



# Sustainable Agriculture Standard

Sustainable Agriculture Network

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## **Introduction**

### **The Sustainable Agriculture Network and Rainforest Alliance**

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) is a coalition of independent non-profit conservation organizations that promote the social and environmental sustainability of agricultural activities by developing standards. The Certification Organism certifies farms that comply with SAN's standards. Each inspection organism authorized by the Certification Organism provides audit services for farmers and agricultural companies in their respective countries, while offering knowledge and experience in working towards the development of the Sustainable Agriculture standard. Rainforest Alliance currently holds the Standards & Policy Secretariat for the Sustainable Agriculture Network and coordinates the development of standards and related policies for SAN.

### **The Sustainable Agriculture Network's Mission**

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) promotes efficient agriculture, biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development by creating social and environmental standards. SAN fosters best management practices across agricultural value chains by encouraging farmers to comply with SAN standards and by motivating traders and consumers to support sustainability.

SAN pursues its mission by:

- Integrating sustainable production of crops and livestock into local and regional strategies that favor biodiversity conservation and safeguard social and environmental well-being.
- Raising awareness among farmers, traders, consumers and business leaders about the interdependencies among healthy ecosystems, sustainable agriculture and social responsibility.
- Impressing upon business leaders and consumers the importance of choosing products grown on environmentally sustainable and socially responsible farms.
- Stimulating dialog among environmental, social and economic groups, North and South, about the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

### **Prologue to the February 2008 Version of SAN's Sustainable Agriculture Standard**

The principles of sustainable agriculture and the supporting standard were developed by a process that involved many key players in Latin America from 1991 to 1993. In 1994, the first banana plantations were certified by this standard. Since then, the standard has been tried and tested on different sized farms and plantations in various countries through a series of audits and other activities relating to certification.

At the beginning of 2003, Rainforest Alliance, as the Sustainable Agriculture Network Secretariat, developed a detailed revision of the 2002 version of the standard to produce a more updated standard in accordance with the Sustainable Agriculture Network mission. From November 2003 to November 2004, public consultations were carried out by Rainforest Alliance, during which organizations and individuals in different countries were asked to comment on the revised standard.

This process culminated in a Sustainable Agriculture Network meeting in November 2004, during which final technical decisions were made.

In 2005, the Sustainable Agriculture Network approved the final version of the standard and increased the number of principles from nine to ten by creating a new principle “Occupational health and safety” when these criteria were separated from the principle “Fair treatment and good working conditions for employees.” The ten principles are:

1. Social and Environmental Management System
2. Ecosystem Conservation
3. Wildlife Protection
4. Water Conservation
5. Fair Treatment and Good Working Conditions for Workers
6. Occupational Health and Safety
7. Community Relations
8. Integrated Crop Management
9. Soil Management and Conservation
10. Integrated Waste Management

The Sustainable Agriculture Network's Standards & Policy Secretariat serves the standard setting activities of the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) and is supported by Rainforest Alliance's Agriculture Program. SAN's Standard and policies development or review processes comply with the ISEAL Alliance Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards ([www.isealalliance.org](http://www.isealalliance.org)).

The present February 2008 version of *Sustainable Agriculture Standard – Sustainable Agriculture Network* does not contain any changes with respect to binding contents in comparison with *Sustainable Agriculture Standard - Sustainable Agriculture Network*, November 2005 and its Additional Criteria for Specific Crops, versions November 2005 and June 2006.

*Sustainable Agriculture Standard*, version February 2008 substitutes the following Sustainable Agriculture Network standard & policies documents:

- Sustainable Agriculture Standard, November 2005
- Sustainable Agriculture Standard with Indicators, November 2005
- Additional Criteria and Indicators for Banana Production, November 2005
- Additional Criteria and Indicators for Citrus Production, November 2005
- Additional Criteria and Indicators for Cocoa Production, November 2005
- Additional Criteria and Indicators for Coffee Production, November 2005
- Additional Criteria and Indicators for Flowers and Foliage Production, November 2005
- Additional Criteria and Indicators for Pineapple Production, June 2006

The binding contents of the former documents are comprised in only one standard document: *Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version February 2008*. Figure 1 illustrates the described restructuring process. The use of this version of SAN's standard is regulated through *Sustainable Agriculture Network – Farm Certification Policy, version February 2008* and is authorized to be applied to more than 100 crops.

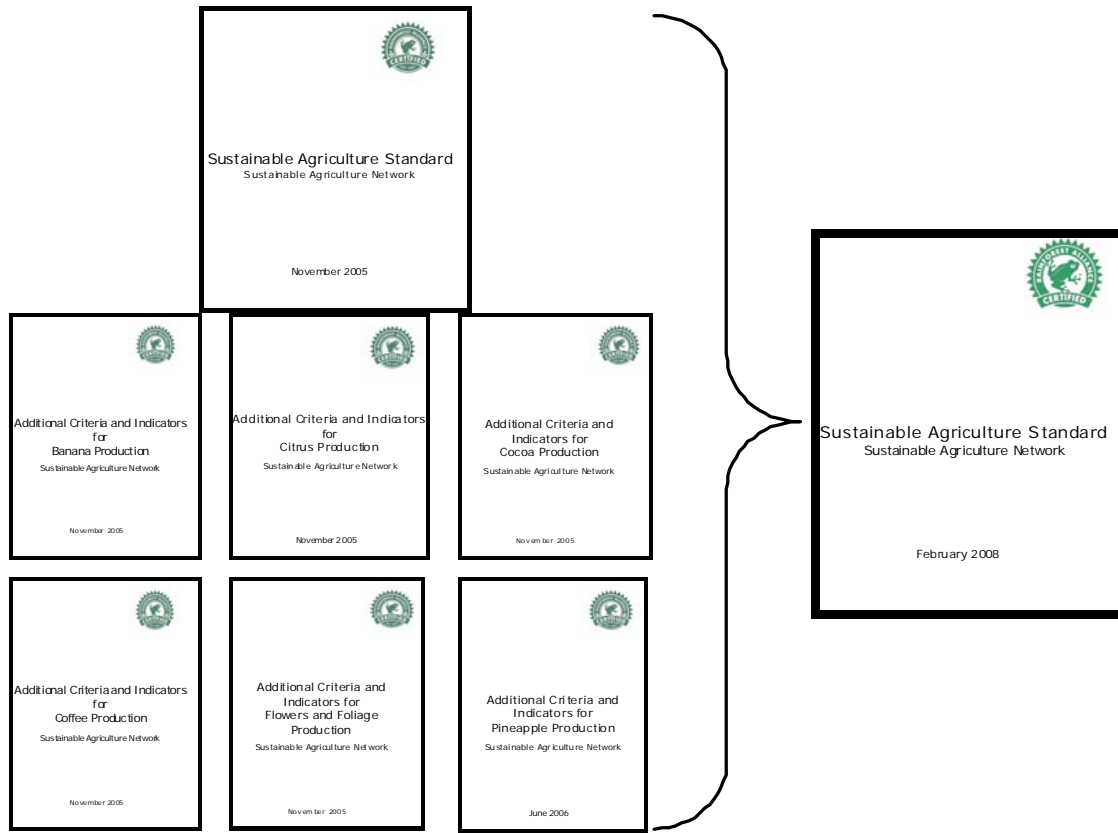


Figure 1: Illustration of the re-structuring process from the respective binding 2005 and 2006 SAN standard & policies documents (Sustainable Agriculture Standard and its Additional Criteria) towards the February 2008 version of *Sustainable Agriculture Standard – Sustainable Agriculture Network*.

## Objective

The objective of the standard is to provide a measure of each farm's social and environmental performance and best management practices. Compliance is evaluated by audits that measure the degree of the farm's conformity to environmental and social practices indicated in the standard's criteria.

## Standard Structure

The standard structure consists of ten principles. Each principle is composed of various criteria. *SAN's Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version February 2008* contains 94 criteria. The criteria describe best practices for social and environmental management, and are evaluated by the certification process. Some criteria may contain inserts in lower case letters for clarity. The inserts are evaluated as part of the criteria, not separately. All binding criteria are identified throughout the text by a two-level numbering system (**1.1, 1.2**, etc.) in **bold** type.

The document *SAN Table of Comparisons: Sustainable Agriculture Standard Versions 2005 and 2006 versus Version February 2008* explains the format differences between these two document versions.

## Scope and Use

The standard's scope covers the management of farms of all different sizes and includes aspects relating to agricultural, social, legal, labor and environmental issues, in addition to sections on community relations and occupational health and safety. The farms' compliance with the standard is evaluated by observation of agricultural and labor practices existing infrastructure, plus interviews with farm workers and their representatives, the management or administration team; neighbors, local representatives and community members, as well as document review.

If it is deemed that a farm does not comply with one of the standard's criterion, the audit team analyzes this non-compliance to see whether it is due to an isolated incident or the lack of a program, policy, procedure or other element relating to social or environmental management. If the non-compliance is systemic and not an isolated incident, the auditors will conduct a more complete review of available physical evidence, supported by interviews with workers and administrators.

Not implementing the standard's required practices, or having elements missing from the social and environmental management system needed to implement required practices, will result in the audit team assigning a sanction (*non-conformity*). The type of non-conformity and corrective action to be carried out by the farm depends on whether the non-conformity is an isolated incident or due to a problem in the farm's management system. In the latter case, the assigned non-conformity will focus on the need to better define and perhaps better document the policies, procedures and programs needed to ensure conformity.

During certification audits, Sustainable Agricultural Network auditors concentrate on physical evidence regarding improvements and best practices in the field so that documentation requirements are reduced. The results of an audit, however, may indicate the need for documentation of

procedures, policies and programs in order to guide and support the implementation of best management practices. SAN's scoring system guides and encourages the farmers to make continual improvements in all principles and criteria, and allows them to compare their performance with that of neighboring farmers and farmers in other regions.

## SAN's Scoring System for Farm Audits

Auditors authorized by the Certification Body apply the following scoring system during farm audits:

- The audit team scores farm performance according to all of the criteria applicable to a specific crop. In order to obtain and maintain certification, the farms must comply with at least 50% of each principle's criteria, and with 80% of all criteria.
- *Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version February 2008 - Sustainable Agriculture Network* contains 14 critical criteria (see Table 1 for details). These are identified with the text "*Critical Criterion*" at the beginning of the criterion. A farm must completely comply with a critical criterion in order for the farm to be certified or maintain certification. Any farm not complying with a critical criterion will not be certified, or certification will be canceled, even if all other certification requirements have been met.
- If the farm does not comply with the implementation of any of the practices defined in the criteria of *Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version February 2008 - Sustainable Agriculture Network*, this fact will result in the designation of a non-conformity, which is determined on the basis of each individual criterion. There are two categories of non-conformities: 1) Major Non-Conformity, and 2) minor non-conformity. The following is the level of compliance established for each of these two categories:
  1. **Major Non-Conformity (MCN)**: indicates a 0% to 49% compliance with a criterion.
  2. **minor non-conformity (mcn)**: indicates a 50% to 99% compliance with a criterion.

Table 1: The 14 critical criteria of SAN's *Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version February 2008*

Criterion	Contents
1.10	The farm must have a system for avoiding the mixing of certified products with non-certified products in its facilities and during harvesting, packaging and transportation. All transactions involving certified products must be recorded. Products leaving the farm must be duly identified and accompanied with the relevant documentation indicating a certified farm as origin.
2.1	All existing natural ecosystems, both aquatic and terrestrial, must be identified, protected, conserved and restored through a conservation program. The program must include the restoration of natural ecosystems or the reforestation of areas within the farm that are unsuitable for agriculture. The program must include the establishment and maintenance of shade trees for those crops traditionally grown with shade, in areas where the agricultural, climatic and ecological conditions permit, as established in the additional criteria and indicators for specific crops.
2.2	The farm must maintain the integrity of aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems inside and outside of the farm, and must not permit their destruction or alteration as a result of management or production activities on the farm.

Criterion	Contents												
3.3	<p>Hunting, capturing, extracting and trafficking wild animals must be prohibited on the farm. Cultural or ethnic groups can hunt or collect fauna in a controlled manner and in areas designated for those purposes under the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities do not involve species in danger of or threatened with extinction.</li> <li>There are established laws that recognize the rights of these groups to hunt or collect wildlife.</li> <li>Hunting and collection activities do not have negative impacts on the ecological processes or functions important for agricultural and local ecosystem sustainability.</li> <li>The long-term viability of the species' populations is not affected.</li> <li>These activities are not for commercial purposes.</li> </ol>												
4.5	<p>The farm must not discharge or deposit industrial or domestic wastewater into natural water bodies without demonstrating that the discharged water complies with the respective legal requirements, and that the wastewater's physical and biochemical characteristics do not degrade the receiving water body. If legal requirements do not exist, the discharged wastewater must comply with the following minimum parameters:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="469 884 1352 1121"> <thead> <tr> <th>Water Quality Parameter</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Biochemical Oxygen Demand (DBO<sub>5, 20</sub>)</td> <td>Less than 50 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total suspended solids</td> <td>Less than 50 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PH</td> <td>Between 6.0 – 9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grease and oils</td> <td>Less than 30 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fecal coliforms</td> <td>Absent</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The mixing of wastewater with uncontaminated water for discharge into the environment is prohibited.</p>	Water Quality Parameter	Value	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (DBO <sub>5, 20</sub> )	Less than 50 mg/L	Total suspended solids	Less than 50 mg/L	PH	Between 6.0 – 9.0	Grease and oils	Less than 30 mg/L	Fecal coliforms	Absent
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Grease and oils	Less than 30 mg/L												
Fecal coliforms	Absent												
4.7	<p>The farm must not deposit into natural water bodies any organic or inorganic solids, such as domestic or industrial waste, rejected products, construction debris or rubble, soil and stones from excavations, rubbish from cleaning land, or other similar materials.</p>												
5.2	<p>The farm must not discriminate in its labor and hiring policies and procedures along the lines of race, color, gender, age, religion, social class, political tendencies, nationality, syndicate membership, sexual orientation, marital status or any other motive as indicated by applicable laws, ILO Conventions 100 and 111, and this standard. The farm must offer equal pay, training and promotion opportunities and benefits to all workers for the same type of work. The farm must not influence the political, religious, social or cultural convictions of workers.</p>												
5.5	<p>Workers must receive pay in legal tender greater than or equal to the regional average or the legally established minimum wage, whichever is greater, according to their specific job. In cases where the salary is negotiated through collective bargaining or other pact, the worker must have access to a copy of this document during the hiring process. For production, quota or piecework, the established pay rate must allow workers to earn a minimum wage based on an eight-hour workday under average working conditions, or in cases where these conditions cannot be met.</p>												

Criterion	Contents
5.8	<p>It is prohibited to directly or indirectly employ full- or part-time workers under the age of 15. In countries where the ILO Conventions have been ratified, the farm must adhere to that established in Convention 138, Recommendation 146 (minimum age). Farms contracting minors between the ages of 15 and 17 must keep a record of the following information for each minor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. First and last name.</li> <li>b. Date of birth (day, month and year).</li> <li>c. First and last name of parents or legal guardian.</li> <li>d. Place of origin and permanent residence.</li> <li>e. Type of work carried out on the farm.</li> <li>f. Number of hours assigned and worked.</li> <li>g. Salary received.</li> <li>h. Written authorization for employment signed by parents or legal guardian.</li> </ol> <p>Workers between 15 and 17 years old must not work more than eight hours per day or more than 48 hours per week. Their work schedule must not interfere with educational opportunities. These workers must not be assigned activities that could put their health at risk, such as the handling and application of agrochemicals or activities that require strong physical exertion.</p>
5.10	<p>Any type of forced labor is prohibited, including working under the regimen of involuntary imprisonment, in agreement with ILO Conventions 29 and 105 and national laws. The farm does not withhold any part or all of workers' salaries, benefits or any rights acquired or stipulated by law, or any of the workers' documents, in order to force them to work or stay on the farm, or as a disciplinary action. The farm does not use extortion, debt, threats or sexual abuse or harassment, or any other physical or psychological measure to force workers to work or stay on the farm, or as a disciplinary measure.</p>
6.13	<p>All workers that come into contact with agrochemicals, including those who clean or wash clothes or equipment that has been exposed to agrochemicals, must use personal protection equipment. The farm must provide this equipment in good condition, and must provide incentives to workers to use the equipment. The equipment must reduce contact with the agrochemicals and the possibility of acute or chronic poisoning, and must comply with the strictest of the following requirements: a) the requirements indicated on the products' Material Safety Data Sheet, b) any applicable laws; or c) the equipment indicated in Annex 2 of this standard.</p>

Criterion	Contents
8.4	The following chemical or biological substances cannot be used on certified farms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agrochemicals or biological or organic substances that are not legally registered in the country for use on that particular crop.</li> <li>Agroquímicos que no estén registrados legalmente en el país para el uso en el cultivo respectivo.</li> <li>Agrochemicals that are prohibited by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or by the European Union.</li> <li>Substances that have been identified in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).</li> <li>Agrochemicals included in Annex III of the Rotterdam agreement that are prohibited or severely restricted by the United Nation Environmental Program's Prior Informed Consent (PIC) program.</li> <li>All Pesticide Action Network Dirty Dozen products.</li> </ol>
8.6	The farm must take steps to avoid introducing, cultivating or processing transgenic crops. When nearby transgenic materials are accidentally introduced into a certified farm's crop, the farm must develop and execute a plan to isolate the crops and provide follow-up in order to comply with the requirements of this criterion.
9.5	New production areas must only be located on land with the climatic, soil and topographic conditions suitable for intensity level of the agricultural production planned. The establishment of new production areas must be based on land use capacity studies that demonstrate long-term production capacity. The cutting of natural forest cover or burning to prepare new production areas is not permitted.

## The Role of Interpretation Guidelines (Local Indicators)

How the Standard for Sustainable Agriculture with its criteria is interpreted and applied to particular situations is determined by *Interpretation Guidelines* that are developed by a local workgroup.

- Interpretation Guidelines interpret the binding criteria of the standard for local conditions or a specific crop.
- Interpretation Guidelines provide guidance for farmers and group administrators how to implement the sustainable agriculture standard on their farms.
- Interpretation Guidelines only contain indicators. They are not binding for certification processes, but they are important for implementing good agricultural practices on farms and provide more detailed guidance during audit processes.

The development of these Interpretation Guidelines is led by Workgroups which are coordinated by SAN's Standards & Policy Secretariat and organized by the local SAN representative. A balance of interest among the different stakeholders possibly influenced by these guidelines is assured and approved by SAN's Board of Directors. SAN's Standards & Policy Secretariat coordinates the writing of the draft interpretation guidelines. The final version of the guidelines is approved by the Standards & Policy Secretariat.

The members of the Workgroups that develop Interpretation Guidelines have to comply with the following requirements:

- Understanding and support for SAN's mission and vision.
- Knowledge and experience with respect to the topics under discussion.
- Comprehension of the potential influence that this document can have.
- Representation of the different points of view of interested stakeholders.

The Interpretation Guidelines developers gather specific input for the region-specific guidelines applicable to their country, such as:

- Best farm management practices for ecosystem conservation in the region.
- Information about native trees that can be used in reforestation efforts.
- Local legislation regarding protection of ecosystems, riparian zones, endangered plants and animals, deforestation and reforestation. Also, information about local and regional conservation programs, protected areas, watersheds and corridors.
- Information about local diseases, pests, necessary agricultural practices and other factors that can influence the economic sustainability of farms.
- Local labor and occupational health laws executed by the local health and labor ministries or related authorities that can orient farms to implement their social policies.
- Best practices for erosion prevention and waste management.

## References

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- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade: [www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int)
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- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Restricted and Canceled Uses of Pesticides. [www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/restricted.htm#restricted](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/restricted.htm#restricted)

## Glossary of Terms and Definitions

- **Agrochemical:** A chemical substance used in agricultural production systems to maintain soil fertility (compost or fertilizer), control weeds (herbicide) or combat pests (insecticides, fungicides, etc.).
- **Agroforestry crops:** Crops that can be grown in agroforestry systems with the presence of shade tree canopies, which are intentionally used within agricultural systems. These cultivated plants have grown originally under tropical forests' tree canopy. Crops that cannot be grown economically viable with shade tree cover or other cover types, as well as crops whose origins are ecosystems with a distinct climate state than forests, such as savannas or bushlands (for example the *Cerrado* vegetation of Brazil) don't fall into this definition. *"Agroforestry is a collective name for land use systems and practices in which woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit. The integration can be either in a spatial mixture or in a temporal sequence. There are normally both ecological and economic interactions between woody and non-woody components in agroforestry"*. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) 1993.
- **Area of influence:** The whole farm, its infrastructure, processing and packaging areas within its borders as well as its area of influence and all the workers affected by its operations.
- **Best-Management Practices:** Activities or procedures that enable agricultural productivity using available science and technology to conserve ecosystems and natural resources, thereby securing long-term benefits for workers, farmers and communities.
- **Certified Products:** Crops and the products derived from them, produced by a certified farm for commercial purposes. This includes processed or semi-processed products that have not been mixed with products from non-certified farms.
- **Channel:** The surface on which a river, stream or other natural water current flows. Also known as "riverbed."
- **Competent professional:** A person with the relevant academic and professional experience in the specific areas in which advice is given. For example, a sustainable forest management plan must be developed by a forestry professional with experience in this area. In many countries, only consultants registered with the government or professional organizations can provide advisory services in specific topics.
- **Conservation:** The protection, rational use, restoration and renovation of natural ecosystems and natural resources in accordance with principles that guarantee maximum social and economic benefits without degrading the resources or ecosystems involved.
- **Discrimination:** For this standard the International Labor Organization's (ILO) definition is used: "Any distinction, exclusion or preference based on race, color, gender, religion, political opinion, nationality or social origin (or any other motive determined by the afore-mentioned states) that causes equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or work to be lifted or reduced."
- **Document:** Information and supporting media. The media may be paper, samples, photos, or on magnetic, optic or electronic disk.
- **Economic Threshold (Integrated Pest Management):** The level of infestation or pest attack at which the benefits received (for example, in terms of yield or crops saved) cover the cost of the treatment or application.

- **Ecosystem:** A set or system of one or more biological communities (plants, animals etc.), along with the physical media within a determined zone. Examples include: wetlands, forests and lakes.
- **Erosion:** The removal or displacement of soil caused by the movement of water or wind. Severe erosion implies the removal of the entire plow layer or "A" horizon (topsoil) of the soil.
- **Exotic Species:** Those species not native to the place where they are found. Species introduced from other regions or areas.
- **Family Farm:** A farm that does not structurally depend on contracted labor to carry out the majority of the agricultural fieldwork and packaging and processing of products.
- **Farm:** The unit subject to certification or the audit.
- **Farmer:** For the purpose of this standard, the person or entity that manages a farm or group of farms. It may be a company, an individual farmer, a cooperative or other organization or individual responsible for managing a farm.
- **Human Activity Area:** An area of the farm frequented by humans for work or education-related reasons, or an area in which humans live or through which they travel. Examples include: packaging plants, coffee mills, storage facilities, workshops, offices, schools, clinics, houses, recreation areas and public and private roads.
- **Impact:** Disturbance, consequence, repercussion or similar effect of a human or natural cause. Impacts may be positive or negative. They may affect a natural system, the environment, an animal or plant populations or individuals (**environmental impacts**), or human individuals or population (**social impacts**). Effects on economic or financial aspects are called **economic impacts**.
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** A long-term prevention strategy to combat pests, involving a combination of techniques, such as biological control (use of beneficial insects or microbes), use of crop-resistant varieties and the use of alternative agricultural practices (spraying, fertilizing or pruning). The objective of IPM is to make conditions less favorable for pest development. Pesticides are used only when the damage caused by pests is greater than the level that the farmer can economically sustain (see **economic threshold**).
- **Monitoring:** The systemic observation of changes or **impacts** to the environment or humans due to human activities, in this case, agricultural activities.
- **Native Species:** Those species that occur naturally in the place where they are found. For the purpose of this standard, naturalized species – exotic species that have adapted and grow and multiply as if they are native – are also considered as native if it is proven that they do not cause negative economic or environmental impacts.
- **Natural Water Body:** Lakes, lagoons, rivers, streams, brooks and other bodies of liquid water that exist naturally.
- **Non-conformity:** Non-compliance with one of the standard's requirements.
- **Non-Family Farm:** A farm that depends on contracted labor to carry out the majority of its agricultural work and packaging and processing of products.
- **Policy:** Global intentions and the farm or business' orientation with respect to the standard and its requirements.
- **Procedure:** A specific way of executing an activity or process in order to comply with the standard.
- **Program:** Elements of a system consisting of objectives, goals, policies, procedures and the other elements and planning and implementation documents to ensure compliance with the standard.

- **Protected Area:** Land or property under legal protection in order to conserve or protect biodiversity or environmental services. Examples include: national parks, wildlife refuges, forestry reserves and private reserves. Some protected areas may contain private land where certain economic activities are allowed to be carried out according to established regulations.
- **Protection Zone:** Areas of less intensive or controlled land use with the purpose of reducing the impact of human activities on ecosystems. With respect to this standard, **protection zones** are also areas of vegetation next to streams, lakes or ponds, or bordering natural water bodies that impede the flow of run-off or drift of agrochemicals coming from production areas.
- **Receiving Body:** A **natural water body** that receives wastewaters (treated or untreated), coming from industrial, agricultural or domestic activities.
- **Record:** Document that presents results obtained or provides evidence of activities carried out.
- **Spray booms:** “Spray booms” are structures mobilized by tractors to apply agrochemicals. They consist of two arms, which are suspended over the crop and which apply chemicals products through their nozzles in atomized or dusty form.
- **Standard:** Document that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labeling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method (Annex 1, WTO TBT Agreement).
- **System:** Set of elements that interacts and relates amongst them. A management system is a system to establish policy and objectives and to obtain those objectives.
- **Threatened or Endangered Species:** Species of flora and fauna indicated as threatened or endangered in applicable laws as well as by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources’ IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>).
- **Transgenic Organism:** For this standard, it is any living organism that possesses a combination of genetic material from two different organisms due to modern biotechnological methods or genetic engineering, such as *in vitro* nucleic acid techniques or the fusion of cells from different taxonomic families. It does not include organisms obtained by traditional biotechnological methods such as seed selection or the cross-pollination of plants.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STANDARD - FEBRUARY 2008 VERSION****1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The social and environmental management system is a set of policies and procedures managed by the producer or farm administrators for planning and executing operations in a manner that fosters the implementation of the best management practices indicated in this standard. The social and environmental management system is dynamic and adapts to changes that occur. It also incorporates the results of internal and external evaluations to encourage and support continued improvement on the farm. The scale and complexity of the social and environmental management system depends on the type of crop, the size and complexity of the agricultural operations, and the farm's external and internal environmental and social factors.

- 1.1 The farm must have a social and environmental management system that contains the necessary policies, programs and procedures for complying with this standard and with respective national legislation.**
- 1.2 The farm must implement permanent or long-term activities to comply with the standard through various programs. Social and environmental management system programs must consist of the following elements:**
  - a. Short-, medium- and long-term objectives and goals.**
  - b. A list of activities to be conducted in each program, and a timeline or plan indicating when they will be implemented.**
  - c. Identification of the persons responsible for carrying out the activities.**
  - d. Policies and procedures established to guarantee efficient execution of the activities and compliance with the standard.**
  - e. Maps identifying the projects, infrastructure and special areas (for conservation and protection) related to the indicated activities or to the requirements of this standard.**
  - f. Records to demonstrate the program is functioning adequately.**
- 1.3 The farm's upper management must demonstrate a commitment to certification and to complying with the requirements stipulated in the standard and by law. The management must also be familiar with and endorse the system and its programs and support its execution by providing the necessary resources.**
- 1.4 The objectives and a summary of the social and environmental management system and its programs must be available and divulged to workers.**
- 1.5 The farm must keep in its offices or facilities all documentation and records created for the social and environmental management system, as well as documents proving compliance with the standard, for at least three years or for the alternative time indicated in this standard. These documents must be readily available to the persons responsible for carrying out the social and environmental management plan's various programs and activities.**
- 1.6 The potential social and environmental impacts of new works or activities must be evaluated. These include the expansion of production areas, the construction or installation of new infrastructure, or major changes in production or processing systems.**

The evaluation must be carried out before the initiation of any changes or new work in accordance with applicable laws or, in their absence, based on technically accepted and recognized methods. Any evaluation must include procedures for monitoring and evaluating the significant impacts identified and not foreseen during the development of new works or activities.

- 1.7 The farm must have the necessary processes for follow up, measurement and analysis, including that of claims by workers or other persons or groups, to evaluate the functioning of the social and environmental management system and farm compliance with applicable laws and the standard. The results of these processes must be recorded and incorporated into the social and environmental management system through a continual improvement plan and program. The continual improvement program must include the necessary corrective actions to rectify non-compliance situations, as well as the mechanisms needed to determine if the actions are implemented and if they result in improvements or need to be adjusted to produce the desired results.
- 1.8 The farm's service providers must commit to complying with the environmental, social and labor requirements of this standard, not only while operating on the farm but also for any outside activities related to the services provided. The farm must have mechanisms for evaluating its service providers and checking that they are complying with this standard. The farm must not use the services of suppliers or contractors that do not comply with the social, labor and environmental requirements of this standard.
- 1.9 The farm must implement a training and education program in order to guarantee the effective execution of the social and environmental management system and its programs. The training topics must be identified according to the standard, the position, and type of work carried out. Records must be kept that include the participants' signatures, topics covered and the instructor's name for each training or educational event. The required training must be paid as part of the normal workday.
- 1.10 *Critical Criterion.* The farm must have a system for avoiding the mixing of certified products with non-certified products in its facilities and during harvesting, packaging and transportation. All transactions involving certified products must be recorded. Products leaving the farm must be duly identified and accompanied with the relevant documentation indicating a certified farm as origin.

## 2. ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

Natural ecosystems are integral components of the agricultural and rural countryside. Carbon capture, crops pollination, pest control, biodiversity and soil and water conservation are just some of the services provided by natural ecosystems on farms. Certified farms protect these natural ecosystems and conduct activities to restore degraded ecosystems. Emphasis is placed on restoring natural ecosystems in areas unsuitable for agriculture, for example by reestablishing the riparian forests that are critical to the protection of water channels. The Sustainable Agricultural Network recognizes that forests and plantations are potent sources of timber and non-timber forest products that help to diversify farm incomes when they are managed in a sustainable manner.

- 2.1 ***Critical Criterion.*** All existing natural ecosystems, both aquatic and terrestrial, must be identified, protected, conserved and restored through a conservation program. The program must include the restoration of natural ecosystems or the reforestation of areas within the farm that are unsuitable for agriculture. The program must include the establishment and maintenance of shade trees for those crops traditionally grown with shade, in areas where the agricultural, climatic and ecological conditions permit.
- 2.2 ***Critical Criterion.*** The farm must maintain the integrity of aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems inside and outside of the farm, and must not permit their destruction or alteration as a result of management or production activities on the farm. The wood used for pallets or for posts to support greenhouses, cableways or similar infrastructure must come from legally approved sustainable sources, from the moment of the first contact made for the certification process.
- 2.3 Production areas must not be located in places that could provoke negative effects on national parks, wildlife refuges, biological corridors, forestry reserves, buffer zones or other public or private biological conservation areas.
- 2.4 Cutting, extracting or harvesting trees, plants and other non-timber forest products is only allowed in instances when the farm implements a sustainable management plan that has been approved by the relevant authorities, and has the all the permits required by law. If no applicable laws exist, the plan must have been developed by a competent professional. The harvesting of threatened or endangered plants or species is not permitted. The certification of farms that have areas that have deforested within the two years prior to the first moment of contact regarding certification is not permitted.
- 2.5 There must be a minimum separation of production areas from natural ecosystems where chemical products are not used. A vegetated protection zone must be established by planting or by natural regeneration between different permanent or semi-permanent crop production areas or systems. The separation between production areas and ecosystems is indicated in the additional criteria and indicators for the specific crop; otherwise, the minimum distance must be five meters.
- 2.6 Natural water channels must be protected by establishing protected zones on the banks of rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, wetlands and around the edges of other natural water bodies, as indicated in the matrix in Annex 1 of this standard. Farms must not alter natural water channels to create new drainage or irrigation canals. Previously converted water channels must maintain their natural vegetative cover or, in its absence, this cover must be restored.

The farm must use and expand vegetative ground covers on the banks and bottoms of drainage canals to reduce erosion and agrochemical drift and runoff towards water bodies.

- 2.7 As part of the conservation program, the farm must establish and maintain vegetation zones between the crop and areas of human activity, as well as between production areas and on the edges of public or frequently traveled roads passing through or around the farm. These zones must consist of permanent native vegetation with trees, bushes or other types of plants, in order to promote biodiversity, minimize any negative visual impacts and reduce the drift of agrochemicals, dust and other substances coming from agricultural or processing activities. The width of the vegetation zone is defined in Annex 1 of this standard.
- 2.8 Farms with Agroforestry Crops located in areas where the original natural vegetative cover is forest must establish and maintain, as part of the conservation program, permanent shade distributed homogenously throughout the plantations; the shade must meet the following requirements:
- a. A minimum of 70 individual trees per hectare that must include at least 12 native species per hectare.
  - b. A shade density of at least 40% at all times.
  - c. The tree crowns must comprise at least two strata or stories.

A farm without shade can be certified once it has a shade establishment or expansion plan and shade established in at least 25% of the production area. Shade must be established in the remaining 75% of the production area within five years.

Farms in areas where the original natural vegetation is not forest must dedicate at least 30% of the farm area for conservation or recovery of the area's typical ecosystems. These farms can be certified once they have a plan to establishment or recover natural vegetation within ten years. Vegetation must be re-established or recovered in an equivalent of 10% of the total farm area (one-third of the 30%) during the first three years of the plan.

### 3. WILDLIFE PROTECTION

The farms certified under this standard are refuges for resident and migratory wildlife, especially species that are threatened or endangered. Certified farms protect natural areas that contain food for wild animals or habitats for reproduction and raising offspring. These farms also carry out special programs and activities for regenerating and restoring ecosystems important to wildlife. At the same time, the farms, their owners and employees take measures to reduce and eventually eliminate the number of animals in captivity, despite traditional practices keeping wildlife as pets in many regions of the world.

- 3.1 **An inventory of wildlife and wildlife habitats found on the farm must be created and maintained.**
- 3.2 **Ecosystems that provide habitats for wildlife living on the farm, or that pass through the farm during migration, must be protected and restored. The farm takes special measures to protect threatened or endangered species.**
- 3.3 ***Critical Criterion.* Hunting, capturing, extracting and trafficking wild animals must be prohibited on the farm. Cultural or ethnic groups can hunt or collect fauna in a controlled manner and in areas designated for those purposes under the following conditions:**
  - a. **The activities do not involve species in danger of or threatened with extinction.**
  - b. **There are established laws that recognize the rights of these groups to hunt or collect wildlife.**
  - c. **Hunting and collection activities do not have negative impacts on the ecological processes or functions important for agricultural and local ecosystem sustainability.**
  - d. **The long-term viability of the species' populations is not affected.**
  - e. **These activities are not for commercial purposes.**
- 3.4 **The farmer must keep an inventory of the wild animals held in captivity on the farm, and implement policies and procedures to regulate and reduce their tenancy. Endangered or threatened species must not be held in captivity.**
- 3.5 **The farm is allowed to breed wild animals in captivity when the farm has the required conditions and the permits stipulated law. These activities must be supervised by a competent professional.**
- 3.6 **Farms that reintroduce wildlife into natural habitats must have the appropriate permit from the relevant authorities and comply with the conditions established by law, or reintroduce the animals via duly authorized and established programs. A competent professional must advise the farm on release practices. Exotic wildlife must not be introduced into the farm.**

#### 4. WATER CONSERVATION

Water is vital for agriculture and human existence. Certified farms must conduct activities to conserve water and avoid wasting this resource. Farms must prevent contamination of surface and underground water by treating and monitoring wastewater. The Sustainable Agriculture Standard includes measures for preventing surface water contamination caused by the run-off of chemicals or sediments. Farms that do not have such measures must be able to guarantee that they are not degrading water resources through the implementation of a surface water monitoring and analysis program, until it has complied with the stipulated preventative actions.

- 4.1 The farm must have a water conservation program that ensures the rational use of water resources. The program activities make use of the best available technology and resources. It must consider water re-circulation and reuse, maintenance of the water distribution network and the minimizing of water use. The farm must keep an inventory and indicate on a map the surface and underground water sources found on the property. The farm must record the annual water volume provided by these sources and the amount of water consumed by the farm.**
- 4.2 All surface or underground water exploited by the farm for agricultural, domestic or processing purposes must have the respective concessions and permits from the corresponding legal or environmental authorities.**
- 4.3 Farms that use irrigation must employ mechanisms to precisely determine and demonstrate that the volume of water applied and the duration of the application are not excessive or wasteful. The farm must demonstrate that the water quantity and the duration of the application are based on climatic information, available soil moisture, and soil properties and characteristics. The irrigation system must be well designed and maintained so that waste is avoided.**
- 4.4 The farm must have appropriate treatment systems for all of wastewaters it generates. The treatment systems must comply with applicable national and local laws and have the respective operating permits. There must be operating procedures for industrial wastewater treatment systems. All packing plants must have solid waste traps that prevent the discharge of solids from washing and packing into canals and water bodies.**
- 4.5 *Critical Criterion.* The farm must not discharge or deposit industrial or domestic wastewater into natural water bodies without demonstrating that the discharged water complies with the respective legal requirements, and that the wastewater's physical and biochemical characteristics do not degrade the receiving water body. If legal requirements do not exist, the discharged wastewater must comply with the following minimum parameters:**

Water Quality Parameter	Value
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (DBO <sub>5, 20</sub> )	Less than 50 mg/L
Total suspended solids	Less than 50 mg/L
PH	Between 6.0 – 9.0
Grease and oils	Less than 30 mg/L
Fecal coliforms	Absent

**The mixing of wastewater with uncontaminated water for discharge into the environment is prohibited.**

- 4.6 Farms that discharge wastewater into the environment must establish a water-quality monitoring and analysis program that takes into account potential contaminants and applicable laws. The program must indicate the wastewater sampling points and frequency and the analyses to be carried out. A legally accredited laboratory must conduct all analyses. Laboratory results must be kept on the farm for at least three years. The program must comply with the following minimum requirements for analysis and sampling:

Water Quality Parameter	Wastewater discharge rate (cubic meters/day)		
	Less than 50	50 to 100	More than 100
	Sampling Frequency		
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (DBO <sub>5,20</sub> )	Annual	Half-yearly	Every 3 months
Total suspended solids	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
PH	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
Grease and oils	Annual	Half-yearly	Every 3 months
Fecal Coliforms	Annual	Half-yearly	Every 3 months

- 4.7 **Critical Criterion.** The farm must not deposit into natural water bodies any organic or inorganic solids, such as domestic or industrial waste, rejected products, construction debris or rubble, soil and stones from excavations, rubbish from cleaning land, or other similar materials.
- 4.8 The farm must restrict the use of septic tanks to the treatment of domestic wastewater (gray water and sewage) and non-industrial wastewater to prevent negative impacts on underground or surface water. The tanks and their drainage systems must be located in soils suitable for this purpose. Their design must coincide with the volume of wastewater received and treatment capacity, and must permit periodic inspections. Wastewater from the washing of machinery used for agrochemical applications must be collected and must not be mixed with domestic wastewater or discharged to the environment without previous treatment.
- 4.9 If total or partial compliance with the requirements of this standard that relate directly or indirectly to the contamination of natural water bodies cannot be proven, the farm must conduct a surface-water quality monitoring and analysis program. The program must indicate the sampling points and frequency, and must be continued until it can be proven that farm activities are not contributing to the degradation of the quality of the receiving water bodies. This does not exclude monitoring and water-analysis obligations stipulated by law or as indicated by local authorities. At a minimum, the following analyses must be conducted:

Parameter	Sampling Time
Suspended solids	During the rainiest month of the year.
Total nitrogen	During the rainiest month of the year.
Phosphorus compounds	During the rainiest month of the year.
Specified pesticides	Immediately following the end of the pesticide application quarantine period.

**Additional analyses may be required as a result of the types of contamination identified during the audit.**

## 5. FAIR TREATMENT AND GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS FOR WORKERS

All employees working on certified farms, and the families that live on these farms, benefit from the rights and conditions established in the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and *Children's Rights Convention*, and in the International Labour Organization's (ILO) conventions and recommendations. Farms pay salaries and benefits equal or more than the legal minimum, and the workweek and working hours must not exceed the legal maximums or those established by the ILO. Workers may organize and associate freely, especially for negotiating working conditions. Certified farms do not discriminate and do not use forced or child labor; to the contrary, these farms work hard to offer employment opportunities and education to people in neighboring communities. Housing provided by certified farms is in good condition, and has potable water, sanitary facilities and domestic waste collection. Families living on certified farms have access to medical services and the children have access to education.

- 5.1 The farm must have a social policy that declares its commitment to complying with labor laws and international agreements indicated in this standard. The policy must summarize the rights and responsibilities of the administration and workers, with emphasis on labor aspects, living conditions, basic services, occupational health and safety, training opportunities and community relations. The social policy must be approved by the farm's upper management and be divulged and made completely known and available to the farm's workforce.**
- 5.2 *Critical Criterion.* The farm must not discriminate in its labor and hiring policies and procedures along the lines of race, color, gender, age, religion, social class, political tendencies, nationality, syndicate membership, sexual orientation, marital status or any other motive as indicated by applicable laws, ILO Conventions 100 and 111, and this standard. The farm must offer equal pay, training and promotion opportunities and benefits to all workers for the same type of work. The farm must not influence the political, religious, social or cultural convictions of workers.**
- 5.3 The farm must directly hire its workforce, except when a contractor is able to provide specialized or temporary services under the same environmental, social and labor conditions required by this standard. The farm must not establish relations or contracts with third parties, form or directly participate in employee-owned companies, or use other mechanisms to avoid the direct hiring of workers and the obligations normally associated with labor contracts. Employment of foreign workers must be subject to a work permit issued by the responsible government agency. The farm must not ask for money from workers in return for employment.**
- 5.4 The farm must have payment policies and procedures that guarantee the complete payment of workers on the dates agreed upon in the labor contract. Payment must take place at the workplace, or by another arrangement agreed upon by the worker. The farm must provide the worker with a detailed and comprehensive explanation of the salary paid and of any deductions made, allowing the worker to appeal in the case of perceived discrepancies. Farms with ten or more full or part-time permanent employees must maintain an up-to-date written payroll and job description for each employee with the following information (which employees must have access to):**
- a. Worker's name, national identity card number, and position.**
  - b. Job description and assigned salary.**

- c. Minimum salary established by the government according to the type of activity carried out.
- d. Weekly working hours established by applicable laws for the type of activity, and a comparison with the number of hours assigned each worker.
- e. Job requirements, for example, training or special skills.
- f. Payment dates.
- g. Gross pay for normal hours.
- h. Gross pay for overtime.
- i. Total pay (normal and overtime).
- j. Legal deductions and other deductions agreed upon by the worker.
- k. Net pay.

**5.5 Critical Criterion.** Workers must receive pay in legal tender greater than or equal to the regional average or the legally established minimum wage, whichever is greater, according to their specific job. In cases where the salary is negotiated through collective bargaining or other pact, the worker must have access to a copy of this document during the hiring process. For production, quota or piecework, the established pay rate must allow workers to earn a minimum wage based on an eight-hour workday under average working conditions, or in cases where these conditions cannot be met.

**5.6 Working hours, rest periods during the workday, the number of annual paid vacation days and holidays, and rest days must comply with current labor laws and with the following minimum conditions:**

- d. The maximum number of hours worked per week must not exceed 48.
- e. Workers must have a minimum of 24 consecutive hours rest (one day off) for every six consecutive days worked.
- f. All workers must have the right to annual paid vacation equivalent to a minimum of one day for each month worked (12 days or 2 work weeks per year) or the equivalent for part-time workers.

These rights and benefits must be made known to the workers and included in any labor contract or collective agreement.

**5.7 All overtime must be voluntary.** The farm must have policies and procedures relating to the requirements and assignation of overtime that conform to current labor laws; these policies and procedures must be made known to workers when they are hired. Overtime must not exceed 12 hours per week. Overtime hours must be paid at a higher rate than normal working hours. When current labor laws permit, this standard allows for an exception period during which the maximum 60 hours (48 normal hours plus 12 overtime hours) per week can be exceeded during seasonal activities or due to unforeseen circumstances, under the following conditions:

- a. Workers must get at least one day off (24 consecutive hours) for every six consecutive days worked.
- b. The farm must document the number of hours worked (regular and overtime) per day and the activities carried out for each worker.
- c. The farm must demonstrate through a comparative analysis that overtime hours during the exception period do not result in a higher accident rate than during normal working periods.

- d. The exception period must not exceed two consecutive work weeks or six work weeks within a two-month period. The average hours worked per week must not exceed 60 hours as calculated during an eight-week period starting from the first day of the exception period.
- e. No more than two exception periods are allowed each year
- f. Workers are not allowed to work more than 12 hours per day.
- g. In the case of an unforeseen event that causes employees to work more hours than permitted by this standard or applicable labor laws, the farm must document the circumstances and the actions to be taken to avoid repetition in the future.
- h. In the case of a cyclical event that happens at approximately the same time each year, such as harvesting or production peaks, the farm must present an analysis that indicates that the cost of directly contracting more workers during this period would have a negative impact on the farm's economic sustainability.

**5.8 Critical Criterion.** It is prohibited to directly or indirectly employ full- or part-time workers under the age of 15. In countries where the ILO Conventions have been ratified, the farm must adhere to that established in Convention 138, Recommendation 146 (minimum age). Farms contracting minors between the ages of 15 and 17 must keep a record of the following information for each minor:

- a. First and last name.
- b. Date of birth (day, month and year).
- c. First and last name of parents or legal guardian.
- d. Place of origin and permanent residence.
- e. Type of work carried out on the farm.
- f. Number of hours assigned and worked.
- g. Salary received.
- h. Written authorization for employment signed by parents or legal guardian.

Workers between 15 and 17 years old must not work more than eight hours per day or more than 48 hours per week. Their work schedule must not interfere with educational opportunities. These workers must not be assigned activities that could put their health at risk, such as the handling and application of agrochemicals or activities that require strong physical exertion.

**5.9** When applicable laws permit, minors between 12 and 14 years old may work part-time on family farms if they are family members or neighbors in a community where minors have traditionally helped with agricultural work. The schedule for these minors including school, transportation and work must not exceed ten hours on school days or eight hours on non-school days, and must not interfere with educational opportunities. The following conditions must be fulfilled:

- a. These workers have the right to one rest day for every six days worked and rest breaks during the workday the same as or more frequently than contracted workers.
- b. They must not form part of the farm's contracted workforce.
- c. They must not work at night.
- d. They must not handle or apply agrochemicals or be in areas where they are being applied.

- e. They must not carry heavy loads nor do work that requires physical exertion unsuitable for their age.
  - f. They must not work on steep slopes (more than 50% incline) or in high places (ladders, trees, roofs, towers or similar places).
  - g. They must not operate or be near heavy machinery.
  - h. They must not do any type of work that may affect their health or safety.
  - i. They must get periodical training for the work they do.
  - j. They must be under the supervision of a responsible adult in order to guarantee that they understand how to do their work safely.
  - k. Transportation must be provided to and from home if workers have to travel in the dark or in conditions that put their personal safety at risk.
- 5.10 **Critical Criterion.** Any type of forced labor is prohibited, including working under the regimen of involuntary imprisonment, in agreement with ILO Conventions 29 and 105 and national laws. The farm does not withhold any part or all of workers' salaries, benefits or any rights acquired or stipulated by law, or any of the workers' documents, in order to force them to work or stay on the farm, or as a disciplinary action. The farm does not use extortion, debt, threats or sexual abuse or harassment, or any other physical or psychological measure to force workers to work or stay on the farm, or as a disciplinary measure.
- 5.11 The farm and supervisors must not threaten, sexually abuse or harass, or verbally, physically or psychologically mistreat workers for any reason. The farm must encourage the respectful treatment of workers and have a formal mechanism to act upon workers' claims of mistreatment.
- 5.12 Workers must have the right to freely organize and voluntarily negotiate their working conditions in a collective manner as established in ILO Conventions 87 and 98. The farm must have and divulge a policy guaranteeing this right and must not impede workers from forming or joining unions, collective bargaining or organizing for ideological, religious, political, economical, social, cultural or any other reasons. The farm must periodically provide opportunities for workers to make decisions regarding their rights and alternatives to form any type of organization for negotiating their working conditions.
- 5.13 The farm must formally and regularly consult and inform workers regarding any planned technical and organizational changes and their potential social, environmental and economic impacts.
- 5.14 Housing provided by the farm for permanent or temporary workers living there must be well-designed, built and maintained to foster good hygienic, health and safety conditions. The design, size and construction of dormitories, barracks and other housing, the type and quantity of furniture, and the number and location of sanitary facilities, showers, and washing and cooking areas must comply with applicable laws or have the following elements and characteristics, whichever provides better conditions for workers:
- a. The dormitories must be constructed with wooden floors above the ground or floors made from asphalt or concrete, roofs in good condition without leaks, and with appropriate ventilation and lighting.
  - b. The ceiling must not be lower than 2.5 meters at any point.
  - c. Five square meters of space per person in sleeping areas.

- d. Heating for cold climates.
- e. Bed, hammock or other dignified infrastructure for sleeping according to the workers' cultural needs, at least 20 centimeters above the ground. The space in between bunk beds is greater than or equal to 120 centimeters and 90 centimeters between each bed.
- f. Basic furniture for storing personal belongings.
- g. The sanitary facilities must comply with the following characteristics: one toilet for every 15 persons; one urinal for every 25 men; sufficient supply of toilet paper; a minimum distance of 30 meters from dormitories, eating areas and kitchens; one washbasin for every six persons, or per family.
- h. One shower per ten persons, separated by gender.
- i. One large laundry sink for every 30 persons.
- j. In the absence of a kitchen service (kitchen and dining hall provided by the farm), there must be installations outside the living areas for preparing and eating food and for washing kitchen utensils. There must be one cooking installation per 10 persons or for every two families.

Living quarters must be located outside of the production areas. On starting the certification process, the farm must seek alternatives for relocating housing or camps that are currently within production areas. Workers and their families living on the farm must have access to recreation areas according to the composition of inhabitants.

- 5.15 All workers and persons living on the farm must have access to potable water. The farm must be able to demonstrate that the water provided complies with the physical and chemical parameters and other characteristics established in applicable laws or in their absence, with the following critical parameters defined by the World Health Organization (WHO):

Parameter	Value
Fecal coliforms	Zero
Chlorine residue or residue from other treatment disinfectants	0.2 to 0.5 mg/L
Nitrates	10 mg/L as nitrates
PH	6.5 to 8.5
Sodium	20 mg/L
Sulphates	250 mg/L
Turbidity	Less than or equal to 5 NTU

Non-family farms that obtain water from their own sources (water not supplied by aqueducts managed by other entities) must have a periodic drinking water monitoring and analysis program that includes:

- a. Identification of water sources on a map and on the farm.
- b. Policies and procedures for guaranteeing the protection of water sources.
- c. Sampling procedures and sampling locations and frequency.
- d. Analyses conducted by a legally recognized laboratory (certified or authorized).
- e. A record of the results for the last three years or since the certification process was initiated.

Additional analysis may be requested in order to ensure quality when evidence of direct or indirect contamination (such as erosion) of surface or underground water exists.

- 5.16 All workers and their families must have access to medical services during working hours and in case of emergency. When legislation requires, farms must contract the services of a doctor or nurse with the necessary equipment to provide these services.**
- 5.17 The farm must have mechanisms to guarantee access to education for the school-age children that live on the farm. Schools established and administered by certified farms must have the necessary resources, personnel and infrastructure to be able to provide an educational experience that complies with national legal requirements.**
- 5.18 The farm must implement an educational program directed towards administrative and operative personnel (farm workers) and their families that encompasses three topics: the general objectives and requirements of this certification; environmental and conservation-topics related to this standard; and fundamental health and hygiene concepts. The program must be designed for the culture, language and educational level of those involved.**
- 5.19 In regions or countries where families traditionally harvest *specific crops*, minors can participate in harvesting under the following conditions and where national laws do not prohibit it:**
- a. The farm has identified and monitors those harvest working conditions that have impacts on the health and physical and mental well-being of minors, and takes special measures to eliminate or mitigate those impacts.**
  - b. Harvest activities do not interfere with the minors' education obligations.**
  - c. Minors must not carry large or heavy (no more than 20% of a minor's body weight) loads.**
  - d. Minors must not work on pronounced slopes (no more than 50%), near steep cliffs or drop-offs, or on high surfaces.**
  - e. Minors must always be accompanied by one of their parents, a legal guardian, or an adult authorized by a parent or guardian; in the latter case, the farm must have written authorization from the minor's parents or legal guardian. Minors must not walk alone through the plantation.**
  - f. Minors must be remunerated in cash for their labors.**
  - g. The farm must take measures to reduce the participation of minors in agricultural activities. These measures can include the installation and maintenance of schools, nurseries or day care, or paying parents or other audits to care for children instead of harvesting coffee.**
  - h. The farmer must ensure that everyone who participates in the harvest knows the conditions set forth in this criterion and must take the necessary measures to guarantee compliance.**

## 6. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

All certified farms must have an occupational health and safety program to reduce or prevent the risk of accidents in the workplace. All workers receive training on how to do their work safely, especially regarding the application of agrochemicals. Certified farms provide the necessary equipment to protect workers and guarantee that the tools, infrastructure, machinery and all equipment used on the farms is in good condition and does not pose a danger to human health or the environment. Measures are taken on these farms to avoid the effects of agrochemicals on workers, neighbors and visitors. Certified farms identify potential emergencies and are prepared with plans and equipment to respond to any event or incident, as well as to minimize the possible impacts on workers and the environment.

- 6.1 **The farm must have an occupational health and safety program with the principal objective being to identify and minimize or eliminate workers' occupational risks. The program must have the policies, procedures, personnel and the resources necessary for reaching its objectives; it must also comply with applicable national laws and with this standard and be known and understood by the workers. The workers must be involved with reviewing the policies, procedures and other activities indicated in the program to ensure compliance. An occupational health committee must be established on farms with ten or more permanent production and processing workers. A written procedure is required for selecting committee members, and records must be kept for committee meetings and actions taken.**
- 6.2 **The farm must have a permanent and continuous training program to educate workers on how to carry out their work correctly and safely, especially regarding the handling of machinery and agricultural equipment. Workers must be familiar with the training requirements for their job, and must be trained before starting work on the farm. On farms with ten or more permanent production and processing workers, the farm must keep a written record of each training session, including its objectives, subjects covered, workers required to attend, materials used, frequency and duration, and a list of those who participated.**
- 6.3 **All workers that apply, handle, transport or come into contact with agrochemicals or other chemical substances must be trained in at least the following subjects:**
  - a. **General occupational health.**
  - b. **Formulations, names, and the biocide action or toxicity in the case of pesticides, of the substances used.**
  - c. **Interpretation of the pesticide labels and of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the substances used.**
  - d. **Correct use of personal protective clothing and equipment.**
  - e. **Preventative measures and measures for reducing damage to health and the environment caused by chemical substances: equipment, techniques, signage, medical examinations, etc.**
  - f. **Emergency procedures, first aid and medical attention for cases involving poisoning or undue contact with chemical substances.**
  - g. **Techniques for handling chemical substances and for the correct application of agrochemicals.**
  - h. **Secure handling and transportation of agrochemicals for drivers.**

Persons with proven knowledge and experience in the subject must carry out training. Farms with ten or more permanent workers in production or processing must document for each training event the objectives, topics, the workers or positions that must attend training, the training materials used, the frequency and duration, and the list of participants.

- 6.4 Workers that carry out activities identified as being dangerous or a health risk in the occupational health and safety program, or those that require special skills such as the handling and application of agrochemicals, carrying heavy loads or using agricultural machinery or equipment, must receive a medical check-up at least annually to guarantee physical and mental capacities for such work. Workers must have access to the results of their medical examinations.
- 6.5 Personnel who apply or handle agrochemicals must have a cholinesterase examination and any other examinations necessary to determine the potential effects of the agrochemicals they handle before initiating such activities on the farm. These workers must not be mentally retarded, suffer from chronic diseases, hepatitis or renal diseases, or respiratory diseases; they must also not have been declared mentally disabled. Only males between the ages of 18 and 60 may apply agrochemicals. On farms where organophosphates and carbamates are applied, cholinesterase examinations must be carried out every six months or as stipulated by law, whichever is more frequent. The examination results must be documented in a manner in which the following information is easily found: name of examined worker, examination date and results, and any recommendations regarding the worker's capacity to apply agrochemicals. Workers must have access to the examination results and must be assigned to other activities if the recommendations indicate that they are unfit to apply these products.
- 6.6 The farm must provide workers in all work areas with the basic services, resources and working conditions necessary to comply with the occupational health and safety program objectives and with the safety, health, and cleanliness requirements of applicable laws and this standard. The farm must consult workers about the provided services, resources and working conditions, and demonstrate that they take into account the results of these consultations. The farm must provide the necessary protective equipment, and require its usage, for all machinery, tools and other implements considered dangerous.
- 6.7 The farm must maintain strict safety standards in workshops and storage areas in order to reduce the possibility of accidents. Farms must have mechanisms to manage and control access to these areas and workers must have knowledge of them. The farm must assign and train personnel responsible for managing the distribution of materials and for controlling access to storage areas. Materials must be stored separately according to their characteristics; personal protection equipment must not be stored with chemical substances. A current inventory of materials must be maintained and only the necessary quantities of materials necessary to guarantee the continuity of work on the farm must be stored.
- 6.8 Workshops and storage facilities of substances that are agrochemicals or flammable must be designed, constructed and equipped to reduce the risk of accidents and negative impacts on human health and the environment. All of these areas must be used exclusively for designated purposes and must have signs inside and outside that indicate the types of

substances stored, the dangers they present, and precautionary measures to be taken in the area. The design, construction and equipping of these facilities must comply with applicable laws or with the following parameters, whichever are stricter:

- a. The corridors and storage areas on the floor of the storage facilities must be well marked. There must be a free space of at least 30 centimeters between the wall and the stored materials.
- b. The storage facilities must have shelving and platforms for storing equipment made from non-absorbent materials for storing liquid products.
- c. There must be enough natural light to allow visibility during the day in the absence of electricity.
- d. There must be enough natural ventilation to prevent the accumulation of odors and vapors.
- e. The emergency exits must be clearly marked and unobstructed.
- f. In the box and packaging assembly areas, the continuous noise level must not exceed 85 decibels.
- g. The box and packaging assembly areas must have at least two meters of free space for each assigned worker.
- h. The farm must have packing material (cardboard boxes, plastic and other materials) storage and assembly areas constructed from impermeable and non-flammable materials.

**6.9** Areas used for the storage and distribution of agrochemicals and flammable and toxic substances must be designed, constructed and equipped to reduce the risk of accidents and negative impacts on human health and the environment. These areas must be used exclusively for these purposes; fuels and other flammable substances must not be stored with agrochemicals. All of these areas must have signs legible at a distanced of 20 meters to indicate the types of substances stored, the dangers they present and precautionary measures to be taken in the area. The farm must ensure that all conditions comply with applicable laws or with the following parameters, whichever are stricter:

- a. The floors and walls must be smooth and waterproof.
- b. In the agrochemical storage facilities, the floors must have a one percent slope and there must be a retention wall in the different entrances to prevent spilled liquids from escaping the storage area.
- c. Fuel tanks and containers for flammable substances must be kept in enclosed areas with good ventilation, a retention wall and a smooth, waterproof floor to retain any spills. The walls' height must be calculated to retain 1.2 times the volume of the stored containers.
- d. Fuel tank enclosures must have a system for removing spills and accumulated water from rain or washing. All drains in the storage areas must be connected to a collection and deactivation system and have an inspection box.
- e. Underground fuel tanks must be eliminated.
- f. Storage areas must have a loading area with collection system for spills.
- g. The storage area must have enough capacity to hold the maximum amount of products needed for normal activities on the farm. Storage facilities must have an area to store empty containers.

- h. The minimum height of agrochemical storage facilities must be three meters from the floor to the storage facility roof or ceiling.**
  - i. There must be enough natural light and the openings for permanent ventilation – windows, extractors and other permanent openings that allow air to circulate freely – must be a minimum of 20% of the total floor area.**
  - j. The corridors and storage areas on the floor of the storage facilities must be clearly marked. There must be a free space of at least 30 centimeters between the wall and the stored materials.**
  - k. The platforms or shelves must be well labeled, constructed from a non-absorbent material, and isolate the product from direct contact with the floor.**
  - l. There must not be any offices within the storage areas, except when the substances are completely separate from the office area and good ventilation is maintained.**
  - m. The farm must have designated areas for opening pesticide-treated bags (for the protection of fruit) are designed to prevent the escape of these materials and to facilitate the collection of plastic wastes.**
  - n. Spill and airplane wash water contention and collection systems in airports used for fumigation services.**
- 6.10 The farm must store agrochemicals in a manner that minimizes potential negative impacts on human health and on the environment. The farm stores only the amount of agrochemicals necessary to meet short-term needs. These products are separated according to their biocide, toxicity and chemical formula; they are not to be stored on the floor nor come within contact with absorbent materials. A Material Safety Data Sheet must be kept in the storage facility for each chemical product stored. All agrochemical containers must be washed three times before being stored for disposal or return to supplier. All agrochemical containers must maintain their original labels. The farm must take actions to return to the supplier agrochemicals that are prohibited, expired, or not legally registered, or agrochemicals that have had their licenses canceled. If the supplier will not accept them, the farm must seek safe alternatives for eliminating them.**
- 6.11 The farm must demonstrate that the locations of agrochemical and fuel storage areas comply with applicable laws. If applicable legislation does not exist and if the design, construction and management of these facilities do not comply with some or all of the requirements indicated in Criteria 6.7 to 6.10, the following separations must be maintained:**
- a. Sixty meters from buildings used by people on a daily basis (housing, health centers, schools, recreation areas, offices, etc.).**
  - b. One hundred meters from public roads.**
  - c. One hundred and twenty meters from rivers, streams and lakes.**
  - d. Two hundred meters from water wells or springs used for human consumption.**
  - e. For agrochemical storage facilities, at least 50 meters from fuel storage tanks.**
- 6.12 The farm must take permanent measures to reduce the risk of accidents or spills of agrochemicals during their transportation to and within the farm. Vehicles used for transporting chemicals must be in a good state of repair, legally registered and have insurance policies designed for these services. The persons in charge of transporting agrochemicals must demonstrate that they know how to safely transport and handle the**

substances. All agrochemicals must be transported to the farm in their original containers and accompanied by a copy of their Material Safety Data Sheet. The farm must only transport to the production areas the quantity of agrochemicals necessary for that day's work. Chemicals must be transported in properly labeled plastic containers that are then returned to the storage facility after use. Mobile agrochemical application equipment must be transported empty to the application area.

- 6.13** *Critical Criterion.* All workers that come into contact with agrochemicals, including those who clean or wash clothes or equipment that has been exposed to agrochemicals, must use personal protection equipment. The farm must provide this equipment in good condition, and must provide incentives to workers to use the equipment. The equipment must reduce contact with the agrochemicals and the possibility of acute or chronic poisoning, and must comply with the strictest of the following requirements: a) the requirements indicated on the products' Material Safety Data Sheet, b) any applicable laws; or c) the equipment indicated in Annex 2 of this standard.
- 6.14** The farm must have the necessary safety measures for the protection of workers applying agrochemicals in the field. A supervisor must check, at least every three hours, all workers applying World Health Organization's categories I and II agrochemicals. Workers must not apply agrochemicals for more than six hours per day in order to limit their exposure to agrochemicals and to minimize the risk of accidents.
- 6.15** The farm must take permanent actions to protect workers, neighbors and other persons from the effects of the application of agrochemicals and biological or organic inputs. The farm must identify the groups that are most exposed to applications and have mechanisms for alerting them well in advance regarding application dates and areas and the time periods during which entry to these areas is restricted. Access to these areas must be prevented by warning signs with symbols or by other safety indications. The farm must implement an application schedule in order to prevent undue entrance of unauthorized persons into the application area. The workers know and respect the restricted entry intervals, and quarantine and pre-harvest periods stipulated in the Material Safety Data Sheet for applying agrochemicals. For products that do not have restricted entry periods in the Material Safety Data Sheet, the following restricted entry intervals must be applied:
- a. WHO categories III and IV – between 4 and 12 hours.
  - b. WHO category II products – between 24 and 48 hours.
  - c. WHO category I products – between 48 and 72 hours.

When two products with different restricted entry or pre-harvest application intervals are used at the same time, the longest interval and the strictest quarantine procedures must be applied. Spray booms must have a colored sign, visible from 30 meters, that corresponds to the toxicity of the product being applied or to that of the most toxic product in the application mix.

- 6.16** The farm must have showers and changing rooms for all persons that apply or come in contact with agrochemicals. There must be policies and procedures that require that all workers that apply agrochemicals shower and change their clothes immediately after finishing the application and before leaving the farm at the end of the workday. There must be exclusive and separate areas for washing personal protection equipment and for washing application equipment.

- 6.17** Clothes worn while applying agrochemicals must never be washed in the workers' homes. There must be a designated area near the changing rooms for washing application clothing. Handling and safety procedures must be established for transferring or transporting contaminated clothing from the shower area to the laundry room.
- 6.18** The farm must identify and analyze the types of potential emergencies – caused by nature or humans – that could occur on the farm according to its operations and environment. The farm must have an emergency response plan with actions and procedures for responding to all identified emergencies. All workers must be familiar with the emergency response measures relating to their areas of work and responsibilities. The farm must have workers trained in first aid available on each shift.
- 6.19** The farm must have accessible the necessary equipment for preventing and responding to the different types of emergencies identified in the emergency response plan. There must be first aid equipment in the farm's permanent installations and first aid kits available to field workers. There must be a shower, eye-wash facilities and a lavatory or sink in the chemical storage areas and in the areas where agrochemicals are mixed and distributed.
- 6.20** In the case of crops with an average plant height lower than 2 m and cultivated in monocultures, farms must provide shelter for shade and protection from extreme weather conditions, such as heavy rain and lightning, as well as sanitary facilities, within 500 meters of any point in the plantations where field workers are working. Farms must have procedures for protecting workers in the event of an extreme weather event. When harvesting at night, farms must provide constant lighting in the entire radius of harvest worker activities.

**7. COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Certified farms are good neighbors. They relate in positive ways with neighbors, surrounding communities and local interest groups. The farms periodically inform the surrounding communities, neighbors and interest groups about their activities and plans, and they consult with interested parties about changes on farms that could have potential impacts on the social and environmental well-being of surrounding communities. Certified farms contribute to local economic development through training and employment and try to prevent negative impacts on the areas, activities or services that are important for local populations.

- 7.1 The farm must respect areas and activities that are important to the community socially, culturally, biologically, environmentally and religiously; these must not be affected by farm activities.**
- 7.2 The farm must implement and carry out policies and procedures for identifying, consulting and considering the interests of local populations and community interest groups regarding farm activities or changes that could have a negative impact on their quality of life or on local natural resources.**
- 7.3 The farm must have policies and procedures for prioritizing the hiring and training of a local labor force and for contracting and acquiring local services and products.**
- 7.4 The farm must contribute to the protection and conservation of community natural resources, collaborate with the development of the local economy, and contribute fairly towards the costs of the community infrastructure and local shared resources consumed – schools, pathways, aqueducts and other infrastructure as well as water and other resources – according to the amount of used by the farm. Farms must negotiate a fair compensation with local communities and local and national authorities for resources and infrastructure used.**
- 7.5 The farm must help with environmental education efforts in the local school system and must support and collaborate with local research in areas related to this standard.**

## 8. INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT

The Sustainable Agriculture Network encourages the elimination of chemical products known internationally, regionally and nationally for their negative impacts on human health and natural resources. Certified farms contribute to the elimination of these products through integrated crop management to reduce the risk of pest infestations. They also record the use of agrochemicals to register the amounts consumed, and work to reduce and eliminate these products, especially the most toxic ones. To minimize the excessive application and waste of agrochemicals, certified farms have the procedures and equipment for mixing these products and for maintaining and calibrating application equipment. Certified farms do not use products that are not registered for use in their country, nor do they use transgenic organisms or other products prohibited by different entities or national and international agreements.

- 8.1 The farm must have an integrated pest-management program based on ecological principles for the control of harmful pests (insects, plants, animals and microbes). The program must give priority to the use of physical, mechanical, cultural and biological control methods, and the least possible use of agrochemicals. The program must include activities for monitoring pest populations, training personnel that monitor these populations, and integrated pest management techniques. As part of the program, the farm must collect and record the following information about pest infestations: infestation dates, duration, area and location; type of pest; the control mechanisms employed; environmental factors during the infestation; and damage caused and estimated costs of damage and control.**
- 8.2 The farm must demonstrate by agrochemical inventories and use records that it rotates chemical products and reduces their use for crop production. The agrochemical inventory on the farm must include, as a minimum requirement, the commercial and generic product names, the quantities acquired and the purchase dates. For field applications, the farm must record the following information:**
- a. Products applied and application dates.**
  - b. Identification of the area where the application was made (on a map or clearly identified by the name or number of the plot).**
  - c. Application area size (in hectares or another indicated unit of measurement).**
  - d. Dosage and total volume of products used.**
  - e. Names of the persons responsible for mixing the products and authorizing the application.**
  - f. Names of the persons that carried out the field application.**
  - g. Identification of application equipment used (backpack or motorized sprayer, fumigation airplane, spray boom, etc.).**
  - h. The farm must keep a record of applications for five years. The information from records must be summarized and analyzed to determine application trends for specific products during the last five years.**
- 8.3 The farm must implement the procedures and have the necessary equipment for mixing and applying agrochemicals, as well as maintain, calibrate and repair application equipment, in order to reduce to a minimum waste and excessive applications. The farm must designate and train personnel who will be responsible for the implementation of these procedures.**

- 8.4** *Critical Criterion.* The following chemical or biological substances cannot be used on certified farms:
- a. Agrochemicals or biological or organic substances that are not legally registered in the country for use on that particular crop.
  - b. Agrochemicals that are not registered officially in the country for the specific crop.
  - c. Agrochemicals that are prohibited by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or by the European Union.
  - d. Substances that have been identified in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
  - e. Agrochemicals included in Annex III of the Rotterdam agreement that are prohibited or severely restricted by the United Nation Environmental Program's Prior Informed Consent (PIC) program.
  - f. All Pesticide Action Network Dirty Dozen products.
- 8.5** The farm must have a plan for reducing the use of World Health Organization Category I and II products, and for eliminating the use of Category 1 products within three years from the time of certification. Farms that use these products must demonstrate the following: 1) no technically or economically viable alternatives exist for that type of infestation; 2) the infestation has had, or would have had, significant economic consequences (that surpass the economic threshold for damage) and, 3) steps are being taken to substitute Category I and II products.
- 8.6** *Critical Criterion.* The farm must take steps to avoid introducing, cultivating or processing transgenic crops. When nearby transgenic materials are accidentally introduced into a certified farm's crop, the farm must develop and execute a plan to isolate the crops and provide follow-up in order to comply with the requirements of this criterion.
- 8.7** Farms must only use fumigation methods for post-harvest treatment that minimize and control applications. Records must be maintained of any post-harvest treatment. These records must at least include the following information: treatment application date, lot or batch number, the name of the applied product(s), dose, and the names of the persons who applied and mixed the product(s) and approved the application.

## 9. SOIL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

One of the objectives of sustainable agriculture is the long-term improvement of the soils that supports agricultural production. Certified farms carry out activities that prevent or control erosion, and thus reduce the loss of nutrients and the negative impacts on water bodies. The farms have fertilization programs based on the crop requirements and soil characteristics. The use of vegetative ground cover and crop rotation reduces dependency on agrochemicals for the control of pests and weeds. Certified farms only establish new production areas on land that is suitable for agriculture and the new crops, and never by cutting forests.

- 9.1 **The farm must execute a soil erosion prevention and control program that minimizes the risk of erosion and reduces existing erosion. The program activities must be based on the identification of soils affected by or susceptible to erosion, as well as soil properties and characteristics, climatic conditions, topography and agricultural practices for the crop. Special emphasis must be placed on controlling runoff and wind erosion from newly tilled or planted areas, as well as preventing sedimentation of water bodies. The farm must use and expand vegetative ground covers on the banks and bottoms of drainage canals to reduce erosion and agrochemical drift and runoff towards water bodies.**
- 9.2 **The farm must have a soil or crop fertilization program based on soil characteristics and properties, periodic soil or foliage sampling and analysis, and advice from a competent and impartial professional or authority. The number of soil or foliage samples must correspond with the size of the production area, types of soil, and variations in its properties, as well as results of previous analyses. The producer must keep analyses results on the farm for a two-year period. Organic and non-organic fertilizers must be applied so as to avoid any potential negative impacts on the environment. The farm must give priority to organic fertilization using residues generated by the farm.**
- 9.3 **The farm must use and expand its use of vegetative ground cover to reduce erosion and improve soil fertility, structure and organic material content, as well as minimize the use of herbicides. There must be a vegetative ground cover establishment and expansion plan that indicates the areas with existing cover, as well as areas where cover will be established in the future. The farm must include a timeframe for these activities.**
- 9.4 **The farm must promote the use of fallow areas with natural or planted vegetation in order to recover natural fertility and interrupt pest life cycles. The farm must have a plan that indicates the fallow techniques or practices (planting, natural regeneration, etc.) and their timing. These areas must be identified in the fields and on the farm map. Burning is not allowed to prepare land.**
- 9.5 ***Critical Criterion.* New production areas must only be located on land with the climatic, soil and topographic conditions suitable for intensity level of the agricultural production planned. The establishment of new production areas must be based on land use capacity studies that demonstrate long-term production capacity. The cutting of natural forest cover or burning to prepare new production areas is not permitted.**

## 10. INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT

Certified farms are clean and orderly. Farm workers and residents cooperate with maintaining the farm clean and are proud of the farm's image. There are programs for managing waste according to its type and quantity, through recycling and waste reduction and reuse. The final destination of waste on the farm is administered and designed to minimize possible environmental and human health impacts. Certified farms have evaluated the transportation and treatment services supplied by contractors and know the final destination of the waste generated on the farm.

- 10.1 The farm must have an integrated waste management program for the waste products it generates. This must be based on the concepts of refusing or reducing the use of products that have actual or potential negative impacts on the environment or human health waste as well as reusing and recycling waste. As part of this program, the sources and types of waste must be identified and the quantity (weight or volume) must be estimated. The activities of the integrated waste management program must be in accordance with the types and quantities of waste generated.**
- 10.2 The use of open waste dumps and open-air burning of waste is not permitted. The burning of waste products is only allowed in an incinerator designed for that purpose, based on technical studies that determined the size, optimum location and control measures for minimizing the environmental and human health impacts related to its construction and operation. The farm must have the relevant legal permits for the construction and operation of this incinerator, as well as the appropriate operating procedures.**
- 10.3 The final or semi-permanent waste deposit areas on the farm must be designed and managed to reduce the risks of environmental contamination and damage to human health. Its location must be in accordance with applicable laws regarding distances from houses and other areas of human activity, water channels and sources, and conservation areas. The farm must have identified the sites and designs that are technically suitable for the final deposit or processing of both organic and inorganic waste through an evaluation of site characteristics, the volume and type of waste to be eliminated or treated, and potential impacts.**
- 10.4 Farms must not transfer waste to persons or businesses without checking that its treatment or final use complies with legal requirements and the requirements of this standard. Waste products or materials that have been in contact with agrochemicals or any other toxic or harmful substances must not be given away without first verifying that they will be used for similar purposes that do not represent a danger to human health or produce negative environmental impacts.**
- 10.5 The farm must be clean and free of accumulations of all types of waste products in order to maintain a positive image and contribute to the workers' well-being. The farm must regularly implement educational activities for farm workers and residents with the objective of promoting cleanliness and preventing the indiscriminate disposal of rubbish. The farm must strategically place trash receptacles on the farm and regularly collect and dispose of their contents.**

## Annex 1 Separation between production areas and water bodies, roads and buildings

Separations in meters between areas of crop production and water bodies, roads and buildings, based on crop-management intensity, are shown in the following table. **The farm must comply with the distances indicated in the table or by applicable laws, whatever is stricter.**

The separation from water bodies is also indicated according to the average percentage of slope of the surrounding terrain. For example, farms that apply agrochemicals less than once per month, and do not use WHO category I or II products, must maintain a separation of five meters between streams (less than three meters wide) and crop production areas on flat land.

For roads, the separation indicates the width of the buffer strip between the crop and the edge of the road in which the use of agrochemicals or the production of crops is prohibited. These areas must have vegetative barriers.

In some cases, different distances apply per distance category (columns), with respect to crops that use or don't use Aerial or Sprayboom Fumigation, or Agroforestry Crops.

This table applies to all crops specified in *Sustainable Agriculture Network - Farm Certification Policy, February 2008*. In the case of mixed crops in the same production area, the greatest distance must apply.

The following definitions apply:

- **High use of inputs:** Minimum one of the following conditions is met by the farm: a. WHO category Ia, Ib and II agrochemicals (chemical fertilizers or pesticides) are applied; b. The frequency of agrochemical application is two or more times per month.
- **Housing or similar areas:** Houses, schools, dining areas, health clinics, recreation areas or similar infrastructure where human activity takes place on a daily basis in general.
- **Infrequent use:** Storage areas, packing sheds, warehouses, workshops, processing plants and other similar infrastructure where workers carry out activities for short periods of time (less than 30 minutes per day) no more than twice per week.
- **Internal roads:** Roads within the farm boundaries that are used on a daily basis on average only for farm activities.
- **Low use of inputs:** All of the following conditions are met by the farm: a. Only WHO category III and IV agrochemicals (chemical fertilizers or pesticides) are used; b. The frequency of agrochemical application is maximum once per month; c. Aerial fumigation or applications using "spray booms" are not employed.
- **Organic:** Farms in which the audit team proves that chemical pesticides or fertilizers are not used; farms that are certified organic by accredited certification bodies.
- **Permanent use:** Storage areas, packing sheds, warehouses, workshops, processing plants and other similar infrastructure where workers carry out activities on a daily basis.
- **Public roads:** Roads, streets or highways that connect or lead to population centers (towns, settlements, cities) and are used for transportation or by pedestrians on a daily basis on average.

Table of Separations\*

		Type of crop management					
		High input use		Low input use		Organic	
Slope:		≤ 8% <sup>1</sup>	> 8% <sup>2</sup>	≤ 8%	> 8%	≤ 8%	> 8%
<b>1. From water bodies (in meters):</b>							
a. Perennial and seasonal streams and creeks (width less than or equal to three meters); primary drainage canals		10	20	5	10	3	5
b. Rivers (width greater than three meters), lakes, ponds, swamps and marshes, reservoirs, estuaries.	Crops with Aerial / Sprayboom Fumigation	10	30	10	20	5	10
	Crops without Aerial/ Sprayboom Fumigation		20		10		
c. Springs	Crops with Aerial / Sprayboom Fumigation	20	50	10	20	10	10
	Crops without Aerial/ Sprayboom Fumigation	15	30				
<b>2. From roads (in meters):</b>		<b>High input use</b>		<b>Low input use</b>		<b>Organic</b>	
a. Public roads		10		5		5	
b. Internal roads	Crops with Aerial / Sprayboom Fumigation	5		2		0	
	Crops without Aerial/ Sprayboom Fumigation	2		0			
<b>3. From buildings (in meters):</b>		<b>High input use</b>		<b>Low input use</b>		<b>Organic</b>	
a. Housing or similar use	Crops with Aerial / Sprayboom Fumigation	30		30		10	
	Crops without Aerial/ Sprayboom Fumigation	20		10		5	
	Agroforestry crops	10					
b. Permanent use	Crops with Aerial / Sprayboom Fumigation	30		10		5	
	Crops without Aerial/ Sprayboom Fumigation	20					
	Agroforestry crops	10					
c. Infrequent use	Crops with Aerial / Sprayboom Fumigation	10		5		0	
	Crops without Aerial/ Sprayboom Fumigation	5		2			

\* Note: As determined by criterion 1.1, the respective distances defined by the local legislation apply, if stricter than the distances defined by this table of separations.

<sup>1</sup> Less than or equal to 8%

<sup>2</sup> Greater than 8%

## Annex 2 Basic personal protection equipment for the handling and application of organic and inorganic farm inputs

### *Application of insecticides, herbicides and nematicides:*

- Work clothes, overalls or long-sleeved shirt, and long pants made from a heavy material
- Respirator with a special filter in accordance with the characteristics of the agrochemical used
- Head protection (cap, hat, etc)
- Unlined nitril gloves that cover at least halfway up each arm
- Vinyl back protector in cases when a backpack sprayer is used
- Unlined rubber boots
- Face screen or goggles with indirect ventilation designed for chemical substances
- Socks

### *Flag persons for aerial fumigation:*

- Work clothes, overalls or long-sleeved shirt, and long pants made from a heavy material
- Respirator with a special filter in accordance with the characteristics of the agrochemical used
- Head protection (cap, hat, etc.)
- Unlined nitril gloves that cover at least halfway up each arm
- Raingear, poncho or other similar waterproof protection
- Unlined rubber boots
- Face screen or goggles with indirect ventilation designed for chemical substances
- Socks

### *Fertilizer application:*

- Apron
- Unlined nitril gloves
- Unlined rubber boots
- Socks

### *Collection of agrochemical spills:*

- Work clothes, overall or long-sleeved shirt and long pants
- Respirator with a special filter in accordance with the agrochemical's characteristics
- Unlined nitril gloves
- Unlined rubber boots

### *Handling materials impregnated with pesticides (bags, plastics, plant materials, tests, etc.):*

- Work clothes, overall or long-sleeved shirt and long pants
- Respirator with a special filter in accordance with the agrochemical's characteristics
- Unlined nitril gloves

### *Washing clothes and work equipment contaminated with agrochemicals:*

- Apron
- Unlined nitril gloves
- Unlined rubber boots