Introduction to Public System Report

Bonsucro, as full member of ISEAL, has committed to produce and annually update a Public System Report for each of the ISEAL Codes (Standard Setting, Assurance and Impact). We aim to provide a simplified overview of how Bonsucro manages its Certification Standards and describe how the revision of the Production Standard leading to the publication of version 4 has been carried out. It allows stakeholders to understand their involvement and how their views are a key part of the management of Bonsucro Standards and systems. For any questions related to this report any another other aspects of the management of stakeholders’ involvement, you can contact Bonsucro at info@bonsucro.com and visit our website: www.bonsucro.com.

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Standard

Scope

The Bonsucro standards define a set of principles, criteria and indicators for the assessment of the performance of operators of the sugarcane sector against the three pillars of sustainability (Production Standard) or against set rules of traceability for sugarcane derived products traded and transformed within the supply chain (Chain of Custody Standard). The Standards allow the consistent assessment of farmers, millers, traders and end-users globally. Sugarcane derived products can be amongst other sugar, ethanol, yeast, bagasse or molasses. Bonsucro has also rules to recognise the use of such products in the production of other material (for example use of certified ethanol in the production of bioplastic).

Sustainability outcomes

- The Bonsucro production standard was developed around the three sustainability pillars:
  - Social sustainability
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Economic sustainability.

- Through a series of public consultations and expert inputs, the standard was developed around the main sustainability hotspot that needed to be tackled.
  - Social: implementation and compliance with ILO conventions governing child labour, force labour, discrimination, right to collaborative bargaining; consultation with affected stakeholders at the centre of decision processes based on FPIC, health and safety of operations, access to drinking water
  - Environmental: evaluation and management of negative impact on 10 main environmental topics including soil, water, air, protection of areas and landscapes with high conservation value (HCV concept), management of fertilizers and agrochemicals
  - Economical: quality of cane and efficiencies of the process to transform cane into sugar and/or ethanol, energy efficiencies, GHG emissions, added value at farm and mill level

- The Bonsucro Chain of Custody Standard focuses on the mass balance principle. Whilst recognising that segregation is not currently economically feasible for operators in the sugarcane sector, as mixing of products occurs at every stage from collecting cane at farm level of storing sugar at the end user level, the Standard requires that operators keep a robust accounting systems of the certified sustainable volumes coming in and coming out. When selling certified products, operators guarantee an equivalent volume has indeed been received.
Performance level

- The Bonsucro Production Standard aims at helping producers to evaluate the performances of their activities. The standard was developed in such a way that no practice has been preferred against another as Bonsucro recognises that practices are heavily locally specific. The Production standard is made of a numbers of metric indicators that set the performance standard for activities at farm and mill level. To consistently and rigorously evaluate how operators perform against the metric indicators, Bonsucro has developed a Bonsucro calculator. Using operators own real production data, it calculates their performance against the metric performance standard and conclude on the compliance or non compliance with a set indicator
  - For example indicator – 5.2.2 water efficiency requires the operators to report the volume of their total fully irrigated sugarcane harvest, the area harvested, the amount of waters applied to the fields (extracted water, recycled water, effluents applied, including vinasse).
- To be certified as sustainable, the operators are evaluated against indicators that apply to the farm or to the mill or both. To be found compliant, an indicator has to be met by both the farm and mill.
- Indicators are divided into core and non-core indicators.
  - Core indicators represent the most pressing issues faced by the sector that need urgent tackling and disappearance.
    - For example Child labour
  - Non-core indicators set the efficiency level operators have to achieve to ensure their long term viability.
    - For example Added value in USD/tonne
- Certification is granted by third party licensed certification bodies after review of operators activities at farm and mill levels as well as validation of the data used in the calculator of performance. The certification is under the responsibility of the mill and includes all farms included in the unit of certification (which can be all or part of the supplying area). Certification is achieved if and only if all core indicators are achieved by farm and mills as well as 80% of the total indicators by farms and mills.

Adaptations

- The standard applies across all regions of production worldwide. There is no different set of indicators or performance standards for operators located in different area of the globe. This was made possible because the focus is to evaluate the performance of operators and it was evaluated that irrespective of where operators are, they have to achieve a level of performance to be considered as sustainable. It was also the result of the engineering of indicators that take into consideration specific local conditions (e.g. by using ratio like in 3.1.4 – factory performance index).

Standard-Setting and Revision Process

When standard was first written and by whom

The first version to be published and used to certify operators was version 3.0. It was published in March 2011. It was developed between 2009 and 2011 by a group of experts divided in three working group: Social, Agriculture and Milling.
In June 2012, the Bonsucro Board of Directors has directed a revision of the standard to happen after the secretariat performed a review of the experience gained since first certification, related training and experience from the ground. The BDD has clearly scoped out the revision: an improvement to the current indicators excluding Principle 6 – EU RED Compliance.

The secretariat has followed the standard revision procedure as published on the Bonsucro website http://bonsucro.com/site/standard-revision/.

**Stakeholder categorization and geography**

- In order to remain relevant and locally applicable, the secretariat has carried out a stakeholder mapping exercise that helped identifying the less represented groups of stakeholders which views would still need to be taken into account. As the standard is globally applicable, the secretariat has used its rich and diverse membership as a representative sample of these stakeholders. At the start of the revision process, membership spanned over 20 countries. To further ensure meaningful contribution from underrepresented groups, Bonsucro has strived to offer adapted tool of engagement: in-person meeting to which farmers where sponsored to attend Bonsucro annual conferences (London: Colombia, Malawi, India, Bolivia, South Africa, India, Indonesia; New Orleans: Colombia, Nicaragua, Brazil, Mexico, India, South Africa), forms and drafts in Spanish and Portuguese, specific consultation in India.

**Governance**

- The revision process started with the formation of the Standard Revision Committee (SRC) who had the responsibility to evaluate stakeholders’ comments and present a final draft of a revised standard to the membership for its adoption. The SRC is made of one representative of each membership class selected for their expertise in specific fields (farming, milling, environmental and social).

**Decision-making process**

- There are three steps in the decision making related to adopting a a revised standard.

- Firstly the SRC has the come to a consensus on a final draft. The balanced composition of the SRC ensures views of the stakeholder groups they represent are equally taken into account and they reach a balanced decision.
• The Board of Director has the responsibility to ensure that the revision process has been correctly followed by the SRC when revising a standard. They take their decision by majority voting.

• The final draft is then presented to the whole membership for their approval. The quorum is set at 7 voting members with at least 1 per membership class. Approval required a two-thirds majority of members voting.

**Summary of the revision process,**

• The first stakeholder input took place during an in-person during Bonsucro Annual Conference in London, UK in November 2012 followed by an online consultation (January 2013 – February 2013) aimed at collecting their views on the current version of the standard. More than 600 individual comments were received via forms in English, Spanish and Portuguese and analysed by the SRC. From February 2013 to November 2013, the SRC supported by external experts, members and the secretariat carried out the development of revised metrics and indicators.

• The first draft was presented to 70 stakeholders during Bonsucro Annual Conference 2013 in New Orleans, USA for their assessment and to collect their views. The revised standard and attached guidance were delivered with accompanying explanation notes explaining the changes made. It was followed by an online consultation (December 2013 – January 2014). Another consultation was carried out in India in February 2014 specifically to collect the views of local stakeholders.

• At the same time, the secretariat organised the running of six pilot audits in Brazil, Honduras, Australia and India. The objective was to evaluate the applicability of the revised indicators at operator level and check the proposals were understood by various auditors with different background.

• Following these various input, the SRC produced its final draft which was presented to the stakeholders in June 2014 via three webinar in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

• By a decision, the Board of Directors recognised that the Standard revision procedure was followed by the SRC and allowed the SRC to present the final draft to the Bonsucro membership for adoption.

• The vote occurred in July 2014. It was run online to allow a maximum participation from all range of members.

• On 1st August the result were announced and the Bonsucro Production Standard version 4 was officially approved with 100% approval.

• On 26th September 2014, the standard was published on the Bonsucro website in English, Spanish and Portuguese. It immediately become into force for non-certified mills and already-certified mills were given a three months period where they could option for either version. From 1st January 2015, any mills were certified against version 4.