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 06-2022)

- **Partners**: Better Cotton, 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
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
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
Delta Sustainability Framework
3 components

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

**Implementation protocols**
March – September 2020
- Methodologies & data collection tools

**Joint pilots in India**
April – August 2021
- Cotton 2040 WG Members (Better Cotton, FTF, OCA, TE)

**Delta Project Guidance**
Sept 2021 – May 2022
- For digitalisation
- For sourcing companies claims
- For national reporting
- For farmers’ learnings

**Desk review of successful sustainability frameworks**
May – June 2019

**Stocktaking**

**First indicator set: 24 options**

**Cotton 2040 Impact Alignment Workstream**

**Guiding Principles**

**Working groups:**
- Pesticides
- Expert consultations:
  - GHG emissions
  - Soil Health
  - Gender
  - Water

**Indicators testing phase**
October - December 2020
- Cotton pilot in South Africa
- January – March 2021
- Coffee pilot in Vietnam

**Validity of 15 indicators**
February 2020
- Delta Indicators V0 for piloting

**Digitisation**

**Integration of pilots’ feedback & learnings**
March 2022
- Delta Indicators V1, methodologies & tools

**User guidance & Comms material**
June 2022
- Dissemination

**Long workstreams**
- Consultation activities
- Piloting activities
- Core activities and key deliverables
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:
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.
Delta Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability goals for cotton

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common goals</td>
<td>Minimise contamination of natural resources</td>
<td>Ensure cotton farmers and workers earn a decent income</td>
<td>Ensure respect human rights on cotton farms, with no forced and child labour</td>
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<td>Protect and regenerate ecosystem services</td>
<td>Make cotton farming economically viable and farmers economically resilient</td>
<td>Ensure healthy &amp; safe working conditions for all farmers and workers</td>
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<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>
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

**Interdependencies** 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 (HHPs)
   Unit: kg active ingredient (a.i.) of HHPs per ha of harvested land

2. Pesticide risk indicator
   Unit: specific model score 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. Topsoll carbon content
   Unit: grams of organic carbon per tonne soil per ha of harvested land

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

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

7. Greenhouse gas emissions
   Unit: kg CO₂ equivalent per kg seed cotton or coffee cherries

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

Economic Indicators

8. **Yield (average)**
   - Unit: kg cotton lint or GBE per ha of harvested land

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

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

11. **Proportion of workers earning a legal minimum wage (or above) by sex and by age**
    - Unit: proportion (%) of workers earning a legal minimum wage (or above) over the total number of workers working on the farm by sex and age

Units: GBE coffee Green Bean Equivalent; ha hectare; kg kilogram
Delta Sustainability Indicators
Social dimension

Social Indicators

12 Incidence of child labour
Unit: number of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

13 Incidence of forced labour
Unit: number of people aged over 17 years engaged in forced labour, by sex and age

14 Women’s empowerment
Unit: Women’s Empowerment score

15 Frequency of fatalities and non-fatalities on the farm
Unit: % of fatalities and non-fatal occupational injuries on farm (while working on the cotton or coffee crop)

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

→ Contact Us – Delta Framework

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