The Sustainable Rice Platform
Transforming the rice value chain

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MAJOR DRIVERS OF CHANGE

1. Poverty eradication => from 10 to 0%
2. Population growth => food demand
3. Resource degradation => sustainability
4. Climate change => adaptation, mitigation

5. Globalization and Accelerated Structural Transformation
   a) Urbanization, ag labor scarcity
   b) Consumer awareness: Quality, nutrition, safety, environment
   c) Increased presence private sector
   d) Reduced fragmentation, enhanced integration of value chains
Value Chain

High yield
Stable yield
Disease, pest
Drought, typhoon
Quality, taste
Income
Children to school

Cheap
Full stomach
Tasty
Nutritious
Healthy
Safe
Environment

GHG emission
Water use
Land degradation
Air pollution
Biodiversity loss
SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAIN

Clean environment  
Carbon capture  
Sustainability  

Cheap  
Full stomach  
Tasty  
Nutritious  
Healthy  
Safe  
Environment  

High yield  
Stable yield  
Disease, pest  
Drought, typhoon  
Quality, taste  
Income  
Children to school
There must be:

• credible, robust and feasible ‘standard’ or ‘sustainability toolkit’ available for farmers
• a mechanism for passing benefits through value chain
• Mechanism for widespread adoption

……….. and this is where the rice supply chain and its trade flows become important.
Multi-stakeholder global alliance among 54 institutions representing governments, private sector actors, NGOs, international research community
CURRENT RICE SECTOR CHALLENGES

- Stagnating yield growth
- Resource inefficiency
- Environment / biodiversity impacts
- Contribution to climate change
- Impacts of climate change
- Low farmer incomes

FARMERS CENTRAL

- Unique standard
- Supported by a global multi-stakeholder network
- Tailored to smallholder needs
- Aims to maintain productivity while minimizing environmental and social footprint
Many “component technologies” (water, nutrients, pest management, etc)

• Diversity in practices, values

• What actually is sustainability, who defines?

• Challenge: create a globally valid set of Principles and Standards

• …that allows local implementation
Members

Conveners: UNEP, IRRI

Governments:
- Thailand, Vietnam,
- Cambodia, Indonesia,
- Sri Lanka

Input suppliers:
- BASF, Bayer
- CropScience, Syngenta,
- Coromandel

Retailers:
- Kellogg’s, Mars,
- Ahold

Traders:
- Louis Dreyfus Commodities,
- Olam International

NGOs:
- Rainforest Alliance,
- Aidenvironment, Solidaridad

Research:
- Punjab Agricultural Univ,
- Kasetsart Univ, Univ of
- Malaysia, Asian Institute for
  Technology

Producers:
- Nestle Paddy Club Malaysia
- West African Regional
  Association for Rice
  Producers

STANDARDS TAKE TIME - MULTIDIMENSIONAL
46 REQUIREMENTS IN 8 DIMENSIONS

- Labor rights: 17%
- Health and safety: 15%
- Harvest and post harvest: 15%
- Pest management: 12%
- Nutrient management: 12%
- Water use: 11%
- Pre planting: 11%
- Farm management: 7%

“The soil is safe from heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, mercury, and lead”

“The farmer attends training or regularly seeks professional advice”

“Efficient and site-specific nutrient management is applied”

“Children living on the farm in the age of compulsory schooling go to school all year long”
FIRST RESULTS

- Productivity: 4.821 kg/ha
- GHG emission: 2.73 Mg CO2eq/ha
- Cumulative pesticide applications: 12.7
- P use efficiency: 89.1 kg paddy/kg P
- N use efficiency: 54.4 kg paddy/kg N
- Profitability: 11,011,000 VND/ha/season
- Labor Productivity: 412 VND/kg rice
- Irrigation WUE: 12.8 kg paddy/mm
WHAT NEXT?

- Field testing of standards by SRP partners
- Roll out of standards – multi-institutional
- Research: develop quantitative indicators (biodiversity?); develop Field Calculators
- Handbook of ‘approved’ sustainable practices’ – menu to choose from?
- Models for passing benefits through value chain; business case for all – farmers!
Key messages:

• Transformation of rice value chains will be key to developing a sustainable food system, for which the Standard serves as a foundation

• Proven technologies are available to enhance resource use efficiency and mitigate climate impacts in rice

• Effective incentive mechanisms and farmer outreach are key to adoption of sustainable best practices

However…. 

• Only a broad-based, scaled-up response can hope to accomplish development objectives
Thanks for your attention