



**Farm  
Sustainability  
Assessment**  
BY SAI PLATFORM



# **FSA IMPLEMENTATION: ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN MOLDOVA**

A CASE STUDY ON FSA  
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT  
WITH SÜDZUCKER MOLDOVA

[www.saipatform.org](http://www.saipatform.org)  
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# INTRODUCTION

In 2024, Südzucker Moldova became the first agricultural company in the country to achieve third party verification against SAI Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA). Through its agricultural division, Agro-SZM, the company has integrated the Farm Sustainability Assessment into its operations to strengthen sustainability practices, build market trust and align with international standards. This milestone sets a precedent for sustainable agriculture in Moldova and supports the country's integration into the global value chains.



This case study offers insights into the practical benefits of FSA verification, demonstrating how the framework can provide a practical and transparent pathway for farms to improve sustainability performance, deliver tangible benefits and serve as a proven model that can be adapted to other emerging regions aiming to meet rising international sustainability expectations.

Südzucker Moldova is part of Südzucker Sugar Division, a leading organisation developing value from beets and offering sweet solutions to our stakeholders. Sustainable Farming is one of the key impact sustainability areas. The company's key objective is to further drive sustainable agriculture, in close cooperation with their local farmers. Südzucker Moldova has been an active member of SAI Platform for 10 years.

# BACKGROUND

Moldova's agricultural sector is a vital part of its economy, accounting for approximately 12% of GDP and employing over 27% of the workforce (International Trade Administration 2024). The country's fertile soils and favourable climate offer strong potential for crop production. However, as highlighted by Agro-SZM, the sector faces several challenges including; land fragmentation, outdated infrastructure, limited access to finance and growing environmental pressures from soil degradation and water scarcity.

Traditionally reliant on conventional farming methods, Moldova's agriculture sector is now at a crossroads. In response, farmers and agribusinesses are increasingly moving towards sustainable practices to improve climate resilience, alignment with international requirements and to secure long-term productivity.

Südzucker Moldova is a leading player in the country's sugar industry, recognised for its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and economic impact. Since its establishment in 2008, Agro-SZM has overseen all of Südzucker Moldova's agricultural operations. Today, Agro-SZM cultivates over 13,000 hectares of leased farmland, including approximately 3,200 hectares dedicated to sugar beet production, across five northern districts of Moldova: Ungheni, Falsity, Drochia, Donduseni, and Ocnita. Südzucker Moldova has been an active member of SAI Platform for 10 years.

Each year Südzucker Moldova invests on average 15 million Moldovan lei in modernising its agricultural infrastructure and technological capacity. These investments focus on enhancing soil health, productivity enhancement, and the adoption of sustainable farming practices, reflecting the company's long-term vision for resilient agricultural development. Its national importance is further acknowledged by its inclusion in the '[Top 100 Companies in Moldova](#)' ranking by Forbes, which evaluates organisations based on financial performance, economic influence and strategic relevance (Sudzucker, 2025).

## Why the FSA

For Südzucker Moldova, the decision to adopt the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) was driven by a clear need to formalise and strengthen its sustainability performance in a way that aligned with both market expectations and internal corporate values. As global demand for sustainable, transparent supply chains grows, the company sees FSA verification as a strategic tool to improve practices, demonstrate accountability, and strengthen its position in the market. By doing so, it enables Südzucker Moldova to adopt a more proactive, continuous improvement approach to sustainability, positioning itself as a sustainability leader in Moldova's agri-food sector.

## Implementation

Südzucker Moldova's implementation of the FSA followed a structured step-by-step process aligned with the FSA's framework and focus on continuous improvement. The first step involved conducting a comprehensive review of current practices through the dissemination of self-assessment questionnaires across Agro-SZM farming operations. This included an evaluation of the FSA's Self-assessment questionnaire responses to help identify strengths, weaknesses and priority areas for improvement.

Based on these insights, Südzucker Moldova developed targeted continuous improvement plans. Key focus areas included optimising resource use, enhancing soil health, and promoting safe and responsible labour practices. To support this, Südzucker Moldova invested in training programmes for its staff and partners to build awareness, develop skills and embed sustainability practices across all levels of its operations. Capacity building was key to ensuring that new practices were understood, adopted and sustained.

They also established data collection and monitoring systems to track progress against the FSA indicators, enabling regular review and adaptation of practices. Stakeholder engagement and clear communication helped foster collaboration and align goals across the value chain.



## OUTCOMES

Implementing the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) has helped Südzucker Moldova improve resource efficiency, soil health, and crop yields, leading to enhanced operational and environmental performance. The initiative has also supported workforce development and strengthened community engagement, reinforcing the company's corporate social responsibility. Additionally, FSA verification has boosted the company's reputation, opened new market opportunities, and established Südzucker Moldova as a leader in sustainable agriculture both domestic and international supply chains.



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IMPROVED  
BIODIVERSITY  
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SOCIAL AND  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS

## CONCLUSIONS



Südzucker Moldova's adoption of the Farm Sustainability Assessment marks a significant step forward for sustainable agriculture in Moldova. By embracing a rigorous, internationally recognised framework, the company has improved its environmental, social, and economic performance, while also enhancing its reputation and competitiveness within global supply chains.

This case study demonstrates how integrating sustainability into core business practices supported by strong leadership commitment, staff engagement, and transparent monitoring can drive meaningful, lasting change. Südzucker Moldova's journey offers a valuable model for other agribusinesses aiming to navigate the complex demands of modern agriculture and global markets.



Thank you to Sudzucker Moldova and agricultural division, Agro-SZM, teams for sharing insights and collaborating with us on the development of this case study.

SAI Platform is eager to build out more case studies across a diverse range of users to demonstrate the global impact and implementation of the FSA.

If you are using the FSA and would like to share your journey, please reach out via [fsa@saipatform.org](mailto:fsa@saipatform.org)



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