



Sustainable Rice Landscapes Consortium

Partner Statement of Intent

Preamble

There is growing realization of the central role of rice in meeting the world's food security needs, its potential for poverty alleviation as well as the significant environmental and climate-change impacts associated with rice production. To address these challenges and opportunities, the Sustainable Rice Platform was established in 2011 by UN Environment and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), together with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and partners from public and private sectors, research and civil society. As a global multi-stakeholder partnership, the initiative has since grown to be supported by almost 100 institutional members, with the goal of developing practical guidelines, standards, tools and indicators for sustainable rice value chains. The launch of the world's first rice sustainability standard and indicators in 2015 offered practical tools for benchmarking the sustainability of any rice production system, for measuring impacts of adoption of climate-smart best practice, as well as offering a normative basis for policymaking. These tools are now increasingly being recognized and adopted by the stakeholder community.

The Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative

Launched on 25 June 2018 during the 6th GEF Assembly meeting in Danang, Vietnam, the Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative is led by a unique consortium of public, private and civil society partners to bring together technological, ecological, policy and market-led approaches to rice sustainability challenges. The initiative, led by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization, together with the International Rice Research Institute and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), aims to harness multiple opportunities to meet the growing global demand for sustainable rice, using a public-private partnership approach towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. However, to accomplish this will require transformation of rice-based production landscapes for which collaborative action – especially with the private sector and multilateral organizations- is urgently needed to mobilize required resources and drive mainstreaming of sustainable best practice at farm and policy levels. At scale, these approaches will contribute to meeting national greenhouse gas reduction targets under the Paris Agreement, as well as restoring degraded landscapes and conserving biodiversity.

The Initiative builds upon the efforts of the Sustainable Rice Platform to drive transformative change in the rice sector, initially through a programme to be submitted for funding via the Global Environment Facility under the GEF-7 Global Impact Programme on Food Systems, Land-use and Restoration.

The initiative will work with governments and value chain actors at landscape and policy levels to drive adoption of proven climate-smart best practices and innovative technologies to reduce the environment footprint of rice, as well as link farmers to markets. Adoption of sustainable, climate-smart best practice by rice smallholders is expected to generate multiple social, environmental and economic benefits, including the following:

- Healthier watersheds and biodiversity protection
- On-farm and landscape resilience
- Increased water and fertilizer use efficiency
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions from rice production
- Reduced agrochemical pollution
- Improved farmer health and livelihoods
- Strengthened consumer markets for sustainably produced rice.

Rationale

1. **Knowing** the Consortium member organizations share common goals to reduce environment impacts through mitigation and adaptation programs, specifically via adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture; cleaner production by reducing use of agrochemicals; as well as protection of natural capital and ecosystem services;
2. **Considering** the extensive corporate partnership led by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, as well as the global knowledge partnership and high-level access to Member States via UN Environment and FAO;
3. **Desiring to make use of** the expertise of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with its broad experience in running SRP outreach programs, and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in providing cutting-edge technological research, as executing partners for country-level programs such as GEF-7 'Child projects';

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4. *Recognizing the need for* corporate partners including Olam International with access and capacity for greening rice value chains;
5. *It is proposed to* recognize the evolving partnership among consortium partners through this Statement of Intent, covering the ambition and scope of collaboration.

Statement of commitment

Pursuant to the above, the undersigned representatives of Consortium partners commit to collaborate according to their respective strengths and capacity in the design, planning and implementation of large-scale initiatives to drive rice sector transformation through mainstreaming tools and approaches developed by the Sustainable Rice Platform, together with complementary approaches espoused by respective Consortium partners.

Though initially focusing on the current funding opportunity under GEF-7, this commitment may also extend to leverage other opportunities to drive wide-scale adoption of sustainable best practice among rice smallholders.

Partner signatures	Date	Partner signatures	Date
For:- Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 	19/03/2019	For:- UN Environment	
[Kundhavi Kadiresan – Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific]		[Dechen Tsering – Regional Director, Asia-Pacific Office] 	27/2/2019
For:- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) 	<u>6/12/2018</u>	For:- Sustainable Rice Platform 	<u>4/12/2018</u>
[Matthias Bickel – Director Agriculture & Food, GIZ-Thailand]		[W Wyn Ellis – Coordinator, Sustainable Rice Platform]	
For:- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) 	16/3/2019	For:- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) 	<u>12/3/2019</u>
[Dr Matthew Morell- Director General]		[Peter Dickinson - Finance Director]	

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