RAINFOREST ALLIANCE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STANDARD

FARM REQUIREMENTS

A-1-S-B-F
Version 1.4
EN

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

ABOUT THE RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

The Rainforest Alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities.

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For any questions related to the precise meaning of the information contained in the translation, please refer to the official English version for clarification.

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More information?
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For help in obtaining a Rainforest Alliance certificate reach out to our Customer Success team at customersuccess@ra.org

The Standard Requirements are binding and must be complied with for certification.

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A-02-S-B-SC-V1.4 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Supply Chain Requirements. All other annexes, guidance documents, and policies listed in this document.

Replaces:

SA-S-SD-1-V1.3 Rainforest Alliance 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm requirements

Applicable to:	Country/Region:
Farm Certificate Holders	All

Crops:	Type of certification:
All crops in the scope of the Rainforest Alliance certification program; please see Rainforest Alliance Crop List.	Farm

KEY CHANGES IN VERSION 1.4

Overview of key adaptations in this document
A-1-S-B-FA V1.4EN Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm Requirements, published March 3rd, 2025,
compared to
SA-S-SD-1-V1.3 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm Requirements, published February 6th, 2023.

Requirement number	Subject	Change
Pages 7-15	Introduction	Adapted: Texts and graphics either updated or deleted
1.1.1	Management	Adapted: Setting up committees in 1.1.5 now added here, including for OHS (5.6.17) Applicability: Added Large farms and Ind. Cert.
1.2.1	Administration	Adapted: Portions on CBA moved to 5.3.3. Added: Clarification on applicability.
1.2.2	Administration	Adapted: Contracts are explicitly mentioned as part of the mechanism that should be in place for compliance by these actors. Added: Clarification on applicability.
1.2.3	Administration	(Previously 1.2.4) Re-worded for clarity.
1.2.4	Administration	(Previously 1.2.5) Adapted: Benefits explicitly mentioned as part of wages. Light work and young worker ages clarified. Added: Clarification on applicability.
1.2.5	Administration	(Previously 1.2.6) Adapted: Benefits explicitly mentioned as part of wages.
1.2.6	Administration	(Previously 1.2.7) Adapted: Rainforest Sustainable Agricultural Standard replaced with Rainforest Alliance Standard.
1.2.7	Administration	(Previously 1.2.8) Clarified: Agreement to be signed by both parties. Adapted: Rainforest Sustainable Agricultural Standard replaced with Rainforest Alliance Standard.
1.2.8	Administration	(Previously 1.2.9) Adapted: Number of years changed to 5.
1.2.9	Administration	(Previously 1.2.10) Clarified: Mapping area and applicability.
1.2.10	Administration	(Previously 1.2.12) Adapted: Text on geolocation information updated.
1.2.11	Administration	(Previously 1.2.13) Text adapted for clarity.

1.3.3	Risk Assessment and Management Plan	Adapted: Text on training updated.
1.3.4	Risk Assessment and Management Plan	Adapted: Training and intervals on IPM Strategy and OHS are specified.
1.4.1	Internal Inspections and Self-Assessment	Adapted: Scope of internal inspection after the first year of certification and new member entrance are specified.
1.4.2	Internal Inspections and Self-Assessment	Clarified: Use of Internal Inspection by Group CHs.
1.4.3	Internal Inspections and Self-Assessment	Adapted: Reference to "(for farms) and/or sites" removed.
1.5.1	Grievance Mechanism	Clarified: Constitution of the grievance committee. Applicability: L-farm removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
1.6.1	Gender Equality	Clarified: Constitution of the gender committee. Applicability: L-farm removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
1.6.2	Gender Equality	Applicability: L-farm removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
1.7.1	Indicators Data	New.
2.1.1	Traceability	Applicability: L-farm removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
2.1.5	Traceability	Typo: “Data” in the 3rd paragraph corrected to “Date”.
2.1.9	Traceability	Clarified: Applicability for L-farms in groups added.
2.1.10	Traceability	Adapted: Re-worded "defined" to "measure" for clarity.
2.2.1	Traceability in the Online Platform	Adapted; Text simplified for clarification.
2.2.3	Traceability in the Online Platform	(Previously 2.2.4)
2.2.4	Traceability in the Online Platform	New.
2.3.3	Mass Balance	(Previously 2.3.5) Numberings of 2.3.3 and 2.3.5 are switched.
2.3.5	Mass Balance	(Previously 2.3.3) Numberings of 2.3.3 and 2.3.5 are switched.

3.1.1	Premium	New.
3.1.2	Premium	New.
3.1.3	Premium	New.
3.1.4	Premium	New.
4.1.1	Planting and Rotation	Applicability: Group management removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
4.1.2	Planting and Rotation	Adapted: Clarification on responsibility added. Applicability: Checkmarks adjusted to reflect clarified applicability logic.
4.1.3	Planting and Rotation	Adapted: Reference to IPM strategy added. Applicability: Group management removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
4.2.1	Pruning and Renovation of Tree Crops	Adapted: Clarification on responsibility added. Applicability: Checkmarks adjusted to reflect clarified applicability logic.
4.4.3	Soil Fertility and Conservation	(Previously 4.4.4)
4.4.6	Soil Fertility and Conservation	(Previously 4.4.7 MSM) Adapted: Indicator removed. Applicability: Group management removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
4.5.1	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	Adapted: Requirement reworded. Threshold levels included in requirement.
4.5.2	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	(Previously 4.5.6 L2) Applicability: Group management removed to reflect new applicability logic.
4.6.2	Agrochemical Management	Clarified: Specified the EUP procedure to follow. Applicability: Group management removed to reflect new applicability logic.
4.6.11	Agrochemical Management	Clarified: Applicability added.
4.7.1	Harvest and Postharvest Practices	Clarified: Responsibility of management.
4.7.2	Harvest and Postharvest Practices	Clarified: Responsibility of management.

5.1.1	Assess and Address, Child Labor, Forced Labor, Discrimination Workplace Violence and Harassment	Clarified: Text on committees. Removed: Reference to requirement 1.1.5
5.1.2	Assess and Address, Child Labor, Forced Labor, Discrimination Workplace Violence and Harassment	Adapted: The word "basic" removed from reference to Risk Assessment.
5.1.3	Assess and Address, Child Labor, Forced Labor, Discrimination Workplace Violence and Harassment	Clarified: 2nd paragraph rephrased.
5.1.7	Assess and Address, Child Labor, Forced Labor, Discrimination Workplace Violence and Harassment	Clarified: Requirement rephrased.
5.2.1	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	Clarified: 2nd paragraph rephrased.
5.3.1	Wages and Contracts	Adapted: Permanent and Temporary" text deleted for clarity. Minimum required for verbal contracts is stated.
5.3.3	Wages and Contracts	Adapted: Text on compliance to CBA included.
5.3.4	Wages and Contracts	(Previously 5.3.5)
5.3.5	Wages and Contracts	(Previously 5.3.6)
5.3.6	Wages and Contracts	(Previously 5.3.8)
5.3.7	Wages and Contracts	(Previously 5.3.10) Clarified: The word "producers" removed to clarify the inclusion of workers of the group.
5.3.8	Wages and Contracts	(Previously 5.3.13)
5.4.1	Living Wage	Adapted: Use of the RA Salary Matrix Tool is removed. Clarification on applicability added.

		Applicability: Adjusted to reflect clarified applicability logic.
5.5.2	Working Conditions	Adapted: asterisk removed to clarify applicability to small farms in group.
5.6.1	Health and Safety	Adapted: Text rephrased for clarification.
5.6.2	Health and Safety	Clarified: Added "first aid".
5.6.3	Health and Safety	Adapted: Added warning and safety signs. Requirement 5.6.12 in version 1.3 incorporated.
5.6.9	Health and Safety	(Previously 5.6.10)
5.6.10	Health and Safety	(Previously 5.6.11) Clarified: Text rephrased for clarity.
5.6.11	Health and Safety	(Previously 5.6.13)
5.6.12	Health and Safety	(Previously 5.6.14)
5.6.13	Health and Safety	(Previously 5.6.16)
5.8.2	Communities	Adapted: Text for clarification. Applicability: Group management removed to reflect clarified applicability logic.
6.1.3	Forests, other Natural Ecosystems and Protected Areas	Applicability: Group management added to reflect clarified applicability logic.
6.2.2	Conservation and Enhancement of Natural Ecosystems and Vegetation	Clarified: Text rephrased for clarity.
6.2.3	Conservation and Enhancement of Natural Ecosystems and Vegetation	Adapted: Reference to indicator deleted. Definition of natural vegetation removed.
6.5.2	Water Management and conservation	(Previously 6.5.3)
6.5.3	Water Management and Conservation	(Previously 6.5.4 MSM) Adapted: Reference to indicator deleted. Clarity on applicability added
6.5.4	Water Management and Conservation	(Previously 6.5.5 MSM) Adapted: Removed reference to indicator.

6.5.5	Water Management and Conservation	(Previously 6.5.6 SSI) Applicability: Group management removed to align with requirement text.
6.5.6	Water Management and Conservation	(Previously 6.5.7)
6.7.1	Wastewater Management	Clarified: Text rephrased for clarity.
6.7.3	Wastewater Management	Adapted: Clarity on applicability added
Removed requirements	1.1.2, 1.1.5, 1.2.11, 1.2.14 L1 (3 years), 1.2.15 L2 (6 Years), 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.7, 1.4.4, 1.4.5 L1 (3 years), 1.4.6 L2 (6 years), 1.6.3, 1.7.1, 2.2.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.2.7, 3.3.1, 3.3.2 L1 (3 years), 3.3.3 L1 (3 years), 3.3.4, 3.3.5, 3.3.6, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.3.2, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.4, 4.5.5 L1 (3 years), 4.5.7, 4.5.8 L2 (6 years), 4.6.14, 5.2.4 L1 (3 years), 5.3.11 L1 (3 years), 5.3.12 L1 (3 years), 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.4, 5.4.5, 5.6.12, 5.6.15, 5.6.17 L1 (3 years), 5.6.18 L2 (6 years), 5.6.8, 5.7.5 L1 (3 years), 5.7.6 L2 (6 years), 5.7.7 L1 (3 years), 5.8.4 L2 (6 years), 6.1.4 L1 (3 years), 6.2.5, 6.2.6, 6.4.7 L1 (3 years), 6.4.8 L1 (3 years), 6.4.9 L1 (3 years), 6.8.2, 6.8.3 L1, 6.9.1	
Correction November 12th 2025	Clarification of Specialized and Continuous Improvement requirements types. Addition of missing 4.2, 6.5, 6.6 standard topics in overview table and removal of Renovation from topic 4.2 Pruning and Rejuvenation of Tree Crops. Corrections in text of Theory of Change for Sustainable Agriculture Standard version 1.4. Requirements clarifications: 1.1.1 and 1.4.3 Changed Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard for Rainforest Alliance Certification Program. 2.1.5 addition of standard(s) to purchase and sales documents. 5.1.2 removal of basic from risk assessment.	

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INTRODUCTION
OUR VISION

OUR VISION

At the Rainforest Alliance, we are continuously improving certification to deliver more value to the millions of farmers, workers, and companies in our program. With version 1.4 of our Sustainable Agriculture Standard, we have listened to feedback from these stakeholders to make our certification program more robust, efficient, and data focused.

In the coming years, we will offer farmers and companies the possibility of adopting new specialized certification solutions focusing on regenerative agriculture, climate, or livelihoods. While the Sustainable Agriculture Standard will remain our most holistic framework, covering all three impact areas, the other specialized certification solutions will build on this foundation and help farmers achieve even higher levels of sustainability

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FARM REQUIREMENTS

Sustainable agriculture has never been more important. The Sustainable Agriculture Farm Requirements offers a practical framework and targeted innovations to help farmers grow better crops, boost productivity, access meaningful insights on their sustainability performance, and focus investments on their biggest risks. The Farm Requirements are designed to help certificate holders maximize agriculture's positive social, environmental, and economic impact, while empowering farmers to improve their livelihoods and protect the landscapes where they live and work.

The updated Sustainable Agriculture Standard Farm Requirements keeps the most valuable elements from prior versions, maintaining tools that drive farm-level impact. We removed unnecessarily burdensome requirements and refocused internal inspections and data collection on what matters most. For farmers, that means less complexity and resources required for implementation. For companies, that means a more impactful standard that's better aligned with increasing environmental, social, and governance frameworks and global regulations.

STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

The Rainforest Alliance is a code-compliant member of ISEAL. The Sustainable Agriculture Standard has been developed, for the relevant parts, in accordance with the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code of Good Practice, ensuring that the documents are relevant, transparent, and reflect a balance of stakeholder interests.

THE RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION SOLUTIONS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- Farm Requirements
- Supply Chain Requirements

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

coming soon

Annexes (binding):
Compliance is required for certification.
Policies (binding):
Policies are context-specific and may be applicable for a particular region or crop; compliance is required for certification within the specified context(s).
Guidance documents (non-binding):
Supporting documents to help implementation; not required for certification.

ASSURANCE SYSTEM

- **Auditing Rules** set out how auditors evaluate compliance with the Farm and Supply Chain Requirements.
- **Certification Rules** ensure that Certification Bodies consistently deliver Rainforest Alliance audits of the highest quality.
- **Rules for Certification Bodies** determine which organizations can carry out audits against our certification solutions, and set rules for Certification Bodies' personnel

DATA SYSTEMS AND TOOLS

Certificate holders at farm and supply chain level will register for membership, manage audit processes, and record sales transactions of certified products on our platform.

New IT-based tools are being developed and made available to better track and manage sustainability performance against the requirements of our certification solutions.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM

Livelihoods are improved and human rights are fully respected for farmers and farm workers, their families, and local communities

Forests and natural ecosystems are protected and restored; biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved.

Outcomes

Management and shared responsibility

- Management is more effective at providing services and supporting improvement based on group members and/or workers needs.
- Farmers and workers are more knowledgeable about sustainability issues and practices
- Strengthened position and capacities of female farmers and workers
- Producers and companies have access to reliable and actionable data to make informed decisions and ensure accountability.
- Group management channels the premium effectively to group members. Farm management spends premium for the benefit of producers or workers
- Farmers, workers and their families have an improved standard of living.

Traceability

- Increased credibility of certified product assurance and traceability.

Farming

- Farm resilience is increased
- Soil fertility, water resources, and other ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced
- Farmers have optimized crop productivity, input use efficiency, and profitability
- Reduced environmental and health risks from pesticides

Social

- Child labor, forced labor, discrimination and workplace violence and harassment are effectively assessed, prevented and remediated
- Other human rights of farmers, workers, Indigenous Peoples and communities are fully respected
- Farm workers and their families enjoy healthy and safe living and working conditions
- Certificate Holders are aware of where they are in the Living Wage journey.

Environment

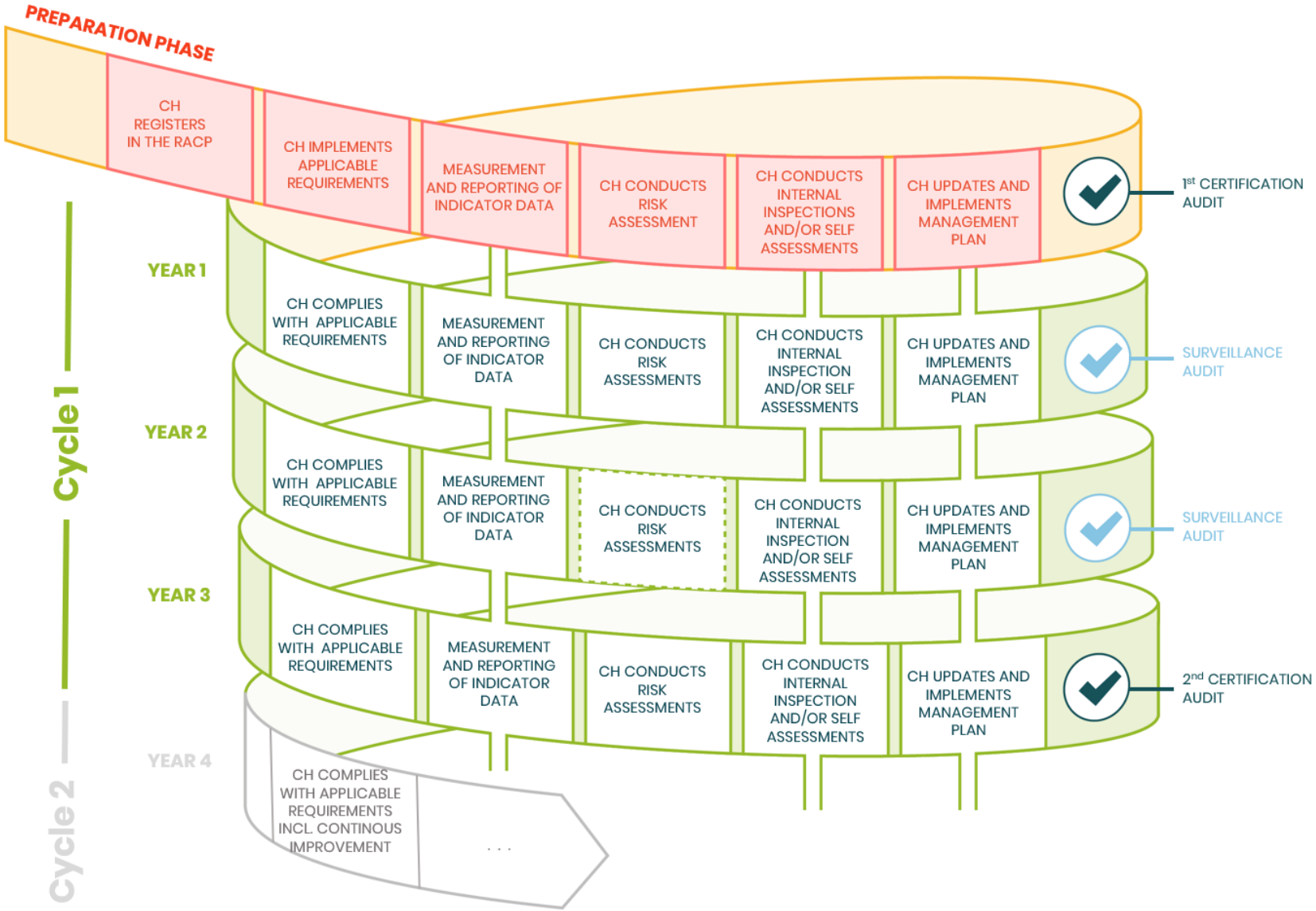
- Forests and other natural ecosystems around production areas are effectively protected and restored
- Management effectively supports field interventions towards the protection and restoration of forests and other natural ecosystems.
- Natural vegetation on farms is maintained and enhanced
- Increased protection of wildlife and biodiversity
- Increased efficiency in water and energy use and reduced wastewater and solid waste pollution

Legend for the outcomes in this document

- Longer term outcomes and impact
- Outcomes of the standard

HOW TO BECOME CERTIFIED?

Farms and groups of farms that want to be Rainforest Alliance Certified need to carry out a series of key activities each year.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRST AUDIT?

REGISTRATION
The potential Certificate Holder (CH) registers on our portal, provides initial details, and selects the option to certify against the Sustainable Agriculture Standard. They then provide further information to define their certification scope and enable the platform to generate their verification needs.

IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS
With the certification scope and verification needs, a list of applicable requirements is generated by our platform. The CH can start implementing the Standard based on these requirements.

CONTRACTING A CERTIFICATION BODY (CB)
The Certificate Holder selects a Certification Body listed for their scope and contracts their selected CB.

COLLECTING DATA
Farm CHs collect farm data, including geodata and indicator data, and submit these on the platform. They receive deforestation risk assessment results to be integrated into their internal inspections

RISK ASSESSMENT
The Certificate Holder (CH) carries out risk assessments to identify the needed mitigation measures and adds them to the management plan.

INTERNAL INSPECTIONS
For group certification, the CH conducts internal inspections to assess compliance of all group members.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER UPDATES AND IMPLEMENTS MANAGEMENT PLAN
Based on the findings from previous steps, the CH updates the management plan and implements remaining activities for compliance.

THE FIRST CERTIFICATION AUDIT
The preparation phase ends with the first certification audit. If the audit is passed, the certificate will be granted, and year one of the certification starts. Well in advance, the CH will be alerted on the platform to take the necessary steps to continue in year two of certification

AFTER THE FIRST CERTIFICATION AUDIT
Rainforest Alliance farm certification operates on a three-year cycle. Year one starts after the first positive certification audit. During each subsequent year, internal inspections and/or self-assessments are conducted to inform the management plan and implement actions to ensure compliance. Risk Assessments need to be conducted as indicated in the applicable requirements.

In the two years between Certification Audits, Surveillance Audits are carried out to:

- verify whether the management system of the organization is still ensuring compliance of all activities falling under its responsibility
- monitor progress on improvements.

After the second certification audit, the second certification cycle starts. Continuous improvement requirements come into effect during the second certification cycle.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION AND KEY DEFINITIONS

The requirements that apply to a Certificate Holder (CH) and location vary based on the scope of certification, the farm category (Small or Large) and the phase of certification.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION?

The certification scope of the Farm requirements is the whole farm.

Chapter 4: Farming focuses on the certified crop.

The Farm CH may choose to leave geographically separate farm units out of the certification scope if these:

- are only used to produce non-certified crop at all times.
- are not in the vicinity of farm units with certified crop.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED A SMALL OR LARGE FARM?

For this Standard, farms are categorized into two groups: Small and Large. Small farms are farms with fewer than 10 permanent workers, while large farms are farms with 10 or more permanent workers. The Rainforest Alliance may categorize farms differently if deemed more appropriate.

EXTRA REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL FARMS WITH MANY TEMPORARY WORKERS?

A subset of requirements applies to Small farms only if they reach a threshold of temporary workers. This is indicated per requirement as follows:

"For Small farms, the requirement applies only if they are hiring:

- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or
- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year"

WHO ARE CONSIDERED 'WORKERS'?

When 'workers' are mentioned, all workers including permanent workers, temporary workers, workers hired through labor providers are included. See also A-03-SCRC-B-CH Glossary Annex.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER PROFILES, DATA COLLECTION AND INDICATORS

A Certificate Holder profile for farms and groups is another innovation used to communicate sustainability performance and improvements. Certificate Holder profiles are shaped by data and indicators from the Standard, allowing producers to demonstrate their results, challenges, and improvements. The profile can become a valuable tool to drive continuous improvement, empower producers, build demand for certified products, and channel supply chain investments.

To this end, the Sustainable Agriculture Standard introduces an Indicator Annex to guide producers and groups on what data to feed into the new indicator platform. This comes with a simplification of the amount and type of data collected, ensuring that only the most relevant data is collected.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

The Sustainable Agriculture Standard document is divided into six chapters, each centered around a specific area – farm management, traceability, premium, farming, social and environment. The requirements in each chapter are presented in tables like the one below.

Topic header indicates the topic the requirements are about

Base requirements are applicable across all solutions

Specialized requirements: are applicable for the selected RA Standard. They may be shared with other RA Standards but not all

Continuous improvement requirements are tailored and only become applicable during the 2nd or 3rd certification cycle

0.0 REQUIREMENT TOPIC					
No.	**Base requirement**	**Group certification**			**Ind. cert.**
		S-farms	**L-farms**	**Group mgt.**	**S/L**
1.1.1	*(Text requirement)*		✓	✓	
No.	**Specialized requirement**				
1.1.2	*(Text requirement)*			✓	✓
No.	**Continuous improvement requirement**				
1.1.4	*(Text requirement)*	✓	✓	✓	

Checkmarks Indicates what certification type and actor a requirement applies to (see below on how to interpret checkmarks)

WHICH REQUIREMENTS ARE APPLICABLE, TO WHOM, AND WHEN?

The applicability of a requirement is indicated by a checkmark. A checkmark shows which actor is responsible for implementing the requirement. In some cases, the requirement text provides further details on applicability. For groups, regardless of the checkmark, group management is always ultimately accountable for implementation of all applicable requirements by all actors within their scope.

	Group certification			Ind. cert.
	S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
Checkmark for small and large farms in individual certification				
Small or large farms that are certified individually must implement these requirements.*				✓
Checkmark for group management				
The requirement applies to the entire group, and group management staff is responsible for implementing the requirement for all members of the group (both small and large) and their own operations.			✓	
Checkmark for large farms				
The management of the large farm is responsible for implementing the requirement for their farm.**		✓		
Check mark for small farms				
The small farm operator is responsible for implementing the required actions for their farm.**	✓			
Checkmark for large farms and group management				
Large farm management must implement requirements for their farms, while group management handles requirements for small farms within the group and supports large farms within the group.		✓	✓	
Checkmark for small farms and large farms				
Small and large farm implement the requirement.**	✓	✓		
Checkmark for small, large farms and group management				
All actors in group need to take direct action to implement the requirement.	✓	✓	✓	

* Requirement text may specify additional details regarding applicability and responsibility, such as:
- Producers do X. [...]
- Not applicable for small in groups.
- Management does Z.
- Etc.

** Group management is always responsible for supporting members in implementing requirements by providing proper instruction, training, resources, and other forms of assistance as necessary.

OVERVIEW OF THE FARM STANDARD TOPICS

1. Management	
1.1	Management
1.2	Administration
1.3	Risk Assessment and Management Plan
1.4	Internal Inspection and Self-Assessment
1.5	Grievance Mechanism
1.6	Gender Equality
1.7	Indicator data
2. Traceability	
2.1	Traceability
2.2	Traceability in the Online Platform
2.3	Mass Balance
3. Premium	
3.1	Premium
4. Farming	
4.1	Planting and Rotation
4.2	Pruning and Rejuvenation of Tree Crops
4.3	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
4.4	Soil Fertility and Conservation
4.5	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
4.6	Agrochemicals Management
4.7	Harvest and Post-Harvest Practices

5. Social	
5.1	Assess-and-Address, Child Labor, Forced Labor, Discrimination, Workplace Violence and Harassment
5.2	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
5.3	Wages and Contracts
5.4	Living Wage
5.5	Working Conditions
5.6	Health and Safety
5.7	Housing and Living Conditions
5.8	Communities
6. Environment	
6.1	Forests, other Natural Ecosystems and Protected Areas
6.2	Conservation and Enhancement of Natural Ecosystems and Vegetation
6.3	Riparian Buffers
6.4	Protection of Wildlife and Biodiversity
6.5	Water Management and Conservation
6.6	Wastewater Management
6.7	Waste Management
6.8	Energy Efficiency

CHAPTER 1:
MANAGEMENT

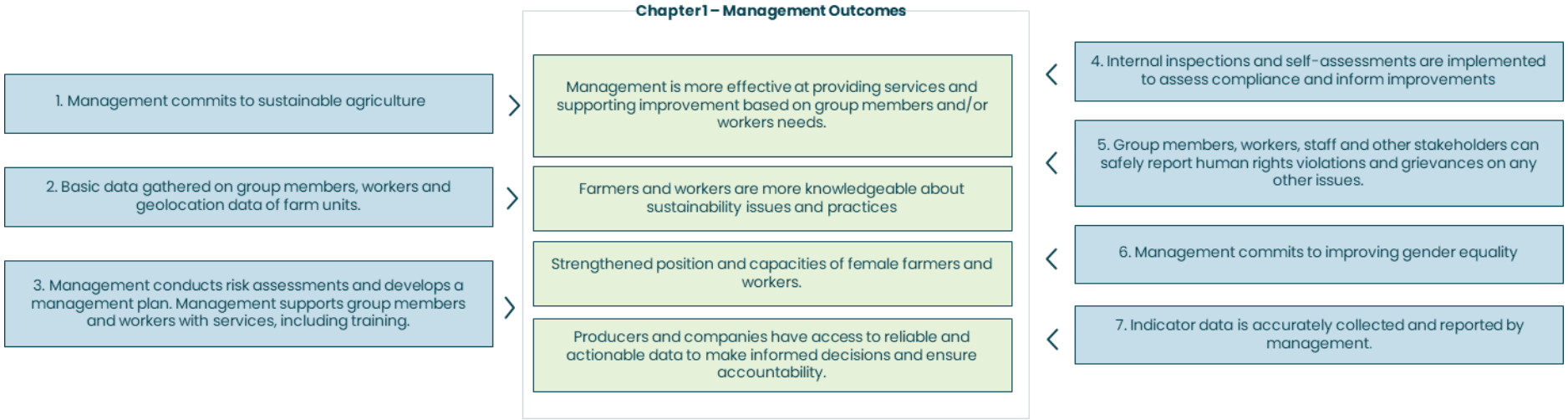
Farming is not just a way of life but is also a business, and successful business needs management. The Rainforest Alliance wants to see certified farms managed in an efficient, transparent, inclusive and economically viable manner. It is essential that farms and groups implement an integrated planning and management system, with processes and systems for continuous improvement. Good planning and management contribute to farm productivity and efficiency, and to reduced environmental impact through increased efficiency in the use of land, water, fertilizers, and pesticides.

To help achieve this outcome, the Management chapter includes topics related to management commitment, farm and group administration, data management, sustainability assessment and management planning. Requirements on these topics follow a process of assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, and adjustment.

Based on the Risk Assessment, specific mitigation and adaptation practices are defined. Farm and group administrators play a key role in facilitating this planning process.

This chapter includes requirements for collecting geolocation data to ensure certified products do not come from deforested or protected areas where production is strictly forbidden. Collecting GPS polygons provides more accurate data on farm size, which can also support farm management by facilitating volume estimation.

Finally, this chapter includes the cross-cutting theme of gender. Including this topic in the management chapter recognizes that gender is fundamentally important to multiple dimensions of farm and group activity.


Chapter 1 – Management Outcomes
1. Management commits to sustainable agriculture
2. Basic data gathered on group members, workers and geolocation data of farm units.
3. Management conducts risk assessments and develops a management plan. Management supports group members and workers with services, including training.
Management is more effective at providing services and supporting improvement based on group members and/or workers needs.
Farmers and workers are more knowledgeable about sustainability issues and practices
Strengthened position and capacities of female farmers and workers.
Producers and companies have access to reliable and actionable data to make informed decisions and ensure accountability.
4. Internal inspections and self-assessments are implemented to assess compliance and inform improvements
5. Group members, workers, staff and other stakeholders can safely report human rights violations and grievances on any other issues.
6. Management commits to improving gender equality
7. Indicator data is accurately collected and reported by management.

1.1 Management

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.1.1	Management shows commitment to sustainable agriculture by allocating sufficient resources and staff to implement the Rainforest Alliance Certification Program. At least every three years, management evaluates its capacity for implementing the Rainforest Alliance Standard and demonstrates continuous improvement with subsequent assessments. Management establishes committee(s) responsible for addressing the following issues: • Grievance mechanism (see 1.5) • Gender equality (see 1.6) • Assess and Address (see 5.1) • Occupational Health and Safety (see 5.6) Note: A single committee may cover all these issues. The committee(s): - Include at least one management representative with decision-making power. - Are impartial, accessible, gender-sensitive and trusted by the group members/workers including vulnerable groups.		✓	✓	✓

1.2 Administration

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.2.1	Management and producers comply with applicable laws relevant to the scope of the Rainforest Alliance Standard. Including but not limited to: •Land use right •Environment •Labor •Human rights •FPIC •Taxes and anti-corruption issues If an applicable law is stricter than a requirement in the Standard, the law will take precedence unless it has become obsolete. Conversely, if an applicable law is less strict than a requirement in the Standard, the requirement in the Standard will take precedence, unless the requirement explicitly permits the application of such law.	✔	✔	✔	✔
1.2.2	There is a comprehensive list of current service providers, suppliers, intermediaries, and subcontractors. Mechanisms, including contracts, are in place to ensure that these entities comply with the applicable requirements of the Standard for their activities within the scope of certification. For Farms - This is valid for work in the field, work in processing, and labor provision. - The term ""Suppliers"" refers only to other farms they buy certified product from. For small farms in groups requirement does not apply. *Please see SA-G-SD-46 Guidance Document U: Service Providers Applicability*		✔	✔	✔
1.2.3	An up-to-date registry of group members is maintained. The required information for each member is collected using the Group Member Registry form provided by the Rainforest Alliance.			✔	

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.2.4	Up-to-date records of permanent and temporary workers are kept, containing, for each worker: • Full name • Gender • Year of birth • Start and end date(s) of employment • Wages, including benefits For workers for whom housing is provided, the records additionally contain: • Housing address • Number of family members • Year of birth of family members For children conducting light work (between 12 and 15 years) and young workers (between 15 and 18 years), the records additionally contain: • Housing address • Name and address of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) • School registration (if applicable) • Type of work or tasks • The number of working hours per day and per week For small farms in groups only requirement 1.2.5 applies.		✓	✓	✓
1.2.5	For permanent workers, up-to-date records are kept, containing, for each worker: • Full name • Gender • Year of birth • Wages, including benefits For temporary workers, only the number of workers is required. Illiterate group members can give the above information orally.	✓			
1.2.6	Management ensures that when the Rainforest Alliance Standard requires to inform workers or group members, the information is provided in the predominant language(s) of the workers or group members.		✓	✓	✓

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.2.7	An Agreement is in place between the group management and each group member signed by both parties. Fingerprints or identifiable marks can be used in place of signatures. The agreement includes the following: • The group member's obligation to comply with the Rainforest Alliance Standard. • The group member's obligation to accept both internal inspections and external audits and sanctions. • The group member's guarantee that any product sold as certified comes only from their farm. • The group member's right to appeal decisions made by the group management by using the grievance procedure. • The group member's agreement to share such member's farm data (such as geodata, volumes, area etc.) with group management and the Rainforest Alliance for use, publication and sharing within the supply chain as described in the Rainforest Alliance General Terms and Conditions and its Privacy Policy. Each group member understands the agreement. Agreements are centrally archived, and a copy is available for each group member.			✓	
1.2.8	Records for certification purposes and compliance are kept for a minimum of five years.	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.2.9	An up-to-date map of the farm area is available, including: • Farms/farm units/production zones • Processing facilities • Human habitation areas • Schools • Medical centers/first aid sites • Natural ecosystems, including water bodies and forests, and other existing natural vegetation • Riparian buffer zones • Agroforestry systems • Protected areas The map also includes risk areas identified in the Risk Assessment (see 1.3.1). The date of the latest update is displayed on the map. Large farms in groups are required to provide a map of their farm. *Please see SA-G-SD-4 Guidance Document C: How to Create a Farm Map*		✓	✓	✓

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.2.10	Geolocation data for all farm units with the certified crop is available for 100% of the farms. For at least 35% of the farms, the geolocation data is in the form of a GPS polygon. By the second certification audit, all farm units have polygons. *Please see A-04-SCRL-B-CH –Management Annex* *Please see SA-G-SD-5 Guidance Document D: Geolocation Data Requirements and Risk Maps*			✓	
1.2.11	A polygon is available for each farm unit. *Please see A-04-SCRL-B-CH –Management Annex* *Please see SA-G-SD-5 Guidance Document D: Geolocation Data Requirements and Risk Maps*		✓		✓

1.3 Risk Assessment and Management Plan

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.3.1	Management conducts a risk assessment in relation to the requirements in this Standard, by using the Risk Assessment Tool, at least every three years. If relevant, the risk assessment may be reviewed and updated yearly. The risk mitigation measures are included in the management plan. *Please see A-11-SCRL-B-CH Risk Assessment Tool*		✓	✓	✓
1.3.2	Management develops a management plan that includes the goals and actions based on the Risk Assessment (1.3.1) and self-assessment (1.4.2). For groups, the management plan is additionally based on the internal inspection (1.4.1). Management reports on the implementation of the management plan yearly. The management plan is updated yearly. *Please see SA-G-SD-3 Guidance Document B: Template of Management Plan*		✓	✓	✓
1.3.3	Management provides group members and workers hired by the group with services based on the management plan. Services can include training, technical assistance, support in record keeping, access to inputs (e.g., seedlings), awareness-raising activities, etc. Management documents the services provided. For Trainings the following topics are treated at least yearly: • Good Internal Inspection practices including evaluations (For all internal inspectors) • Training on the IPM Strategy as mentioned in 4.5.1 • Occupational Health and Safety and Emergency Procedures *Please see A-04-SCRL-B-CH Management Annex*			✓	
1.3.4	Management provides workers with services based on the management plan. Services can include training, awareness-raising activities, etc. Management documents the services provided. For Trainings the following topics are treated at least yearly: • Training on the IPM Strategy as mentioned in 4.5.1 • Occupational Health and Safety and Emergency Procedures		✓		✓

1.4 Internal Inspection and Self-Assessment

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.4.1	Management has an internal inspection system in place to annually assess compliance of all actors within the scope of certification. The system includes: • For Farms: group members' farms, processing and/or storage sites and any other actor(s) (including subcontractors, intermediaries, service providers). All actors are inspected internally before the first certification audit and the internal inspection covers all applicable requirements of the Standard. After the first certification audit, the internal inspection covers: • 100% of large farms part of a group • at least 35% of smallholder farms, ensuring all smallholder farms are inspected after three years. • For farms with multiple farm units: • The selection of the unit for inspection is based on risk. • Priority is given to units that have not been previously inspected. • All new actors are internally inspected before they join the group. In consecutive years, the requirements covered by the internal inspection are based on the Risk Assessment (for farms, see 1.3.1), the previous year's internal inspection and previous external audit results. *Please see A-04-SCRL-B-CH –Management Annex*			✔	
1.4.2	Management conducts a yearly self-assessment to evaluate its own compliance, and that of all actors in its certification scope, with the relevant requirements in the Standard. For groups, management uses the results of the internal inspections as set out in 1.4.1. to complete the self-assessment.			✔	✔

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.4.3	An approval and sanction system is in place to ensure compliance of group members with the Rainforest Alliance Certification Program. The system includes: • A written approval and sanction procedure • An approval and sanction manager or committee • A mechanism to follow up on group members' improvement and corrective measures • A decision on each group member's certification status that is signed and documented and included in the final internal inspection report			✔	

1.5 Grievance Mechanism

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.5.1	A Grievance Mechanism is in place that enables individuals, workers, communities, or civil society, including whistle-blowers, to raise complaints about the Certificate Holder's activities. Complaints can relate to any part of the Standard, including technical, social, or economic issues. The grievance mechanism may be provided by the Certificate Holder or by a third party. The Grievance Mechanism (see requirement 1.1.1) includes at least the following elements: • Representatives for group members or workers are part of the committee • Submissions in any language and accessible to persons without reading skills or internet access. • Acceptance of anonymous grievances with confidentiality. • Remediation of human and labor rights issues per the Remediation Protocol. • Documentation and timely sharing of grievances and actions taken with affected persons. • Protection against retribution for persons submitting grievances. *Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH –Social Annex* *Please see SA-G-SD-6 Guidance Document E: Grievance Mechanism*			✔	✔

1.6 Gender Equality

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.6.1	Management commits to promoting gender equality by: • A written statement that is communicated to group members or workers • Appointing a committee (see 1.1.1) responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of measures that promote gender equality and women's empowerment • Ensuring the committee includes at least one management representative with decision-making power and at least one person of each gender. Note: In groups of small farms, a responsible person instead of a committee may be appointed. *Please see SA-G-SD-7 Guidance Document F: Gender Equality*			✓	✓
No.	**Specialized requirement**				
1.6.2	The responsible committee or person: • Implements gender equality measures from the Risk Assessment and includes these measures in the management plan • Raises awareness on gender equality and women's empowerment with management and group staff at least annually • Is involved in remediation of cases on gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination per the Remediation Protocol *Please see A-11-SCRL-B-CH Risk Assessment Tool* *Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH –Social Annex*			✓	✓

1.7 Indicator Data

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
1.7.1	Management collects accurate data on indicators relevant to the Rainforest Alliance Standard and reports this data through the Rainforest Alliance Certification Platform. *Please see A-10-SCRL-B-CH –Indicator Annex*			✔	✔

CHAPTER 2: TRACEABILITY

A successful and credible sustainable agriculture certification program must instill confidence in users that certified products are produced according to the Standard. This requires a robust and transparent system to track products from the farmer through the supply chain to the retailer.

The requirements in this chapter provide producers with a framework to accurately and credibly record certified production quantities, segregate them from non-certified products, and manage sales transactions, conversion methods, and trademark use.

1. Accurate estimation, segregation and documentation of production improve the traceability of certified products.

2. All transactions are recorded on the Rainforest Alliance traceability platform. The use of the Rainforest Alliance seal follows the Labelling and Trademark Policy.

Chapter 2 – Traceability Outcomes

Increased credibility of certified product assurance and traceability.

3. For crops for which mass balance is permitted, the rules for selling as certified are enforced

2.1 Traceability

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
2.1.1	The total certified production and the certified production for each producer (kg or stems for flowers) are estimated once a year. The calculations are based on a credible methodology for yield estimation (kg/ha or stems/ha for flowers) of a representative sample of farms or farm units. The methodology and calculation are documented. *Please see SA-G-SD-8 Guidance Document G: Yield estimation*			✓	✓
2.1.2	Management takes stock annually of: • The total harvested certified production (in kg, in stems for flowers) • The balance of products purchased, produced, sold and in stock In case the difference between estimated production and actual production is >15 %, a reasonable justification is given, and measures are taken to prevent such differences from occurring. For groups, the differences are checked and justified both on the group level and for the individual members.		✓	✓	✓
2.1.3	Products certified against Rainforest Alliance Standard must be visually separated from non-certified products and from each other at all stages, including transport, storage, and processing.			✓	✓

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
2.1.4	Management has mapped the product flow up to the final location of the certificate scope, including all intermediaries (collection points, transport, processing units, warehouses, etc.) and activities carried out on the product.			✓	✓
2.1.5	Certified products can be traced back to the certified farm(s) they were produced on. Management keeps purchase and sales documents linked to physical deliveries from the certified, multi-certified and non-certified products, ensuring intermediaries do the same. The purchase and sales documents include date, standard(s), product type, (percentage of) certified volume, group member details and, if relevant, traceability type. In case of group certification, group management ensures that group members receive a receipt for each delivery from the group member to the group or an intermediary, specifying name of group member, group member ID, date, product type and volume. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex*			✓	✓
2.1.6	Shipments of certified products do not exceed the total production (for farms), purchase of certified products plus remaining stock balance from the previous year.			✓	✓
2.1.7	There is no double selling of volumes. Once a volume is sold under a Rainforest Alliance Standard, conventional, another scheme or sustainability initiative, that volume is no longer available for sale. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex*			✓	✓
2.1.8	Group members keep sales receipts (electronic or physical), including name of group member, group member ID, date, product type, and volume.	✓	✓		
2.1.9	The correct methodology for the calculation of conversion factors is demonstrated and documented for each certified product and reflected accordingly in the traceability platform. Applicable for large farms in a group, if they have processing as part of the scope. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH – Traceability Annex*		✓	✓	✓
2.1.10	Equipment used to measure the weight or volume of the certified product is calibrated annually.		✓	✓	✓

2.2 Traceability in the Online Platform

Applicable to Certificate Holders working in crops for which online traceability is offered within the Rainforest Alliance Certification Program.

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
2.2.1	Any activity related to the certified volume (such as redeeming, removing, selling, purchasing, confirming, etc.) must be recorded in the Rainforest Alliance traceability platform within two weeks after the end of the quarter in which the activity took place. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH –Traceability Annex*			✓	✓
2.2.2	Buyers of Rainforest Alliance Certified products regularly verify that transactions in the traceability platform match invoices for certified products.			✓	✓
2.2.3	Approval is obtained prior to the on- and off-pack use of public-facing claims. There is evidence that any Rainforest Alliance claim made is valid and complies with Rainforest Alliance Certification Program Requirements.			✓	✓
2.2.4	Royalty is paid in full without any tax deductions, according to the payment terms set forth in the License Agreement, Terms and Conditions and/or the invoice. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex*			✓	✓

2.3 Mass Balance

Applicable to Certificate Holders applying mass balance in the crops that permit the traceability type mass balance.

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
2.3.1	Volumes are only converted for processes that can occur in reality; product conversion cannot revert to a previous product. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex*			✔	✔
2.3.2	Volumes sold as mass balance are 100% covered by volumes purchased as certified. A negative volume balance is not permitted at any time.			✔	✔
2.3.3	Mass balance volumes must always be accompanied by a physical shipment when transferred between Certificate Holders. Volume trading without a physical shipment is only allowed between sites under the same certificate.			✔	✔
2.3.4	Volumes sold as certified meet the minimum percentage requirements for origin information. This requirement is only applicable for cocoa mass balance products for which origin matching rules are required. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex*			✔	✔
2.3.5	Purchase and sales documentation for volumes sold as certified must include origin information to country level for both incoming certified and non-certified volumes. This is only applicable for cocoa mass balance products for which origin matching rules are required. *Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH –Traceability Annex*			✔	✔

CHAPTER 3:

PREMIUM

The Rainforest Alliance aims to make sustainability the norm in its operating sectors.

This requires fundamentally transforming supply chain principles to value and price sustainability in agricultural production as a material service. The costs of advancing sustainability practices at the origin are shared by the market and producers.

These aims are operationalized through the Premium element in the Sustainable Agriculture Standard.

Chapter 3 – Premium Outcomes

1. Group management transfers the premium when applicable, in cash to group members. Farm management uses the premium to the benefit of producers or workers.

Farmers, workers and their families have an improved standard of living.

Group management channels the premium effectively to group members. Farm management spends premium for the benefit of producers or workers

1.The buyer of certified products pays the premium as a cash or other monetary payment on top of the market price

3.1 Premium

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
3.1.1	Payment of the Premium must be reported in the traceability platform. For crops with a prescribed minimum, the payment must meet at least the required minimum. *Please see A-06-SRCL-B-CH Premium Annex*			✔	✔
3.1.2	Responsible Certificate Holders must have contracts or signed agreements specifying the amounts to be paid, and the terms and conditions of the payment by period/cycle. Premium cannot be paid in kind and must be paid in full according to the payment terms per crop specified in the Premium Annex. *Please see A-06-SRCL-B-CH Premium Annex*			✔	✔
3.1.3	Group management distributes at least 40% of the premium in cash or other monetary payments to group members in a timely and convenient manner prior to next crop season, or at minimum annually in case of continuous harvest. Group members will receive Premium on a pro-rata basis based upon volumes delivered. Group management documents and reports: • premium received by volume and in total • amount paid to group members • how Premium is utilized by group management as a percentage of the total. *Please see A-06-SRCL-B-CH Premium Annex*			✔	
3.1.4	Any paid premium is required to be spent to benefit producer or workers. Management shall document: • Premium received by volume and in total. • Distribution of the Premium as a percentage on amount received by volume on how it benefits producer or workers. *Please see A-06-SRCL-B-CH Premium Annex*		✔		✔

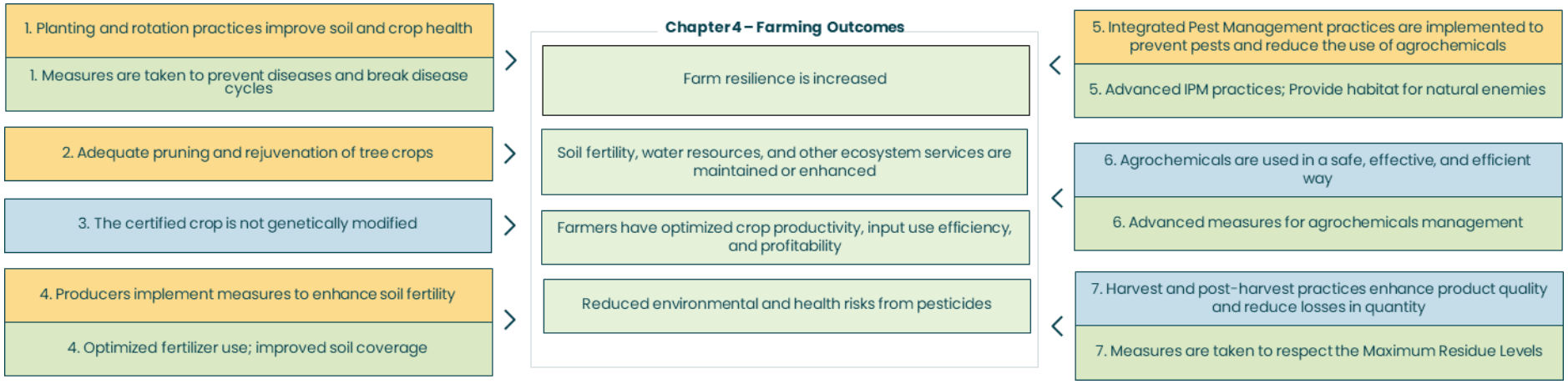
CHAPTER 4: FARMING

This chapter focuses on the outcomes of sustainable agriculture, including crop productivity and profitability, natural resources, and ecosystem services. It also includes practices that contribute to broader Climate Smart Agriculture goals.

The topics in the farming chapter work together to achieve these outcomes. Agronomic activities related to sustainable production practices, soil fertility and conservation, integrated pest management, and safe agrochemical management support sustainable productivity, profitability, natural resource conservation, and ecosystem services.

The requirements encourage locally-relevant and context-specific practices to ensure efficient use of inputs and natural resources, optimize natural cycles to increase climate change resilience, enhance soil fertility and health, attract pollinators, improve water retention and management, minimize pesticide use, and reduce further negative environmental effects.

Finally, crop profitability is supported by post-harvest practices, where farms and groups achieve improved crop quality to meet market demands. Implementing the requirements in this chapter forms the foundation of broader sustainable agriculture activities. Combined with other field, market, and advocacy interventions, these can support sectoral and regional impacts.


1. Planting and rotation practices improve soil and crop health
1. Measures are taken to prevent diseases and break disease cycles
2. Adequate pruning and rejuvenation of tree crops
3. The certified crop is not genetically modified
4. Producers implement measures to enhance soil fertility
4. Optimized fertilizer use; improved soil coverage
Chapter 4 – Farming Outcomes
Farm resilience is increased
Soil fertility, water resources, and other ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced
Farmers have optimized crop productivity, input use efficiency, and profitability
Reduced environmental and health risks from pesticides
5. Integrated Pest Management practices are implemented to prevent pests and reduce the use of agrochemicals
5. Advanced IPM practices; Provide habitat for natural enemies
6. Agrochemicals are used in a safe, effective, and efficient way
6. Advanced measures for agrochemicals management
7. Harvest and post-harvest practices enhance product quality and reduce losses in quantity
7. Measures are taken to respect the Maximum Residue Levels

4.1 Planting and Rotation

No.	Specialized requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.1.1	Plant varieties for planting, grafting and renovation are selected based on quality, productivity, resistance to pests and diseases and on suitability for the climate during the lifetime of the plants. Planting materials are free of pests and diseases.	✓	✓		✓
4.1.2	For new plantings, producers follow a well-established cropping system that considers various factors, including: • Requirements of the variety used • Geographical, ecological, and agronomic conditions • Diversification and intercropping crops with different rooting depths and soil uses to enhance soil quality and health • Planting density	✓	✓		✓
No.	**Continuous improvement requirement**				
4.1.3	Based on IPM strategy, producers implement measures to prevent pests and diseases and to break their biological cycles, to support soil health and to improve weed management. Such measures can include intercropping, and measures taken in between crop cycles, such as crop rotation or leaving the land fallow. *Please see SA-G-SD-9 Guidance Document H: Integrated Pest Management (IPM)*	✓	✓		✓

4.2 Pruning and Rejuvenation of Tree Crops

No.	Specialized requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.2.1	Producers implement a pruning cycle for the formation, maintenance, and rejuvenation of crops according to their needs, agroecological conditions, and applicable pruning guidelines. *Please see SA-G-SD-10 Guidance Document I: Pruning*	✓	✓		✓

4.3 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.3.1	The certified crop is not genetically modified (GMO).	✓	✓	✓	✓

4.4 Soil Fertility and Conservation

No.	Specialized requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.4.1	Management conducts a soil assessment for a representative sample of areas. The soil assessment includes: a. Erosion-prone areas and slope b. Soil structure c. Soil depth and soil horizons d. Densification of compaction areas e. Soil moisture and water level in the soil f. Drainage conditions g. Levels of macronutrients and organic matter. This is assessed through soil tests and/or observation of visual symptoms of nutrient deficiency (leaf tests) for a representative sample of areas. The soil assessment is updated at least once every three years. For annual crops, point g. on Levels of macronutrients and organic matter is assessed annually.		✓	✓	✓

No.	Specialized requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.4.2	Based on the soil assessment, management identifies soil management measures and includes these in the management plan to build up soil organic matter, increase on-farm nutrient recycling, and optimize soil moisture. *Please see SA-G-SD-12 Guidance Document J: Soil Fertility and Conservation*		✓	✓	✓
4.4.3	Producers prioritize using farm-made organic fertilizers. If additional nutrients are needed, they supplement with other organic or inorganic fertilizers. Animal manure is hot composted to reduce risk and stored at least 25 meters from water bodies.	✓	✓		✓

No.	Continuous improvement requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.4.4	The soil in the production area is covered using methods like cover crops, crop residues, or mulch to prevent exposure.	✓	✓		✓
4.4.5	Fertilizers are applied to ensure nutrients are available to crops at the appropriate times and locations, minimizing environmental contamination.	✓	✓		✓
4.4.6	Producers monitor and optimize the use of organic and inorganic fertilizers.	✓	✓		✓

4.5 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

No.	Specialized requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.5.1	Management documents and implements an IPM strategy, developed by a competent professional, including for processing facilities. The strategy includes prevention, monitoring, threshold levels, and intervention measures. It is based on climate conditions, pest monitoring results, implemented actions, and pesticide application records. The IPM strategy is updated annually. *Please see SA-G-SD-9 Guidance Document H: Integrated Pest Management*		✓	✓	✓

No.	Continuous improvement requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.5.2	Based on the IPM Strategy, producers improve natural ecosystems near crop production areas to provide habitat for natural enemies. Examples include creating insectaries, planting trees and shrubs that attract birds, bats, and pollinators, converting low-lying areas into small ponds with vegetation, and enhancing riparian areas and vegetation.	✓	✓		✓

4.6 Agrochemicals Management

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.6.1	No agrochemicals are used that are: • On the Rainforest Alliance List of Prohibited Pesticides or List of Obsolete Pesticides • Prohibited by applicable law • Not legally registered in the country where the farm is located Producers use only agrochemicals sold by authorized vendors, in original and sealed packaging. Chemical substances used for livestock or pets are not included in the scope of this standard Applicable to group management in case the group management has a purchasing task. *Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA –Farming Annex*	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.6.2	Producers using pesticides on the Risk Mitigation list must implement all related practices described in the Farming Annex. Producers using pesticides under the Exceptional Use Policy must follow all respective practices detailed in this policy and adhere to the procedure for requesting and reporting exceptions as outlined in the annex. *Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA –Farming Annex* *Please see A-12-SCRL-B-FA Exceptional Use Policy: Granted Exceptions and their Conditions for Using Rainforest Alliance Prohibited Pesticides*	✓	✓		✓
4.6.3	Pesticide handlers are trained annually in preparation and application. They use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as specified by the product label or Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), or basic protective clothing based on risk when no information is available. PPE must be in good condition, washed and stored safely after use, and not taken into workers' housing. Single-use items are disposed of after one use. PPE is provided for free, and farm/group management records, monitors, and enforces PPE usage.	✓	✓	✓	✓

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.6.4	Pesticide handlers must bathe, change, and wash clothes after application. Management should provide them with a private area, water, soap, and, if possible, bathing facilities.	✔	✔	✔	✔
4.6.5	Pesticides are prepared and applied according to the label, MSDS or security tag, or as recommended by an official national organization or a competent technician, especially with regards to: • Safe transport to area of application • Respecting the correct dosage • Using appropriate equipment and techniques • Appropriate weather conditions • Respecting restricted entry intervals (REI), including warning signs in local language and informing potentially affected persons or communities in advance When there is no other information, minimum restricted entry interval is 48 hours for WHO class II products and 12 hours for other products. When two or more products with different restricted entry intervals are used at the same time, the longest interval applies. Volume and dosage calculation methods are reviewed and refined to reduce the surplus mix and pesticide overuse. Pre-harvest intervals of pesticides as stipulated in the product's MSDS, label or security tag or regulation by official organization are complied with. When two or more products with different pre-harvest intervals are used at the same time, the longest interval applies.	✔	✔	✔	✔
4.6.6	Mechanisms are in place to prevent contamination by pesticides, through spray drift or other means, from treated areas to other areas including all aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and infrastructure. These mechanisms include non-crop vegetative barriers, non-application zones, or other effective measures.	✔	✔	✔	✔
4.6.7	Aerial application is only allowed under the conditions as outlined in the Farming Annex. *Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA –Farming Annex*	✔	✔	✔	✔

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.6.8	Pesticide applications are recorded. Records include: • Product brand name and active ingredient(s) • Date and time of application • Location and area (size) of application • Dosage and volume (organic or inorganic) • Crop • Name(s) of applicator(s) • Target pest Group management facilitates record keeping for group members when needed.	✔	✔	✔	✔
4.6.9	Empty pesticide containers and application equipment are washed three times, with the rinsing water used in the final batch of the mix for crop application. After applying pesticides, application equipment is washed three times, and any leftover mix is diluted with ten times the amount of clean water and applied evenly on the treated field to minimize environmental and health impacts. Empty pesticide containers are stored securely until they can be disposed of safely through a formal collection or recycling program or returned to the supplier. If the supplier does not accept empty containers, they are cut or perforated to prevent reuse. Prohibited, obsolete, and expired pesticides are returned to the supplier or local authority. If no collection system is available, these products are labeled and stored safely and separately from other products in a locked space.	✔	✔	✔	✔
4.6.10	Agrochemicals and application equipment are stored in accordance with label instructions to ensure minimal negative impact on the environment and human health. Agrochemicals must remain in their original containers or packaging. Facilities for storing agrochemicals and application equipment should be: • Dry, clean, and well-ventilated • Constructed from non-absorbent materials • Securely locked and accessible only by trained handlers • Inaccessible to children • Separated from crops, food products, and packaging materials	✔			

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.6.11	Agrochemicals and application equipment are stored in accordance with the label instructions and in a way that minimizes negative impact on the environment and human health. Agrochemicals are stored in their original containers or packaging. Facilities for storing agrochemicals and application equipment are: • Dry, clean, well-ventilated and with a sound roof and impermeable floor • Safely locked and accessible only by trained handlers • Separated from crops, food products or packaging material • With an emergency spill kit • With visible and understandable safety warning signs and pictograms • With an emergency procedure, eye-washing area and an emergency shower For small farms in groups only requirement 4.6.10 applies.		✔	✔	✔
No.	**Specialized requirement**				
4.6.12	An up-to-date pesticide stock inventory is available and maintained. The inventory includes: • Date of purchase • Product brand name and active ingredient, including an indication of chemicals that are on the Risk Mitigation list • Volume • Date of expiration For groups this is only applicable for centralized stock.		✔	✔	✔
No.	**Continuous improvement requirement**				
4.6.13	The equipment used for mixing and applying agrochemicals is calibrated at least once a year, after every maintenance session, and before it is used with a different type of agrochemical.	✔	✔	✔	✔

4.7 Harvest and Post-Harvest Practices

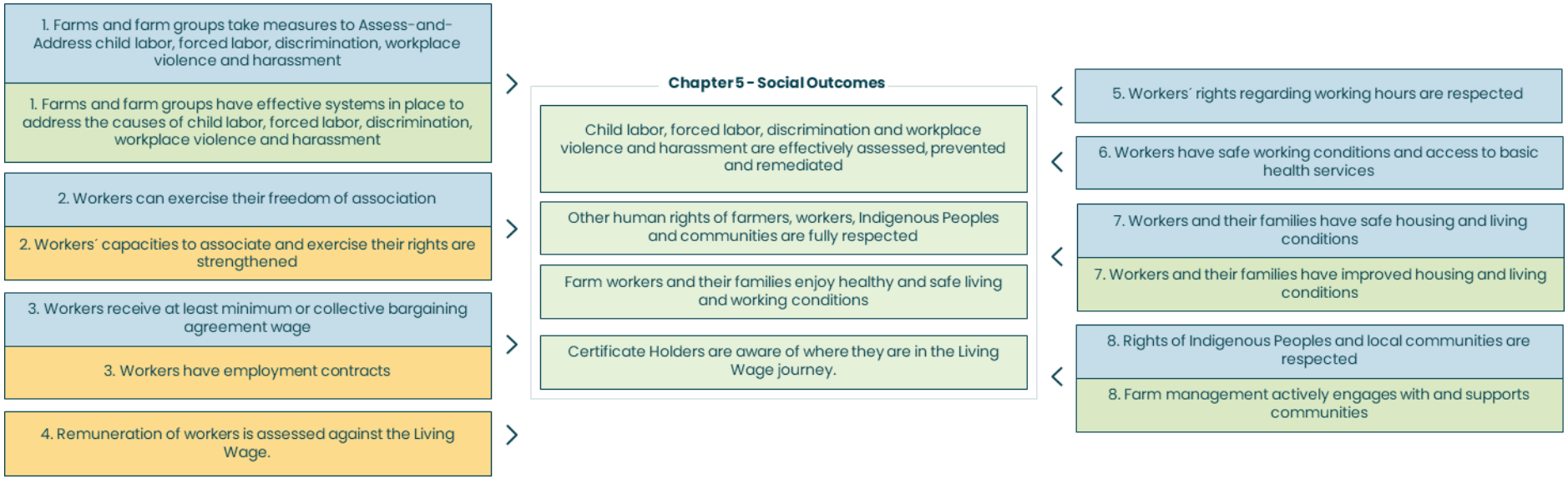
No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.7.1	Products are handled to maintain quality and quantity during harvest and post-harvest stages, such as loading, processing, packing, transportation, and storage. This includes: • Harvesting products at the right time to optimize quality • Minimizing plant damage for future production • Preventing contamination from foreign matter, cleaning products, agrochemicals, microbes, and pests • Avoiding moisture damage • Storing products in a cool, dry, dark, and well-ventilated place • Maintaining and cleaning tools, machinery, and equipment used in harvest and post-harvest • Using suitable and approved packaging materials for food products	✓	✓	✓	✓
No.	**Continuous Improvement requirement**				
4.7.2	Measures are taken to comply with the maximum residue levels (MRLs) established by the production country and known destination countries of the product. These measures include the following: • Strict adherence to the label instructions of agrochemicals used post-harvest • Obtaining information on the residues in the product through own tests (optional) or information from buyers • Taking actions if MRLs are exceeded • Informing the buyer if MRLs are exceeded		✓	✓	✓

CHAPTER 5:
SOCIAL

The Social chapter seeks to empower producers and workers to improve their working and living conditions, promote equality and respect for all, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as migrants, children, youth, and women, and strengthen the protection of human and labor rights on certified farms.

Sustainable agriculture is intrinsically linked with the livelihoods of millions of producers, their families, and communities. To support sustainable livelihoods, the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard establishes requirements related to fundamental human and labor rights, Living Wage, health and safety, and decent living and working conditions. Farms and groups must respect the legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples. These requirements align with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), relevant ILO conventions, and multi-stakeholder concepts such as Living Wage, developed with the Global Living Wage Coalition. There is no place in Rainforest Alliance Certified farms for human rights violations such as child labor, forced labor, discrimination or workplace violence and harassment. For these four types of violations, our certification system adopts an 'Assess-and-address' model, which goes beyond a simple prohibition approach to drive change. Given the high risk of such violations in some agricultural supply chains, farms and groups must implement a rigorous system that includes conducting risk assessments and implementing related mitigation measures. Additionally, farms and groups need to regularly conduct self-monitoring and remediate any known cases of such violations. Severe cases, if not remediated, and/or violations of applicable law, will lead to a negative certification decision, suspension, or cancellation of the certificate. This 'Assess-and-address' model is further detailed in requirement 5.1 and related annexes.

Furthermore, the certification system aims to enable agricultural workers and their families to begin the journey towards achieving a decent standard of living: As a starting point, the standard encourages groups and farms to understand the relation between wages their members and/or workers and the relevant Living Wage benchmarks. To this end, the standard enforces respect for workers' rights to collective bargaining and freedom of association, healthy and safe living and working conditions and access to health care. Although the system aims to contribute to better wages for workers the Rainforest Alliance recognizes the limitation of producers to unilaterally solve the problem of low wages. In accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, our approach is to bring transparency on prevailing wages to agricultural producers.


1. Farms and farm groups take measures to Assess-and-Address child labor, forced labor, discrimination, workplace violence and harassment
1. Farms and farm groups have effective systems in place to address the causes of child labor, forced labor, discrimination, workplace violence and harassment
2. Workers can exercise their freedom of association
2. Workers´ capacities to associate and exercise their rights are strengthened
3. Workers receive at least minimum or collective bargaining agreement wage
3. Workers have employment contracts
4. Remuneration of workers is assessed against the Living Wage.
Chapter 5 - Social Outcomes
Child labor, forced labor, discrimination and workplace violence and harassment are effectively assessed, prevented and remediated
Other human rights of farmers, workers, Indigenous Peoples and communities are fully respected
Farm workers and their families enjoy healthy and safe living and working conditions
Certificate Holders are aware of where they are in the Living Wage journey.
5. Workers´ rights regarding working hours are respected
6. Workers have safe working conditions and access to basic health services
7. Workers and their families have safe housing and living conditions
7. Workers and their families have improved housing and living conditions
8. Rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are respected
8. Farm management actively engages with and supports communities

5.1 Assess-and-Address Child Labor, Forced Labor, Discrimination, Workplace Violence and Harassment

Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment are prohibited on Rainforest Alliance Certified farms. Certificate Holders must have measures to monitor and mitigate these risks through the assess and address system. Any identified cases must be addressed. Failure to remediate severe cases or legal violations will result in negative certification decisions, suspension, or certificate cancellation.

The four Base requirements address child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment. The additional four Continuous Improvement requirements apply to child labor and forced labor when they are medium/high risks per Rainforest Alliance risk maps. If no risk levels are available, the Certificate Holder's own risk assessment is used. Continuous Improvement requirements for discrimination and workplace violence and harassment only apply to large and individually certified farms.

Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and violence/harassment are as defined in Annex S1: Glossary. These definitions are based on relevant ILO standards, including:
ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138)
ILO Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No.182)
ILO Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (No.29)
ILO Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957 (No.105)
ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No.100)
ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No.111)
ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No.190)
Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.1.1	Commitment: Management commits to assess and address child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment by: • Coordinating the committees/persons responsible for managing grievances and gender issues (see requirement 1.1.1). • Raising awareness on these four issues with management and group staff at least once a year. • Informing workers/group members in writing that child labor, forced labor, discrimination and workplace violence and harassment are not tolerated, and that management has a system in place to assess and address related cases. This information is visibly displayed at central locations at all times. Note: In groups of small farms, a responsible person instead of a committee may be appointed. *Please see SA-G-SD-1 Guidance Document L: Assess-and-Address*		✔	✔	✔
5.1.2	Risk mitigation: The management representative/committee includes mitigation measures in the management plan. The Certificate Holder can use mitigation measures identified in the Risk Assessment and implement corresponding measures. *Please see A-11-SCRL-B-CH Risk Assessment Tool*		✔	✔	✔

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.1.3	Monitoring: The committee/management representative • Monitors risks and the implementation of risk mitigation measures • Reports potential cases of child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment to the management and to the grievance committee • Monitors remediation activities (see 5.1.4) The intensity of the monitoring system is adjusted to the risk level and the issue. *Please see SA-G-SD-20 Guidance Document R: Assess-and-Address Monitoring Tool*		✓	✓	✓
5.1.4	Remediation: The committee/management representative sets out in the management plan how to remediate cases of child labor, forced labor, discrimination, workplace violence and harassment. Confirmed cases are remediated and documented following the Rainforest Alliance Remediation Protocol. Safety and confidentiality of the victims is protected throughout the process. *Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH – Social Annex*		✓	✓	✓

No.	Continuous improvement requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
	Applicable in case of medium/high risk for child labor and/or forced labor according to the Rainforest Alliance child labor and forced labor risk maps. Large and individually certified farms always implement the improvements for discrimination and workplace violence and harassment.				
5.1.5	In year 1 of certification, the management representative/committee: • Conducts the assess-and-address Risk Assessment for the medium/high risk issue(s) • Includes the corresponding mitigation measures in the management plan (1.3.2) • Implements these measures The assess-and-address Risk Assessment is repeated at least every three years. *Please see A-11-SCRL-B-CH Risk Assessment Tool*		✔	✔	✔
5.1.6	Management representative/committee provides training/awareness raising on child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment to all group members (small farms) or workers (of large farms or individually certified farms).		✔	✔	✔
5.1.7	Management puts in place measures to ensure children of group staff, group members, and group member workers attend school.			✔	
	Applicable in case of medium/high risk for child labor and/or forced labor according to the Rainforest Alliance child labor and forced labor risk maps. Large and individually certified farms always implement the improvements for discrimination and workplace violence and harassment.				
5.1.8	The management assures good functioning of the assess-and-address system. For this purpose, from year one onwards, a yearly assessment of the assess-and-address system for the relevant issue(s) is conducted, based on the following five elements: • Effective implementation of mitigation measures • Effective training on relevant assess-and-address topics • Effective cooperation with external actors • Effective monitoring of the assess-and-address system • Effective internal collaboration on assess-and-address topics *Please see SA-G-SD-1 Guidance Document L: Assess-and-Address*		✔	✔	✔

5.2 Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.2.1	Workers can form and join unions or workers' organizations of their choice and participate in collective bargaining without employer approval, as per applicable law. Workers' representatives are elected democratically in regular free and fair elections. Management has a written policy on workers' rights and ensures workers understand it, displaying it visibly in the workplace at all times. If laws restrict freedom of association and collective bargaining, management supports alternative methods for independent and free association, bargaining, and dialogue with workers. **ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)** **ILO Workers Representatives Recommendation, 1971 (No. 143)** *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year*	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.2.2	Workers are protected from discrimination or retaliation due to union activities. Management cannot punish, bribe, or influence union members or representatives. Termination records include reasons and union affiliations. Management must not interfere in workers' organizations, their elections, or duties. **ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)** **ILO Workers Representatives Recommendation, 1971 (No. 143).** *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year*	✓	✓	✓	✓

No.	Specialized requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.2.3	Management provides workers' representatives with reasonable paid time off to perform their representation functions and attend meetings. When necessary, management offers these representatives reasonable facilities, including meeting space, communication tools, and childcare. Management allows worker organizations and/or trade unions access to a notice board for posting information about their activities. Management establishes dialogue with freely chosen workers' representatives to collectively discuss and address working conditions and terms of employment. Management maintains records of the minutes from meetings with worker organizations and/or trade unions. **ILO Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135)** **ILO Workers Representatives Recommendation, 1971 (No. 143)** *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year*	✔	✔	✔	✔

5.3 Wages and Contracts

No.	Specialized requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.3.1	Workers employed for 3 consecutive months or more must have a written contract signed by both parties. Those employed for less than 3 months must have at least a verbal contract, with the employer keeping records of these contracts. Written contracts for workers employed 3 consecutive months or more include: • Job duties • Job location • Working hours • Pay rate/method of calculation • Overtime pay rate • Payment schedule • Deductions and benefits • Paid leave • Medical leave and protections for illness, disability, or accident • Notice period for termination Verbal contract records include: • Working hours • Pay rate • Overtime pay All workers understand their employment contracts before starting work and can request a copy anytime. *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year.*	✔	✔	✔	✔
5.3.2	There are no policies and/or arrangements to reduce workers' pay or benefits, such as using temporary workers for permanent tasks.	✔	✔	✔	✔

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.3.3	Management and producers adhere to collective bargaining agreements (CBA) relevant to the Rainforest Alliance Standard. Workers are paid at least the applicable minimum wage or the wage stipulated in a CBA, whichever is higher. For production quota or piece work, the payment must meet at least the minimum wage, based on a 48-hour working week or the national legal working hours limit, whichever is lower.	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.3.4	Deductions from wages for social security are only allowed if specified by applicable law or CBA. Voluntary deductions, like advance payments or loans, require worker consent. Employers must handle these remittances fully and in a timely manner. Disciplinary wage deductions are prohibited. Deductions for tools or gear are not allowed unless legally permitted. In-kind benefits must comply with the law and cannot exceed 30% of total pay. **ILO Protection of Wages Recommendation, 1949 (No. 85)**	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.3.5	Workers receive payments at regular intervals as agreed upon by both the worker and the employer, with a minimum frequency of once per month. Detailed records are kept for each worker, including hours worked (both regular and overtime), production volume (where applicable), wage calculations, deductions, and payments made. Workers are provided with proof of payment (either physical or electronic) that includes this information. **ILO Protection of Wages Convention, 1949 (No. 95).** *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year.*	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.3.6	Work of equal value receives equal remuneration, free from discrimination on grounds such as gender, worker type, ethnicity, age, color, religion, political opinion, nationality, social origin, or other factors. **ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)**	✓	✓	✓	✓

No.	Specialized requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.3.7	If labor providers are used, records are kept including the name, contact details and official registration number (if available). The labor provider is: • Not engaged in fraudulent or coercive recruiting practices. • Compliant with applicable worker-related requirements 5.3 and 5.5 of this standard. All recruitment fees are paid by the farm, not by workers. **ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)** *Please see SA-G-SD-46 Guidance document U: Service Providers Applicability*	✓	✓	✓	✓

No.	Continuous improvement requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.3.8	In countries without yearly minimum wage adjustments or CBA regulations, workers' wages are annually adjusted for inflation based on the national rate.	✓	✓	✓	✓

5.4 Living Wage

No.	Specialized requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.4.1	Management annually assesses total remuneration (wages, bonuses, and benefits) for all workers against the Living Wage benchmark recommended by the Rainforest Alliance and in accordance with the Global Living Wage Coalition (GLWC) or any other accepted benchmark. Does not apply to workers of small farms in groups. *Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH –Social Annex*			✓	✓

5.5 Working Conditions

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.5.1	Workers do not exceed eight regular working hours per day or 48 hours per week. They receive a 30-minute break after six consecutive hours and one full rest day after six consecutive working days. Guards do not exceed 60 hours per week or the applicable regulation, whichever is stricter. **ILO, Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1).** **ILO, Hours of Work (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1930 (No. 30).**	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.5.2	Overtime work is voluntary and allowed if: a) It is requested timely. b) Paid according to national law or CBA, whichever is higher; if neither exists, paid at least 1.5 times the regular wage. c) It does not increase health and safety risks; incident rates during overtime are monitored and reduced if necessary. d) Workers have safe transport home.* e) The total work week does not exceed 60 hours, except in special cases.* f) Workers get a 30-minute break after 6 hours of work and at least 10 consecutive hours of rest per 24-hour period. g) A record of regular and overtime hours is kept.* h) For specific activities like harvesting which must be completed in a short window of up to 6 weeks, overtime may be up to 24 hours per week for a maximum of 12 weeks per year, and workers may work up to 21 consecutive days.	✓	✓	✓	✓

	*Conditions apply in specific situations. **ILO, Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1)** **ILO, Hours of Work (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1930 (No. 30)** **ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture, 2010** **International Labor Conference, 107th Session, General Study concerning instruments on working time, 2018** *For small farms, requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for 3 consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year*				

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.5.3	Permanent workers are entitled to paid parental leave, rights and benefits in accordance with applicable law. In absence of such law, workers receive paid maternity leave of at least 12 weeks, of which at least six weeks are taken after birth. They can return to their job after maternity leave on the same terms and conditions and without discrimination, loss of seniority or deduction of wages. Workers who are pregnant, nursing or have recently given birth are offered flexible working schedules and work site arrangements. Breastfeeding women have two additional 30-minute breaks per day and an appropriate space for breastfeeding to nurture the child. **ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 1952 (No. 183)** *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year*	✔	✔	✔	✔
No.	**Specialized requirement**				
5.5.4	Children of workers who are below the applicable minimum working age and accompanying their parents to the workplace must: • Be provided with a safe area appropriate for their age. • Be under continuous supervision by adults at all times. **ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture, 2010**	✔	✔	✔	✔

5.6 Health and Safety

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.6.1	Management, with the assistance of staff or external experts possessing the necessary technical expertise, conducts an analysis of occupational health and safety risks within the certification scope. The management plan stipulates relevant measures and ensures their implementation by considering at least the following: • Risk analysis • Compliance with regulations • Worker training • Procedures and equipment to ensure health and safety • Safe use of machines The frequency and type of occupational health and safety incidents, including those related to agrochemical use, are recorded and specified for both men and women. Measures taken to prevent the recurrence of incidents are also documented. **ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)** **ILO Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184)** *Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA Farming Annex*		✓	✓	✓
No.	**Specialized requirement**				
5.6.2	First aid boxes are available for treating work-related injuries, with free emergency care and hospital transport. They are located centrally at production, processing, and maintenance sites. Emergency showers and eyewashes are also present where needed. Trained first aid employees are on duty during work hours, and workers are informed about where to go for assistance in emergencies. *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year.*	✓	✓	✓	✓
No.	**Base requirement**				
5.6.3	Group members and workers know emergency procedures. Warning signs and safety instructions are clearly displayed. Workers can leave imminent danger situations without permission or penalty.	✓			

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.6.4	Workers have access to sufficient and safe drinking water at all times through one of the following means: • A public drinking water system, or • Drinking water provided by the management that is tested at least once every three years, or more frequently if the risk analysis as part of requirement 5.6.1 identifies a risk. Management maintains drinking water sources, distribution systems, and containers to prevent contamination. Drinking water stored in jars or containers is protected against contamination with a lid and is replaced with fresh drinking water at least every 24 hours. *For small farms, the requirement only applies if they are hiring:* *- 10 or more temporary workers each working for three consecutive months or more, and/or* *- 50 or more temporary workers per calendar year*	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.6.5	For small farms without safe drinking water, management trains and instructs group members on treating water by boiling, filtering, or chlorinating, and preventing contamination.			✓	
5.6.6	Workers always have access to sufficient and safe drinking water.	✓			
5.6.7	Adequate, clean, and operational toilets and handwashing stations are available at or near agricultural production, processing, maintenance sites, offices, and workers' housing. Facilities are separated by gender when there are 10 or more workers, with urinals separate from toilets used by females. Safety and privacy for vulnerable groups are ensured through features such as well-lit and lockable facilities. Workers have access to these facilities whenever necessary.		✓	✓	✓
5.6.8	Workers in hazardous conditions (e.g. Under challenging terrain, with machines or with hazardous materials) use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided for free and receive training on how to use them.	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.6.9	Machinery and other equipment are stored safely when not in use. All tools used by the workers are functional. Machines have clear, comprehensible instructions for safe usage, and hazardous parts are guarded or enclosed. Workers using these machines receive proper training and hold any necessary licenses required by law. Machinery and other equipment are securely stored when not in use.	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.6.10	Female workers who are pregnant, nursing, or have recently given birth are not assigned to activities that pose a risk to their health or the health of their unborn child or infant. In cases of job reassignment, there is no reduction in remuneration. Pregnancy tests are not requested.	✓	✓	✓	✓

No.	Specialized requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.6.11	Workshops, storage areas, and processing facilities are safe, clean, well-lit, and ventilated. A written accident and emergency procedure includes marked fire exits, evacuation maps, and at least one annual emergency drill. Management informs workers about this procedure. Firefighting and spill remediation equipment are available, and workers are trained to use them. Only authorized personnel have access to workshops, storage, or processing facilities.		✓	✓	✓
5.6.12	Workers in workshops, storage areas, and processing facilities have clean, safe eating spaces protected from the sun and rain. Field workers can also eat in areas shielded from the sun and rain.		✓	✓	✓
5.6.13	Workers who handle hazardous agrochemicals undergo a medical examination annually. If they are regularly exposed to organophosphates or carbamate pesticides, the examination includes cholinesterase testing. Workers can access the results of their medical examination. *Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA Farming Annex*		✓	✓	✓

5.7 Housing and Living Conditions

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.7.1	Workers and their families housed or lodged on-site are provided with safe, clean, and adequate living quarters considering local conditions. This includes the following: Location and construction: • Safe construction in a non-hazardous location, protecting against extreme weather conditions, with dry floors, permanent walls, and in good repair. Dry floors should be raised from ground level and made of cement, stone, tile, wood, or sealed and leveled clay. • Protection against air pollution and surface runoff of wastewater. • Workers/families are informed about emergency evacuation plans. • Group accommodation has marked evacuation routes, installed and maintained firefighting equipment, and instructions for its use. Health and hygiene: • Availability of sufficient safe drinking water, at least 20 liters per adult per day and within 1km/30 minutes round trip. • Safety and privacy of vulnerable groups ensured by well-lit and lockable facilities. Sanitary facilities are located within the same buildings or at a safe distance (no more than 60 meters from rooms/dormitories) and provided separately for men and women. • Adequate closed-sewage or pit latrines, sanitation, and waste disposal facilities. • Cooking areas with smoke ventilation. • Pest control measures to prevent rats, mice, insects, and vermin that could cause disease or carry parasites. Comfort and decency: • Families of permanent workers with children have separate rooms from non-family members. • Workers' children living on-site are in a safe place and under adult supervision during working hours. • Electricity is available in-house or nearby if available in the area. For collective housing: • Separate, lockable rooms, washing facilities, and toilets for men and women. Each worker is provided with an individual bed, and there is a minimum space of 1 meter between beds. If bunk beds are used, there must be at least 0.7 meters of clear space between bunks. • Storage for personal belongings is provided, either through individual cupboards or at least 1 meter of shelf unit per worker. **ILO Workers' Housing Recommendation, 1961 (No. 115)** **ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture, 2010**		✓		✓

	Please see SA-G-SD-13 Guidance Document K: Housing and Living Conditions				
No.	**Base requirements**	**Group certification**			**Ind. cert.**
		S-farms	**L-farms**	**Group mgt.**	**S/L**
5.7.2	Children living on-site and of school-going age attend school. They either: • Attend a school within safe walking distance • Attend a school within reasonable traveling distance with safe transport available • Receive on-site schooling of a recognized and equivalent level.		✔		✔
5.7.3	Workers and their families housed on-site have safe, clean, and decent living conditions that consider local standards. These include: • Safe accommodation in non-hazardous locations, with protection from extreme weather, dry floors, permanent walls, and well-maintained structures. • Marked evacuation routes for group accommodations. • Protection against air pollution and surface runoff, with adequate sewage, sanitation, and waste disposal facilities. • Access to safe drinking water. • Adequate sanitary and washing facilities, ensuring the safety and privacy of vulnerable groups through well-lit and lockable facilities. **ILO Recommendation, Workers' Housing Recommendation, 1961 (No. 115)**	✔		✔	

No.	Continuous improvement requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.7.4	On-site living conditions have improved through: Location and Construction: • Measures taken to reduce extreme climate impacts like flooding. • Natural ventilation ensures airflow in all weather. Health and Hygiene: Adequate sanitary facilities: • Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines or toilets connected to wastewater systems or sewage systems. • Facilities: 1 toilet, urinal, handwash, and shower per 15 persons. Handwash facilities include a tap and basin. • Bedrooms are free from cooking smoke. • Sufficient daylight and artificial lighting. Comfort and Decency: • Covered or comfortable areas for meals and breaks, respecting customs. Group Accommodation: • Bunk beds limited to two levels. • Increased space for group accommodation.		✔		✔

5.8 Communities

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.8.1	Management respects the legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Any activities affecting their land, resources, or interests, including High Conservation Values (HCVs) 5 or 6, must have their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). **ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)** *Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH –Social Annex* *Please see SA-G-SD-45 Guidance T: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Processes*		✓		✓
5.8.2	The producer has legal or legitimate right to use the land, substantiated by ownership, leasehold, or other legal documents or by documentation of traditional or customary use rights. Verifiable traditional or customary use rights may also be used. If indigenous peoples and/or local communities, current or former local residents, or other stakeholders validly dispute the right to use the land (for example in cases of past dispossession, forced abandonment or illegal action), the Certificate Holder may demonstrate that they have legitimate right to use the land if: a. A conflict resolution and remediation process has been documented, implemented and accepted by the affected parties. b. In the case of past illegal action, these affected parties include relevant authorities. c. If the dispute involves indigenous peoples and local communities, large farms and individually certified farms follow an FPIC process. *Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH –Social Annex* *Please see SA-G-SD-45 Guidance T: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Processes*	✓	✓		✓
No.	**Continuous improvement requirement**				
5.8.3	Management actively engages with communities located within or adjacent to the farm that may be impacted by its operations. Management identifies their concerns and interests related to these operations and informs them about the procedure for filing complaints in accordance with 1.5.1.		✓		✓

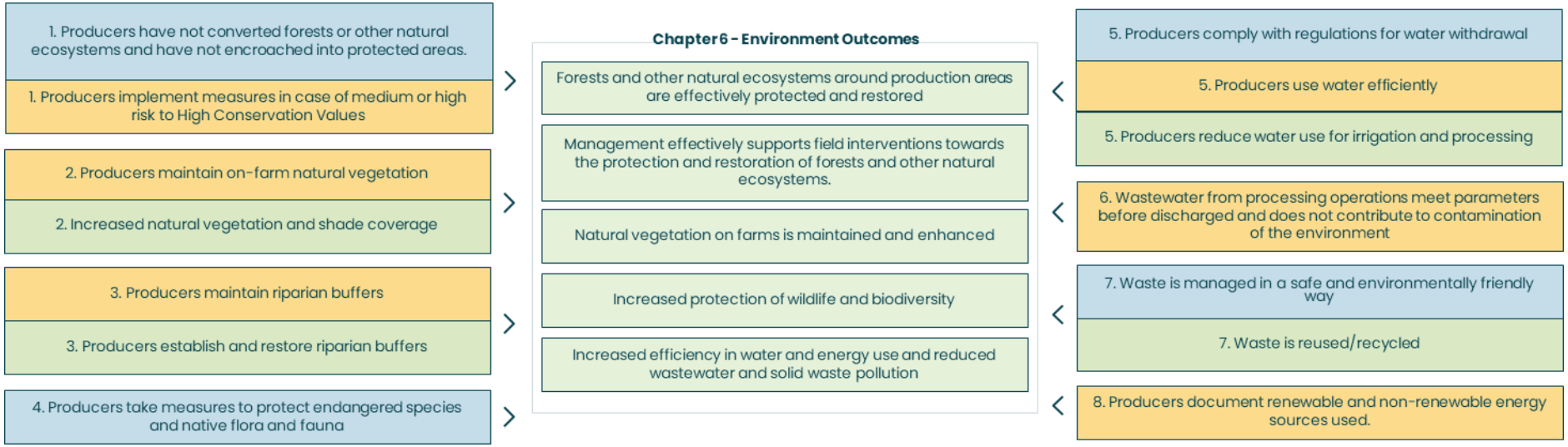
CHAPTER 6:
ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture can positively or negatively impact the natural environment, depending on its management. This chapter outlines pathways for certified farms to positively impact the planet, forests, biodiversity, water, and climate. By complying with the base requirements of the Farm Standard, farms also adhere to the High Conservation Values approach set by the HCV Network.

The first topic in this chapter supports the outcome that farms and groups do not contribute to deforestation, forest degradation, or the destruction of other natural ecosystems. It ensures they conserve, maintain, and restore natural ecosystems and their services. The topic of wildlife and biodiversity supports the outcome that farms and groups avoid degrading natural habitats, contribute to biodiversity improvement, and help prevent the extinction of threatened species. For water, waste, and energy, farms and groups reduce pollution, treat wastewater, minimize hazardous pollutants, and reduce waste and energy through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

Finally, throughout this chapter and the farming practices chapter, the Standard aims for farms and groups to adopt climate adaptation and resilience techniques and support climate change mitigation.

Once again, the Rainforest Alliance recognizes that farm certification fits into a larger landscape conservation picture, requiring multiple strategies for lasting biodiversity and planetary impact. This chapter marks the beginning for certified farms and groups to support this goal.


1. Producers have not converted forests or other natural ecosystems and have not encroached into protected areas.
1. Producers implement measures in case of medium or high risk to High Conservation Values
2. Producers maintain on-farm natural vegetation
2. Increased natural vegetation and shade coverage
3. Producers maintain riparian buffers
3. Producers establish and restore riparian buffers
4. Producers take measures to protect endangered species and native flora and fauna
Chapter 6 - Environment Outcomes
Forests and other natural ecosystems around production areas are effectively protected and restored
Management effectively supports field interventions towards the protection and restoration of forests and other natural ecosystems.
Natural vegetation on farms is maintained and enhanced
Increased protection of wildlife and biodiversity
Increased efficiency in water and energy use and reduced wastewater and solid waste pollution
5. Producers comply with regulations for water withdrawal
5. Producers use water efficiently
5. Producers reduce water use for irrigation and processing
6. Wastewater from processing operations meet parameters before discharged and does not contribute to contamination of the environment
7. Waste is managed in a safe and environmentally friendly way
7. Waste is reused/recycled
8. Producers document renewable and non-renewable energy sources used.

6.1 Forests, other Natural Ecosystems and Protected Areas

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.1.1	From January 1st, 2014, onward, natural forests and other natural ecosystems have not been converted into agricultural production or other land uses. *Please see A-09-SCRL-B-FA –Environment Annex*	✓	✓		✓
6.1.2	Production or processing does not occur in protected areas or their officially designated buffer zones, except where it complies with applicable law. *Please see A-09-SCRL-B-FA –Environment Annex*	✓	✓		✓
No.	**Specialized requirement**				
6.1.3	The management plan includes mitigation measures from the Risk Assessment Tool (1.3.1) for High Conservation Values (1.3.2). Management implements these measures. *Please see A-11-SCRL-B-CH Risk Assessment Tool*		✓	✓	✓

6.2 Conservation and Enhancement of Natural Ecosystems and Vegetation

No.	Specialized requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.2.1	Management develops and implements a plan to conserve natural ecosystems. The plan is based on the map required in 1.2.9 and the natural ecosystems section of the Risk Assessment Tool in 1.3.1 and is updated annually. *Please see A-11-SCRL-B-CH Risk Assessment Tool* *Please see SA-G-SD-14 Guidance Document M: Natural ecosystems and vegetation*		✓	✓	✓
6.2.2	Farms preserve all remnant forest trees unless they present hazards to people or infrastructure. Other native trees on the farm are managed sustainably to ensure that the same quantity and quality of trees is maintained.	✓	✓		✓
No.	**Continuous improvement requirements**				
6.2.3	Producers maintain and management monitors natural vegetation cover and reports annually. If there is less than 10% of the total area under natural vegetation cover or less than 15% for farms growing shade-tolerant crops, management sets targets and takes actions for farms to reach these thresholds as required in 6.2.4. Natural vegetation can include one or more of the following (not exclusive): • Riparian buffers • Conservation areas within the farm • Natural vegetation in agroforestry systems • Border plantings, live fences and barriers around housing and infrastructure, or in other ways • Conservation and restoration areas outside the certified farm that effectively provide long-term protection of the subject areas (for at least 25 years) and yield additional conservation value and protection status relative to the status quo *Please see A-09-SCRL-B-FA –Environment Annex*	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.2.4	There is natural vegetation cover • On at least 10% of the total area for farms growing non-shade tolerant crops • On at least 15% of the total area for farms growing shade-tolerant crops *Please see A-09-SCRL-B-FA –Environment Annex*	✓	✓		✓

6.3 Riparian Buffers

No.	Specialized requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.3.1	Farms maintain existing riparian buffers adjacent to aquatic ecosystems.	✔	✔		✔
6.3.2	Producers maintain the following additional safeguards for the protection of drinking water in case the farm is located closer than 50m from a river, lake, or other water body that is frequently used as the main source of drinking. • Maintain or establish a riparian buffer that is at least 10m wide • Add an outer, additional 20m non-application zone (total 30m) where no pesticides or fertilizers are used • Add an additional 20m zone (from 30 to 50m from the waterbody), in which pesticides are only applied through mechanical, hand-assisted or targeted application	✔	✔		✔
No.	**Continuous improvement requirement**				
6.3.3	Aquatic ecosystems are surrounded by riparian buffers with the following riparian buffer width parameters: • 5m horizontal width along both sides of water courses between 1 - 5m wide. • For farms < 2 ha, the width of the buffer may be reduced to 2m at both sides • 8m horizontal width along both sides of water courses between 5-10m wide, and around springs, wetlands, and other water bodies • 15m horizontal width along both sides of rivers wider than 10 meters wide No additional non-application zones are required alongside fully established riparian buffers.	✔	✔		✔

6.4 Protection of Wildlife and Biodiversity

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.4.1	Threatened animals and plants are not hunted, killed, fished, collected, or trafficked. Producers and workers do not hunt other animals, except under these conditions: • Small farm producers may hunt non-threatened animals for personal use only. • Vertebrate wildlife pests may be hunted on the farm following the IPM plan as a last resort. Explosives or toxic substances are never used for hunting, fishing, or pest control.	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.4.2	Producers do not keep wildlife in captivity. Captive wild animals present on the farm before the initial certification date are sent to professional shelters or may be kept only for non-commercial purposes for the rest of their lives. Captive wild animals and farm animals are treated according to the five freedoms of animal welfare.	✓	✓		✓
No.	**Specialized requirements**				
6.4.3	Producers avoid intentionally introducing or releasing invasive species. Producers do not dispose of existing invasive species or their parts in aquatic ecosystems.	✓	✓		✓
6.4.4	Producers do not use wildlife for processing or harvesting of any crop (e.g. luwak for coffee, monkeys for coconut, etc.).	✓	✓		✓
6.4.5	Erosion by water and wind is reduced through practices such as re-vegetation of steep areas and terracing. *Please see SA-G-SD-12 Guidance Document J: Soil Fertility and Conservation*	✓	✓		✓
No.	**Base requirement**				
6.4.6	Fire is not used for preparing or cleaning fields, except when specifically justified in the IPM plan. *Please see SA-G-SD-12 Guidance Document J: Soil Fertility and Conservation*	✓	✓		✓

6.5 Water Management and Conservation

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.5.1	Management complies with the applicable law for withdrawal of surface or groundwater for agricultural, domestic or processing purposes. If required, compliance is demonstrated through a license or permit (or a pending request).		✓	✓	✓
No.	**Specialized requirement**				
6.5.2	Irrigation and water distribution systems are maintained to maximize crop yields while reducing water wastage, soil erosion, and salinization.		✓	✓	✓
No.	**Continuous improvement requirement**				
6.5.3	Irrigation and water distribution systems are managed to optimize crop productivity, considering factors such as: • Crop evapotranspiration at different growth stages • Soil conditions • Rainfall pattern Not applicable to small farms in groups Producers record the amount of water used for irrigation starting from year one onwards.		✓	✓	✓
6.5.4	Management takes measures to reduce the use of processing water per unit of product. Water use and reduction are monitored and documented from year one onwards. For Group Management, this is applicable if groups have central processing facilities.		✓	✓	✓
6.5.5	Producers use rainwater harvesting for irrigation and/or other agricultural purposes.	✓	✓		✓
6.5.6	Producers participate in a local watershed committee or initiative and take action to help maintain or restore the watershed's health as part of this collective process. The nature of the participation and actions taken are documented.	✓	✓		✓

6.6 Wastewater Management

No.	Specialized requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.6.1	Tests for processing wastewater are conducted at all discharge points during the representative period(s) of operation, and results are documented. For farm groups, this is done at all group-managed (collective) processing facilities and at a representative sample of member processing operations including the different types of treatment systems. Wastewater from processing operations discharged into aquatic ecosystems meets legal wastewater quality parameters. In absence of these, it meets the wastewater parameters. Wastewater from processing operations may not be mixed with clean water to meet the parameters.		✓	✓	✓
6.6.2	Human sewage, sludge, and sewage water are not used in production or processing. Treated sewage is only discharged into aquatic ecosystems. Not applicable to small farms: Treated discharge must meet legal wastewater quality standards or equivalent parameters if no legal standards exist.	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.6.3	Wastewater from processing operations is only used on land after treatment to remove particulates and toxins. Treated wastewater for irrigation must meet specific parameters for both wastewater and irrigation.	✓	✓	✓	✓

6.7 Waste Management

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.7.1	Waste is managed to avoid health and safety risks. It is stored and disposed of only in designated areas, not in natural ecosystems. Non-organic waste is not left on land.	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.7.2	Producers do not burn waste, except in incinerators technically designed for the specific type of waste.	✓	✓		✓
No.	**Continuous improvement requirement**				
6.7.3	Producers segregate and recycle waste based on available waste management, recycling, and disposal options. Organic waste is composted, processed for use as organic or used as input for other processes. Not applicable to small farms in groups.		✓	✓	✓

6.8 Energy Efficiency

No.	Specialized requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
6.8.1	Management documents the types of energy sources and the energy used for production and processing of certified product. This applies to Group Management only if groups use energy for processing. *Please see SA-G-SD-15 Guidance Document N: Energy Efficiency*		✓	✓	✓