Introducing the SDGs

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - a new universal set of 17 goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda has been heralded as “a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world”.

Introducing SAI Platform

The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform is the global industry initiative helping food and drink companies to source sustainably grown agricultural raw materials and achieve sustainable production.

SAI Platform’s commitment to achieving the SDGs - through an integrated approach

At SAI Platform, we are strongly committed to contributing to the implementation of the SDGs by helping food and beverage companies to promote sustainable agriculture and achieve sustainable sourcing of agricultural raw materials. We thereby attach great value to an integrated, inter-connected partnership approach to SDGs.

SAI Platform and its 80 members define sustainable agriculture as “the efficient production of safe, high quality agricultural products, in a way that protects and improves the natural environment, the social and economic conditions of farmers, their employees and local communities, and safeguards the health and welfare of all farmed species”.

To put this in to action, we have created a set of principles and practices for sustainable agriculture for produce ranging from corn to coffee and from oranges to dairy. We developed universal and free-to-use assessment tools that farmers can use to show and improve sustainability at their farm. We exchange and promote best practice and collaborative approaches for local implementation in countries around the world, working with other key players.

More than 60% of SAI Platform member companies have concrete sustainable sourcing targets for some or all the raw materials they buy from farmers. These targets together form a unique potential to support the transition towards a way of farming that is capable to last and feed a growing population in future generations.

To illustrate how the work of SAI Platform, its members and partners contributes to SDGs and targets, both specifically and holistically, we have summarized two important projects we are implementing with our members. For the many other projects going on at SAI Platform today – visit http://www.saiplatform.org.
1. The Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA)

FSA has been developed in response to an expressed need by members companies to translate SAI Platform’s Principles and Practices for sustainable agriculture into one single set of requirements on which the food & drink industry is aligned.

SAI Platform promotes knowledge and best practice sharing, collaboration and harmonization of efforts to speed and scale up the transition to sustainable agriculture. Globally recognized tools such as FSA will help companies and farmers alike to produce, sell and source more and more sustainable grown agricultural products.

The FSA is a globally applicable multi-purpose tool including 120 questions based on sustainable farming practices and addressing environmental, economic and social impacts. FSA allows companies and farmers to assess, communicate and improve these impacts.
2. The Doñana Strawberry & Sustainable Water Management Project

SAI Platform coordinates the Doñana Strawberry and Sustainable Water Management Project to contribute to improving water governance, implementing laws, and to adopting the most sustainable and efficient water management practices possible.

Recent growth of strawberry production in the region has put pressure on the quantity and quality of water in Doñana, which holds a great diversity of fauna and flora, including a wide range of migratory birds coming from the rest of Europe, the nearly-extinct Iberian lynx and the Spanish Imperial eagle. Improving water management and saving practices can considerably contribute to the protection of environmental ecosystems and also help address impacts of climate change.

It is estimated that 80% of the jobs in Doñana region depend directly or indirectly on strawberry production. The project—through its work—aims at securing the long term availability of strawberries and other berries in the region—and with that a successful socio-economic future for the sector.

The project group includes a wide range of stakeholders including brands, processors, and retailers, and is supported by WWF Spain and the Ramsar Convention (on Wetlands). Since its launch in May 2014, the group is also collaborating with local authorities, universities and producer groups.