Project Delta

Consultative Workshop
ISEAL, Nov. 8th 2019
❖ Rationale and objectives

❖ Activities

❖ Timeline and next steps
Delta Project
Rationale and objectives
Delta Framework
Project key information

- Project’s aim: Bridging the gap in measuring and reporting sustainability performance for the benefit of both ends of the value chain

- Funded by ISEAL Innovation Fund for 3 years (Inception phase Q4-2018, and until Sept. 2021)

- Partners: BCI, ICAC-SEEP, GCP, ICO. +Cotton 2040
Delta Project Rationale

Current approaches to measure sustainability:

- Are not well-adapted to the agricultural sector
- Do not effectively monitor change over time
- Do not give insight into benefits (especially socio-economic)
- May lead to unintended, harmful burden-shifting (e.g. from irrigated country to rainfed, or from natural to synthetic fibers)

+ Multiplication of individual companies initiatives to report on their own sustainability
Delta Project Objectives

- Build a multi-stakeholder, international consensus for sustainability performance measurement
- Reposition how sustainability performance is demonstrated through the implementation of standards
- Help public and private organisations monitor and report progress on SDG commitments
- Make performance data bring benefits to the farmers and trigger the development of value-adding services
Delta Project Value Proposition

For the farmers
- Information for decision-making and learning
- Better targeted services

For companies and private sector
- Comparable SDG reporting
- Standardized sustainability information to customers
Delta Project
Value Proposition

For governments and public sector
- Globally relevant metrics for aligned reporting
- Evidence based decision-making for agricultural policies & services

For VSS & sustainability community
- Common definition of sustainability for agriculture
- Harmonized data collection, sharing costs
- Common language across sectors where sustainability initiatives are developing fast
Delta Framework Activities
Component 1: Develop a Sustainability Performance Framework

1. Develop a common set of cross-commodity impact and outcome indicators
2. Establish guiding principles on sustainability information at farm level
3. Define data use options
4. Include the defined indicators in a data standardisation and digitisation process
5. Establish data quality requirements, confidentiality and disclosure policies, etc.
6. Road-test the framework within BCI and GCP systems in South Africa and Vietnam
Component 2: Connect Sustainability Performance to Business Actors and Governments

1. Design a method to link sustainability improvements to company sourcing
2. Support the use of the framework for national or regional-level sector monitoring
3. Develop a set of guidance for users to gauge appropriateness and applicability of the framework and to use it in harmonized way
Component 3: Add value for farmers

1. Pilot feedback mechanisms, allowing producers and extension workers to compare their performance with peers.

2. Contextualise data by establishing links to open data sources (e.g. weather, market information).

3. Support the development of farmer-centred services using farm performance data in the areas of e.g. finance, insurance and agricultural extension.
Delta Framework
Timeline and next steps
Process and timeline

May-June 2019
Review

June – Dec 2019 Consultations
Sustainability guidelines, goals and indicators through consultations

Feb – Mar 2020
Guidance and informational tools

Finalization of the framework
Jan 2020

First indicator set

Refining the framework based on the result of pilot testing
Release of framework and guidance tools in Q2-2021

Pilot tests on indicators and use of data
Digitization and standardization process

2020

2021
Next steps
Pilot testing

- Indicators to be pilot tested with BCI partners in South Africa and GCP partners in Vietnam. → Cotton SA and Organimark

- Collaboration on specific indicators with global initiatives, (e.g. Global Soil Partnership for the soil health indicator, or ISEAL DIWG for the use of geospatial data).

- Work on Component 3 of the Delta Project:
  - Develop feedback mechanisms for farmer (e.g. compare performance with peers)
  - Contextualise data by establishing links to open data sources (e.g. weather, market info)
  - Support development of farmer-centred services using farm performance data (e.g. finance, insurance) → Collaboration with the Bonsucro project in SA on Better Finance for better sust. performance
Next steps
Digitisation and further use

- Include the defined indicators in a data standardisation and digitisation process → Collaboration with the IDSS project (Information and Data Standard for Sustainability)
- Establish data & information quality requirements
- Define confidentiality policy and disclosure procedures
- Define data use options, disaggregation levels
- Design a method to link sustainability improvements to company sourcing (e.g. brands & retailers) and national- or regional-level sector monitoring (e.g. public entities, civil society) → Collaboration with Quantis on an Environmental footprint calculator (GHG and Water)
Thank you!

Questions?

Do you have any input or ideas?

Would you like to participate?

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