

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is the value of the Sustainable Dairy Partnership (SDP)?

To avoid reinventing the wheel, the SDP builds on the Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF) and its 11 criteria. Without imposing a new standard, the SDP recognises national and company programmes.

The SDP is a journey of 5 stages that show where companies are and what impact they're having. Each company that produces dairy prioritises the most important issues by taking their own context into account based on a materiality analysis. Checks will be streamlined, so it is more efficient, saving time and resources.

Who is part of the Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

The SDP is hosted and facilitated by SAI Platform and the members of its Dairy Working Group who represent approximately 30% of the global milk volume.

This is an industry supported effort where key global buyers, farmers and processors have been involved in the development of this unique approach.

For more information: www.saipatform.org

Who can use the Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

The SDP can be used by any processor or buyer of dairy products.

What is the relationship between the Dairy Sustainability Framework and the Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

The DSF provides a global framework for a holistic, pre-competitive and collaborative approach to sustainability in the dairy value chain.

The SDP is the application of the DSF in a commercial environment, helping drive supply chain efficiencies and reduce duplication between suppliers and dairy buyers.

The partnership is a commitment to the DSF and a collaborative and common approach to assurance and reporting. It will help the global dairy sector to scale success.

Processors are required to be members of the DSF to complete the first stage of the SDP.

What is the supply chain scope of the SDP?

The SDP is a farm only programme. It is designed to include activities up to the farm gate. Farm inputs such as fodder are also within the scope. However, it does not include milk transport or processing.

What is behind the name: Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

The name reinforces the idea of building a united alliance of organisations focused on the same objectives. It uses clear terms and recognised values.

HOW DOES THE SUSTAINABLE DAIRY PARTNERSHIP WORK?

What are the requirements processors need to meet in order to implement the SDP approach?

One of the elements of the SDP is the requirements document. It includes the requirements for each of the 5 stages and verification points to align dairy processors & buyers. This enables the processor to demonstrate the implementation progress of the Sustainable Dairy Partnership.

Do I need to be a member of SAI Platform?

No, users are not required to be SAI Platform members.

Members from the SAI Platform Dairy Working Group have developed the Sustainable Dairy Partnership and the governance is undertaken by a Steering Group drawn from the same group.

Is there a cost to use the Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

The cost for using the Sustainable Dairy Partnership is still being finalised, however, the following agreed principles will apply:

- Cost to users should be as low as possible so the entry barriers for any dairy processor are limited.
- The model must become self-funding.

Is there any relationship with SAI Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA)?

No, the FSA has no relationship to the SDP.

What is the role of an "aggregator" in the Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

Aggregating members of the DSF, which are often national programmes, can support their member organisations to achieve a better performance and progress through the SDP stages. They can provide guidance and support on applying the DSF and SDP in the local context.

What is a "materiality analysis"?

The **materiality analysis** is an approach to identify critical economic, environmental and social issues, which may either reflect a significant impact on the company's business performance or substantively influence the assessments and decisions of its stakeholders. The materiality analysis is a requirement of Stage 2 of the SDP and identifies the priority DSF Criteria to be addressed in subsequent stages.

Guidance on how to perform a materiality analysis can be available from the DSF, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and national dairy associations.

What are the expectations around minimum levels?

Dairy processors ensure that they understand all the requirements related to the SDP minimum levels. Risks for potential non-compliance with the SDP minimum levels must be identified and if applicable, policies must be developed and implemented to address

and support alignment and conformity with the minimum levels. They are a unique requirement of the SDP and are not an aspect of the DSF.

Does my SDP Report have to be verified?

Yes, based on the SDP 5 stages matrix, to complete stage 3, processors need to externally verify the minimum levels and materiality analysis.

Who can do the external verification?

External verification will need to be done by an independent organisation who has demonstrated experience with external assurance systems. They may already be in use by the organisation for activities such as assurance of sustainability reports.

The verification body will have to understand the SDP framework before performing any verification activity.

Is there an existing sustainability certification for dairy products that I can use?

The SDP provides a way to implement and report on the DSF criteria in the B2B environment. It recognises company and national standards to demonstrate continuous improvement. Specific certifications may be used to demonstrate fulfilment of certain requirements.

Will the Sustainable Dairy Partnership have an on-product label?

No, the SDP was created for industry use and business to business relations. It is not a certification scheme.

What is the benefit of the SDP for farmers?

The SDP is designed to harmonise buyer sustainability programmes and reduce excessive farm audits.

What are the plans to roll out the Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

The roll out will include training modules, supporting material and implementation through the SAI Platform governance model and third-party alliances.

Throughout 2019 we will refine and use the approach within the SAI Platform Dairy Working Group (DWG) membership. Implementation outside the DWG will be open in Q2 2020.

Where can I learn more about the Sustainable Dairy Partnership?

For more information: www.saiplatform.org