



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE
GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS
**FOR SUSTAINABLE
TROPICAL FRUITS**



TECHNICAL BRIEF

Gap analysis tool to strengthen the management of sustainability risks in tropical fruit value chains

The tool enables companies to compare their policies and the voluntary standards they use with key recommendations of the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains

The FAO led [Responsible Fruits Project](#) works with companies, producer associations and other actors in the avocado and pineapple value chains. Our goal is to improve business performance by helping these two value chains to become more sustainable and more resilient.

The project supports companies and producer organizations in developing risk-based due diligence systems to help them become more sustainable and resilient to shocks, such as climate-related events, pest and disease outbreaks and economic recessions. In many countries, newly passed or proposed laws require companies to carry out due diligence to identify, assess, mitigate, prevent and account for how they address adverse impacts of their activities and those of their suppliers and business partners. Due diligence helps companies to avoid activities along their value chains that have negative impacts on the environment and on people's livelihoods and wellbeing.

Due diligence in the context of responsible business conduct

What is it?	A process
Who is responsible?	that companies should conduct to
What must be done?	identify, prevent, or mitigate and remediate, and report on how
What is the focus?	actual and potential negative impacts are addressed
Where is it applied?	in their own operations, supply chains and other business relationships .

Voluntary sustainability standards, particularly certification standards, are often used by tropical fruit companies seeking to manage risks and to comply with requirements of international markets. However, their usefulness in supporting due diligence partly depends on how aligned they are with international expectations and regulations. To help companies to make an initial analysis of this alignment, the project has developed a gap analysis tool.

In the agricultural sector, the [OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains](#) is the global benchmark for due diligence and responsible business conduct. The gap analysis tool helps companies to compare the standards and policies they use with the recommendations of the OECD-FAO Guidance. By using this tool, companies can strengthen their due diligence processes and be more confident in meeting requirements for responsible business conduct.

The gap analysis tool is free, easy and quick to use. Once downloaded, it works completely offline and does not require an internet connection. The results are available only to the company using the tool, which ensures total confidentiality. By completing the gap analysis, the company will get:

- an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of its internal policies and standards used
- guidance to prioritize areas for improvement
- practical ideas on how it can carry out due diligence

Please contact the Responsible Fruit Project for your copy of the gap analysis tool. We can also arrange individual sessions with your company or organization to help you use the tool.

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Markets and Trade Division - Economic and Social Development stream

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 of Food
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