



Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment

Frequently Asked Questions

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Q1. What is wild harvest?

Wild harvest collection can have a broad, diverse set of definitions, but in general refers to ingredients that are collected outside of conventionally managed agricultural products. The landscapes in which wild harvest occurs can vary widely, from ingredients collected at the edges of farmers' fields and roadsides, to those collected in forests and meadows. Some examples include:

- a) Berries gathered in government-owned eastern European forests
- b) Licorice harvested from the edges of farmers' fields
- c) Apples grown by backyard growers

Q2. What is the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment?

The Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment from SAI Platform is a new assessment tool to identify risks to wild harvested ingredients and supply chains. Through a risk assessment and performance assessment that can be verified by an approved third party, wild harvest supply chains can understand their own risks and begin to make sustainability claims.

Q3. What does sustainability mean to the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment?

Unlike conventional farming, wild harvesting operations are typically taking place in natural or semi-natural environments and have minimal land management such as irrigation, land clearing, and the use of inputs (fertiliser and pesticide). Therefore, rather than creating improvements to the land, wild harvest focuses on ensuring best practices that minimise environmental risks and impacts to harvested species and the surrounding ecosystems and assuring that workers' rights are understood and adhered to.

Q4. How is the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment applied?

The Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment is applicable to all land-based wild harvested ingredients. Collection points under the same wild harvest assessment must be harvesting ingredients that are managed and harvested in a similar way, all be located within the same country and must occur within the same type of environment (for example, an ingredient collected in a forest and also in an arid environment would need to undergo separate assessments).



Q5. Who can use the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment?

The Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment is available to any users upon request to SAI Platform. As a newly implemented system, we encourage users to provide feedback to SAI Platform on the user experience, as well as to comment on the usability of the tool.

Q6. Is there a cost to implementing the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment?

Using the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment is free. However, in order to make verified claims, there is a cost for on-site audits as well as a cost to complete the desk-based risk assessment.

Q7. How is the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment similar to the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA)?

The Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment borrows many of the same governance structures and approach from the FSA. This includes organising similarly managed ingredients and collection points (similar to a farm unit) within the same country under one collection group (similar to a Farm Management Group). Using the same sampling methodology, only a subset of collection points need to complete performance assessments (similar to the Self-Assessment Questionnaire from the FSA) and undergo verification audits. A Collection Group Coordinator (similar to a Farm Management Group Coordinator) ensures that a risk assessment for the collection group and performance assessments for the collection points are complete, and that collection points are prepared for audits.

Q8. How is the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment different from the FSA?

Rather than a list of practices that are or are not implemented on the farm as is the case with the FSA, the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment instead takes a risk-based approach. There are a number of practices and features of a wild harvesting operation that can increase or decrease the risks to sustainability, such as level of knowledge/training by the collectors/collection points on biodiversity impacts to wild harvest, and transparency, clarity, and fairness of arrangements between collectors and collection points. Collection points self-assess their own level of risk associated with each question and must be able to demonstrate and justify this during the course of an on-site audit.

Q9. How will the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment and the FSA work together?

The Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment has been based on many of the same principles as the FSA. It focuses on increasing the quality of conversation within supply chains and governance of the system itself. Currently SAI Platform is undergoing a benchmark to ensure formalised equivalency with the FSA system. As the Wild Harvest Sustainability Assessment continues to grow, SAI Platform will continue to



explore ways in which we can create greater alignment between these systems. If you would like to join this discussion, please contact Leah Blechschmidt at blechschmidt@saiplatform.org.