laws and regulations (including those related to grain production expansion, irrigation, the use of biological control agents, phytosanitary products and other agricultural practices), and compliance can be demonstrated.	Major
(II) Human and Labour Rights			
2.1.1	Child labour	Workers and contract workers meet the applicable minimum legal age requirement. The employment of children under 15 years old is not tolerated.	Major
2.1.2		Children under 15 may be present on the premises, only if all of the following conditions are met: 1. It is allowed by national laws; 2. It is their family farm; 3. It does not interfere with their education.	Major
2.1.3		Children and young workers (under 18) are not exposed to any situations that are hazardous or unsafe to their physical and mental health and educational development.	Major
2.2.1	Forced Labour	Slavery, or any conditions analogous to slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, and human trafficking are not tolerated.	Major
2.2.2		Workers shall not be required to lodge their identity papers, as well as any part of their salary, benefits, property or documents, with anyone, unless required by law.	Major
2.2.3		Workers shall be free to leave the premises after completing the standard workday and to terminate their employment upon the provision of a reasonable notice period.	Major
2.3.1	Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining	Workers shall be granted the right to freely associate, organize and bargain collectively in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (in jurisdictions where it is allowed and in any jurisdictions where that is not forbidden)	Major
2.3.2		The effective functioning of worker organizations is not hindered, and worker representatives are not subjected to discrimination and have access to their members in the workplace on request.	Major

2.4.1	Discrimination and harassment	Any form of discrimination, harassment, nor the use of any form of violence, including gender-based violence is not tolerated.	Major
2.4.2		The organization shall not engage in or support discrimination in recruitment, remuneration, or in the access to training, promotion and other benefits.	Major
2.5.1	Disciplinary practices	Any corporal punishment or disciplinary practices that undermine human rights and individual dignity are not tolerated.	Major
2.5.2		The organization does not make deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes, unless permitted by national law or collective bargaining agreements.	Major
2.6.1	Working hours	Work hours shall meet legal standards and shall not exceed 48 hours per week.	Major
2.6.2		All overtime work must be voluntary and shall be compensated in accordance with applicable national laws and collective bargaining agreements (where applicable).	Major
2.6.3		Overtime work may exceed 12 hours per week only in the case of extraordinary, short-term periods of business demand and only if there is a collective bargaining agreement in place specifying relevant conditions.	Major
2.6.4		There is monitoring in place of working hours and overtime.	Major
2.7.1	Remuneration	The remuneration received by workers should meet at least legal or industry minimum standards.	Major
2.7.2		All workers have a written contract in a language they can understand. In those countries where there are no requirements for formal labour agreements between workers and employers, alternative documented evidence of a labour relationship must be present.	Major
2.7.3		Wages paid are recorded by the employer.	Major
2.8.1	Grievance mechanism	<p>Producer commits to resolve complaints, conflicts, disputes, and grievances in a timely and appropriate manner, ensuring the protection of complainants, communicating with transparency and honesty, as well as keeping documented record of the complaints and grievances received.</p> <p>Producer provides accessible channels where affected parties can submit complaints.</p> <p>This encompasses, but is not limited to, complaints and grievances from workers, neighbors, local communities and traditional land users.</p>	Major

2.9.1	Occupational Health & Safety	Workers are provided with a safe and healthy work environment which, as a minimum, includes safe and clean drinking water, proper accommodation (when applicable), electricity, emergency healthcare, essential personal protective equipment, adequate sanitation facilities, fire safety and machine safeguarding.	Major
2.9.2		Only authorized employees who received proper training are allowed to carry out potentially hazardous tasks and, for that, are provided with adequate and appropriate protective equipment and clothing.	Major
2.9.3		Medical care is available on-site or in the vicinity and first aid kits are properly stocked and readily accessible for use.	Major
2.9.4		The organization has an effective emergency preparedness and response plan that includes health and safety risk assessment, procedures to address the identified risks and a monitoring system.	Major
2.9.5		There is a system of warnings followed by legally-permitted sanctions for workers that do not apply safety requirements.	Minor
2.9.6		Producers conduct regular risk assessment and maintenance of machinery, equipment and materials to ensure safe functioning of these devices.	Minor
2.9.7		Personnel are trained on emergency evacuation, recognition of hazards, response procedures, and the use of PPE, tools, machinery and equipment.	Minor

(III) Protection of Community Relations

3.1.1	Community rights	Land use rights are evidenced through documents such as ownership document, rental agreement and others.	Major
		International laws and standards on the rights of indigenous people and tenure rights of local communities need to be respected.	Major
		Respect Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from indigenous peoples and local communities for the use of their customary lands prior to agricultural development and for all new developments which may affect indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, land, resources, territories, livelihoods, and food security, respecting their right to grant or withhold said FPIC.	Major
3.1.2		A comprehensive, participatory, and documented community right assessment is implemented in case of disputed use rights, and its recommendations are being followed	Major

3.2.1	Communication and dialogue with the local community	Communication channels that allow contact between the producer and the community have been established and made known to these stakeholders (e.g. written sign or website with the following information: email, cell-phone, mailbox).	Major
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(IV) Environmental Responsibility

4.1.1	Forest and native vegetation conservation	No grain is produced on land legally or illegally cleared after cutoff dates mandated by national legislation or voluntary commitments (including Soy Moratorium for Brazil Amazon biome), whichever is more restrictive.	Major
		No grain is produced in converted natural ecosystems (natural forest, native grasslands, wetlands, swamps, peatlands, savannas, steep slopes and riparian areas) after a specific cut-off date no later than 31 Dec 2020.	Major
4.1.2		Areas that are assigned as legal reserve, conservation area or otherwise secured by law, as well as areas of natural vegetation around bodies of water and areas sensitive to erosion, must be protected. These areas must be restored to their former state if any alteration has taken place or legally approved compensating actions should be taken.	Major
4.1.3		Farmers maintain and safeguard native vegetation on their farms. There is a map of the farm which shows the native vegetation and there is a plan to protect and, if applicable, restore native vegetation.	Minor
4.2.1	Waste Management	There is adequate storage and disposal of fuel, batteries, tires, lubricants, sewage and other waste in accordance with national legislation.	Major
4.2.2		The burning on any part of the property of crop residues, waste, or as part of vegetation clearance is not allowed, unless it is needed for drying crops or obliged by national legislation as a sanitary measure.	Major
4.2.3		Farmers should minimize, re-use and recycle waste where possible and dispose of waste in a responsible way, making sure that there is no run-off of waste water, chemical residues, minerals and organic substances.	Minor
4.3.1	Use of fossil fuels	Farmers should use renewable and non-fossil fuel energy, as well as climate-friendly products wherever possible, contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and to the extent possible, seek to implement measures that contribute to decarbonization and/or capture of carbon of own operations and supply chain.	Major
4.3.2		Use of fossil fuels is monitored.	Major

4.4.1	Water management	Farmer implements good agricultural practices to minimize diffuse and localized impacts on surface and ground water quality from chemical residues, fertilizers and erosion or other sources. The practices include but not limited to maintaining a buffer zone around water bodies, treating waste water and precision farming.	Major
4.4.2		Any direct evidence of localized contamination of ground or surface water is reported to, and monitored in collaboration with local authorities.	Major
4.4.3		There is monitoring, appropriate to scale, to demonstrate that the practices to protect water quality are effective.	Minor
4.5.1	Soil quality	There is a monitoring of soil quality in place, and appropriate techniques to maintain and control soil quality and prevent soil erosion are implemented.	Major
4.5.2		Farmer applies crop rotation (minimum of 2 crops).	Minor
4.6.1	Responsible agricultural practices	There is no use of agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.	Major
4.6.2		The application of agrochemicals (crop protection and fertilizers) is documented. All handling, storage, collection and disposal of agrochemical waste and empty agrochemical containers, is monitored and is in line with local legislation and best industry practices.	Major
4.6.3		There is no application of pesticides within 30 meters (or more when as such prescribed in national legislation) of any populated area or water body and all necessary precautions are taken to avoid people entering into recently sprayed areas.	Major
4.6.4		Agrochemicals are applied using methods that minimize harm to human health, wildlife, plant biodiversity, and water and air quality.	Major
4.6.5		Aerial application of pesticides is carried out in such a way that it does not have an impact on populated areas and water bodies. All aerial application is preceded by advance notification to residents within 500 m (or more when as such prescribed in national legislation) of the planned application. There is no aerial application of pesticides in WHO Class Ia, Ib and II within 500 m (or more when as such prescribed in national legislation) of populated areas or water bodies.	Major
4.6.6		Appropriate measures to prevent resistance to phytosanitary products are taken.	Major
4.6.7		Appropriate measures to allow for coexistence of different production system are implemented.	Major
4.6.8		Farmers make use of Integrated Crop Management technologies. This includes adequate and continuous monitoring of crop health, use of non-chemical and chemical control means and measures to improve crop resilience.	Minor