The Delta Project
• Key Project Information
• Delta Sustainability Framework
• Process and timeline
• Sustainability goals and indicators
**Delta Project**

**Introduction**

- **Funded** by SECO through the ISEAL Innovation Fund for 3 years (03-2019 to 03-2022)
- **Partners**: BCI, ICAC, Global Coffee Platform, and International Coffee Organisation
- **Project’s aim**: Bridging the gap in measuring and reporting sustainability performance in the agricultural commodity sector

  - **Build** multi-stakeholder, international **consensus** for sustainability measurement on key common goals
  - **Harmonize approaches** to assess progress and connect to SDG commitments from private and public sector actors
  - **Add value** for farmers from their sustainability performance data
Delta Project
Objectives & Value proposition

1. Develop a Sustainability Framework: impact indicators, guiding principles and data standardization
   - For the sustainability community: common language on sustainability across agricultural commodity sectors

2. Link sustainability performance to business actors and governments: method and guidance
   - For companies & private sector: standardised sustainability information to customers/stakeholders, simplified data consolidation, consistent data collection
   - For government & public sector: SDG commitments reporting, evidence-based decision making for agricultural policies & services
Delta Project
Objectives & Value proposition

3. Add value for producers: feedback performance data to farmers, contextualise data by establishing links to open data sources (e.g. weather, market information), enhance the development of farmer-centred services (e.g. extension services, finance, insurance, etc.)

➢ **Farmers:** better learning and decision making, (improved) access to services
Delta Sustainability Framework
Delta Sustainability Framework
3 components

1. Guidelines for Sector Sustainability Information – Farm level

- Define the sector’s sustainability information do’s and don’ts
- How to derive claims from the sustainability information generated through the common set of indicators
- How to communicate sustainability information to customers and other stakeholders, building on the principles of reliability, relevance, clarity, transparency and accessibility
2. A common set of cross-commodity impact and outcome indicators

- Farm-level
- Impact / Outcome
- Limited number
- Relevance in terms of measuring progress and capacity to adapt to other commodities

3. Data standardization and indicators’ digitization

- Standardization of data points
- Data and information quality requirements
- Confidentiality and disclosure
- Data use options
Delta Sustainability Framework Timeline

Consultations
June 2019 – January 2020
- Sustainability goals and indicators
- Desk review of successful sustainability frameworks
- Guiding Principles
- First indicator set: 24 options

Implementation protocols
March – September 2020
- Methodologies & data collection tools
- Validated set of 15 indicators
- February 2020
- Delta Indicators V0 for piloting

Joint pilots in India
April – July 2021
- Cotton 2040 WG Members (BCI, FTF, OCA, TE)
- Indicators testing phase
- October - December 2020
- Cotton pilot in South Africa
- January – March 2021
- Coffee pilot in Vietnam
- Working groups:
  - Pesticides
  - Expert consultations:
  - GHG emissions
  - Soil Health
  - Gender
  - Water

Delta Project Guidance
Sept – Dec 2021
- For digitisation
- For sourcing companies claims
- For national reporting
- For farmers’ learnings
- Validated set of 15 indicators
- Sector & Experts consultations:
  - Land use change
  - Child Labour
  - Forced Labour
  - Gender

Integration of pilots’ feedback & learnings
August 2021
- Delta Indicators V1, methodologies & tools

Desert Project Guidance
Sept – Dec 2021
- For digitisation
- For sourcing companies claims
- For national reporting
- For farmers’ learnings

User guidance & Comms material
Jan - Mar 2022
- Dissemination
Delta Sustainability Framework References

Main reference sources for the selection of the indicators
- SDG indicator framework
- ISEAL Common Core Indicators
- ICAC-SEEP framework
- GCP Coffee Data Standard
Main purpose of the consultations

➢ Share and confirm key sustainability goals for the cotton and coffee sectors;
➢ Integrate learnings and perspectives from all stakeholders into the development of the set of Delta Sustainability Indicators;
➢ Foster both commodity specific and cross-commodity collaboration in the alignment of sustainability metrics

Modalities

➢ Physical workshops and webinars
➢ One-to-one calls
➢ On-line surveys
17 consultative events have taken place, reaching out to over 120 people representing 54 organisations from the agricultural private and public sectors, among which:

- Public and research organizations
  - SEEP Panel

- Cotton standards & codes
  - Cotton 2040 Impact Metrics
  - Alignment Working group

- Other sustainable standards
  - ISEAL Members

- UN Agencies
Delta Sustainability Goals and Indicators
Delta Sustainability Indicators
3 pillars of sustainability & SDGs

Sustainability themes and sub-themes across the three pillars: environmental, economic and social.
Sustainable Cotton Farming is expected to aim at the following goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headline impact areas</th>
<th>Environmentally sustainable agricultural practices (SDGs 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15)</th>
<th>Decent livelihoods/poverty reduction (SDGs 1, 8, 10)</th>
<th>Social wellbeing, equality &amp; empowerment (SDGs 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 16)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common goals</td>
<td>Minimise contamination of natural resources</td>
<td>Make cotton farmers and workers earn a decent income</td>
<td>Ensure respect human rights on cotton farms, with no forced and child labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protect and regenerate ecosystem services</td>
<td>Be economically viable and farmers to be economically resilient</td>
<td>Ensure healthy &amp; safe working conditions for all farmers and workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate change</td>
<td>Alleviate poverty</td>
<td>Enhance equality and empowerment, including in gender, for cotton farmers and workers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Delta Sustainability Indicators Criteria

- **Monitor progress** towards the 9 goals and towards sustainable agricultural commodities.
  - **Relevance**: progress towards goals and credibility
  - **Usefulness**: global commitments, comparability and aggregation, stakeholders' needs
  - **Feasibility**: easy of data collection and costs.

- **15 farm-level, outcome/impact indicators**

- **Interdependences** between social, economic and environmental sustainability pillars
  - Indicator set to be seen as a whole.

- **Not prescriptive** on specific tools to use but setting minimum requirements and providing guidance
Delta Sustainability Indicators
Environmental dimension

Environmental Indicators

1. Use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP)
   Unit: kg active ingredient (a.i.) of HHP per ha of harvested land

2. Pesticide risk indicator
   Unit: risk model based on kg a.i. of pesticides applied per ha of harvested land

3. Irrigation Water Management
   3.1 Water extracted for irrigation
   Unit: water extracted for irrigation (blue water) per ha of harvested land
   3.1 Irrigation efficiency
   Unit: percentage of water actually required for irrigation over water extracted for irrigation
   3.3 Water productivity
   Unit: yield (kg of cotton lint or GBE) per m3 of water consumed per ha of harvested land

4. Top soil carbon content
   Unit: grams of organic carbon per tonne soil per ha of harvested land

5. Fertiliser use by type
   Unit: kg a.i. of N, P, K per ha of harvested land
   In future: Nitrogen Use Efficiency

6. Forest, wetland and grassland converted for cotton or coffee production
   Unit: ha of forest, wetland or grassland converted to cotton or coffee production

7. Greenhouse gas emissions
   Unit: kg CO2 equivalent per kg cotton lint or GBE

Units: GBE coffee Green Bean Equivalent, ha hectare, kg kilogram
Delta Sustainability Indicators
Economic dimension

**Economic Indicators**

8. **Average yield**
   - Unit: kg cotton lint or GBE per ha of harvested land

9. **Gross margin from cotton and coffee production**
   - Unit: USD per ha seed cotton or GBE
   - In future: Living Income

10. **Price at farm gate** (for premium-based organisations)
    - Unit: local currency per tonne of seed cotton or GBE

11. **Proportion of workers earning a legal minimum wage**
    - Unit: daily average earnings for farm labour compared to (rural) minimum wage in USD or local currency, by gender

**Units:** GBE = coffee Green Bean Equivalent; ha = hectare; kg = kilogram
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Social Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Incidence of the worst forms of child labour</td>
<td>Unit: number of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Incidence of forced labour</td>
<td>Unit: number of people aged over 17 years engaged in forced labour, by sex and age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Women’s empowerment</td>
<td>Composite indicator assessing leadership, decision-making and control of economic assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Frequency of fatalities and non-fatalities on the farm</td>
<td>Unit: percentage of fatalities and non-fatal injuries in the reference group, by gender</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Units:** GBE coffee Green Bean Equivalent; ha hectare; kg kilogram
Do you want to provide feedback or pilot the indicators?

→ Contact Us – Delta Framework