Delta Framework

Introduction to the Data aggregation and reporting tool for the Delta Indicators

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ICAC INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

GLOBAL COFFEE PLATFORM for a sustainable coffee world

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www.deltaframework.org

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1 The four Delta Project partners are: Better Cotton, the Global Coffee Platform (GCP), the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).

Framing

The Delta Framework provides a set of 15 impact and outcome indicators to measure sustainability improvements within and across the cotton and the coffee sectors. In order to promote a globally harmonised approach for reporting sustainability results, the Delta Framework has a strong alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Delta Framework comprises a set of guiding documents to integrate the indicators into existing monitoring systems, to collect and analyse data, and to properly communicate sustainability improvements.

These guidelines are available on the Delta Project website and include:

1. **Delta Framework Sustainability Indicators.** This document presents the set of 15 indicators, the rationale for their selection, definitions, methodological notes, and main references for each indicator. It also includes the learnings from pilot testing the indicators in different countries and settings.
2. **Integrating new performance indicators into sustainability systems: practical considerations.** This document includes considerations and a set of guiding questions designed to support the inclusion of the indicators in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) systems of Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) and other organisations;
3. **Basic guidance for obtaining informed consent for the Delta Framework indicators data collection.** This document guides the incorporation of informed consent for the Delta Framework indicators data collection into existing organisational data strategy and policies;
4. **Description of a common data model for the Delta Framework indicators.** This document supports the implementation of common data models to facilitate future data aggregation and collective reporting;
5. **Principles to define and communicate sustainability performance in the agricultural commodity sector.** This document directs public and private sector stakeholders on deriving sustainability information and messages on the production of agricultural commodities from the data.
6. **Guidance and tool to aggregate producer-level sustainability data and report progress at national level.** This methodology aims to support national commodity associations and other relevant public bodies to aggregate producer-level data using the Delta indicators to assess the sustainability performance of the commodity's production at country level.

Delta Framework Sustainability Indicators

- Indicators description
- Definitions
- Methodologies
- References
- Learnings from pilot testing the indicators

Integrating new performance indicators into sustainability systems: practical considerations

- Strategic framing for indicator integration process
- Data value chain
- Generation: data capture, acquisition, and obtaining informed consent
- Data transmission and validation
- Analytics: data processing and analysis
- Exchange: packaging and communicating insights, publishing, and sharing data

Basic guidance for obtaining Informed consent for Delta Framework indicator data collection

- Data protection and the categorisation of personal and sensitive data
- Recommendations for how to obtain informed consent

Description of a common data model for the Delta Framework indicators

- Overview of the information and data ecosystem
- Applying a common data model
- Mandatory data
- Application of existing data standards
- Ethical and data protection considerations
- Recommendations for how to apply the common reference data tables

Principles to define and communicate sustainability performance in the agricultural commodity sector

- Monitoring versus impact indicators
- Framework application principles
- Indicators-specific principles
- Data collection principles

Guidance and tool to aggregate producer-level sustainability data and report progress at national level

- Aggregate producer-level data
- Report sustainability progress at national level

Introduction to the data aggregation and reporting tool for the Delta Indicators

Purpose

The purpose of the data aggregation and reporting tool is to support national commodity associations and other relevant public bodies to aggregate producer-level data using the Delta indicators to assess the sustainability performance of the commodity's production at country level.

This tool is based on the Delta Framework Sustainability Indicators. It pulls the relevant requirements for reporting into one place, to make it convenient for national commodity associations and other users to begin reporting.

How to use the Excel tool

There are 15 indicator data tabs for each of the 15 indicators. Begin by choosing which indicators are to be reported, and enter data into these tabs. More instructions for how to do this are in the "INSTRUCTIONS" tab.

The "NATIONAL SNAPSHOT" tab is linked to key data in each of the 15 indicator tabs to show at a glance summary performance. It almost writes itself. Users only need to manually enter the data confidence rating for each indicator (which is self-assessed on each indicator tab, and explained in the "INSTRUCTIONS" tab).

Once you have collected data, the obvious next step is to report this data to show the progress you're making and the impacts you have. The "REPORTING GUIDANCE" tab provides some suggestions to go about this, with links to well-known sustainability reporting frameworks.

Data sources and data quality

The Delta Project recognises the availability and quality of data varies enormously for each national commodity association, and the resources to obtain new data are often very limited.

At the same time, we know customers and other stakeholders are increasingly looking for evidence of improving sustainability performance.

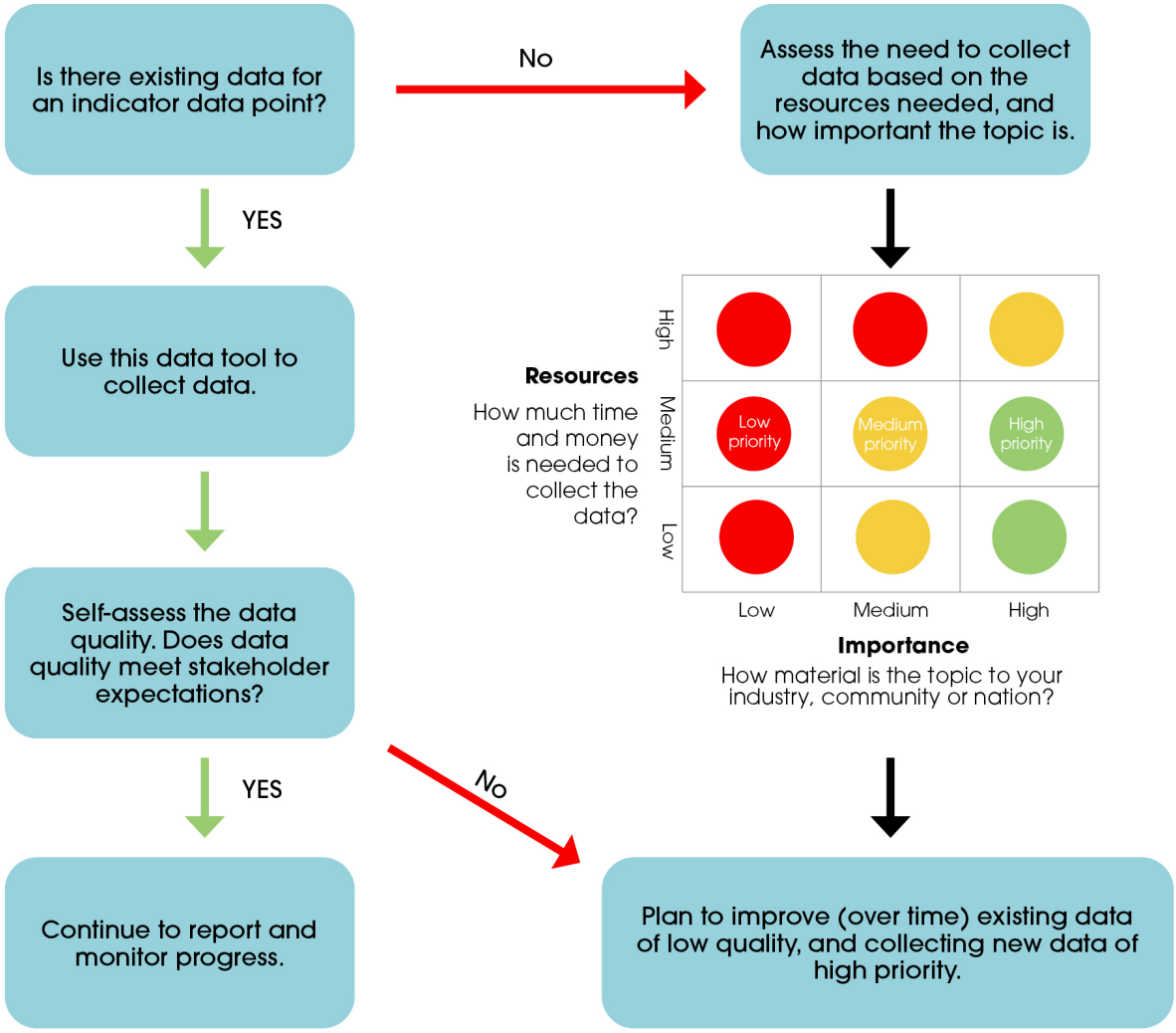
This tool aims to allow users with differing data collection capacity and capability to start to collect data now to enable reporting and tracking of progress, and to improve data collection over time.

One way it does this is by encouraging users to start with data that is already available. Examples of potential existing primary and secondary data sources are provided on each data tab.

It also provides a simple self-assessment of the quality of the data source being used. This is explained on the "INSTRUCTIONS" tab. Being clear to readers on the quality of the data helps them make better informed decisions, and it helps users to prioritise what data collection could be improved.

And finally, if data is not available, the decision tree below is designed to help prioritise which data users should try to collect, as resources are available. Collecting sustainability data to track performance often has real economic or social benefits for the industry, a local community, or the nation. This decision tree helps to make the business case for collecting new data for users, or working with government, NGOs, or other partners to collect data.

Decision tree: find new data sources, improve existing data sources, or both?



Progress over perfection

This data collection tool is not perfect. It recognises the real challenges many national commodity associations have when collecting and aggregating data, and provides a way to make a start. It is designed to reduce barriers to data collection, and to help users improve over time.

This data collection tool also needs to evolve and improve over time, just like the data collection and reporting of individual reporting countries do too.

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