



SAN 3rd public consultation round:

Summary of results and next steps

Summary of activities

- From March 1 to April 30, 2015, the SAN secretariat engaged in a focused stakeholder outreach resulting in the participation of approximately 200 stakeholders from 100 organizations for a total of 650 received comments. The different activities were:
 1. Meetings with key NGOs, companies and producer organizations (plantations and smallholder groups);
 2. Webinars with SAN technical committees and some other stakeholders;
 3. Online survey about expected key outcomes with 65 participants;
 4. Questions and real-time answers at the SAN Consultation Center <http://www.san.ag/standard-consultation-center/sanag/> (30 participants)

Main discussion topics

- For the first time since 2013, the new SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard framework has been generally accepted and positively received by stakeholders, especially Southern hemisphere producers.
- The position of the SAN standard as Climate Smart standard should be improved and climate change adaptation and mitigation requirements strengthened.
- More emphasis should be put on the empowerment of smallholders under group administration.
- The online survey showed the following results:
 - a) Only 6% of the participants believed that wording, structure and definitions are confusing;
 - b) Only 6% of the participants thought that the *Effective Planning and Management System* criteria do not contribute to deliver increased productivity and efficiency, reduced environmental impact and adaptation to climate change;
 - c) 87% fully or partially agreed that the biodiversity conservation principle and new high conservation value area definition provide a framework for conserving on-farm natural ecosystems and protecting endangered species;



- d) 83% fully or partially agreed that the new restricted use pesticide concept with its risk management criteria lead to a reduced environmental and human impact of pesticides, while enabling economically feasible productivity scenarios for tropical agriculture.
- e) 77% fully or partially agreed that the new organization and contents of the Protection of Workers' Rights section enable worker welfare on SAN certified farms;
- f) 87% fully or partially agreed that the coverage of drinking water, housing, and access to education and health services for workers and their families are realistic and sufficient in covering their essential needs;

Summary of comments and SAN next steps

Biodiversity Conservation

- **Stakeholder comments:** There was a push for going back to a separate shade tree criterion for coffee and cocoa. The general 10%/20% vegetation cover criterion cannot be critical considering the draft 3.5 version wording. Implementation of the HCV concept was not clear. The definition of natural ecosystems (NE) is partially unclear.
- **SAN next steps:** The next standard draft version will have again a shade tree criterion. The next 10% vegetation cover criterion will be more realistically worded. A decision-making flowchart for HCV and NE audit processes will be developed and field tested, including improved terms and definitions.

Pesticides

- **Stakeholder comments:** The Southern stakeholders – most importantly producers – broadly accepted and applauded a SAN pesticide concept for the first time. The Restricted Use Pesticides list (Annex 2) needs to be elaborated and clearly linked to feasible risk management criteria. Some Northern NGOs (Rainforest Alliance Europe, WWF Germany, Greenpeace India) requested a longer prohibited list and stronger hazard approach.
- **SAN next steps:** The new Annex 1 will include more than 100 prohibited substances based on the WHO/FAO parameters for Highly Hazardous Pesticides interpreted and based on a scientific analysis of more than 700 substances:
 - i) WHO class Ia and Ib pesticides
 - ii) GHS (Globally Harmonized System): Ia & Ib classified pesticides for birth defects, developmental problems, and cancer
 - iii) Montreal Protocol chemicals for agriculture use
 - iv) Rotterdam Convention Annex 3 listed substances (requiring PIC)
 - v) Stockholm Convention for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP)



vi) Obsolete or no longer used substances

Ethoprop, fenamiphos, oxamyl and terbufos may only be used under SAN risk management requirements as part of the IPM plan, if these are used as part of the nematode resistance management rotation, if application methods place the product precisely within the plan root zone or use injection, re-entry intervals are enforced, strictest protection level PPE is used and applicators receive medical monitoring.

Annex 2 will include more than 150 restricted use pesticides: classified by risk to wildlife, aquatic life, pollinators and inhalation risk for farm workers. These pesticides can only be used with new, specific risk reduction requirements to be introduced for the first time in any certification system.

Living Wage and SAN essential needs

- **Stakeholder comments:** Discuss options to make some Living Wage criteria critical. The elements of the plan towards essential needs coverage and living wage should be more clearly outlined and auditors should be able to check against them. The SAN framework should also be more clearly adapted for smallholder income scenarios under group administration.
- **SAN next steps:** The logical order of the living wage and essential needs criteria will be improved. The design of the living wage plan will be binding for plantations located in a country with an ISEAL Living Wage coalition local benchmark based on the Anker methodology. There will be a new criterion about salary increases. In absence of the living wage benchmark, the plantation assesses coverage of basic health and primary education services. In case of a smallholder group, the group administrator is responsible of assessing and improving access to these services also.

Summary of next steps towards publication

- In July 2015, Trial audits were conducted in Costa Rica (cattle farm and coffee smallholders), Brazil (coffee plantation), Ghana (cocoa smallholders) and India (tea smallholders). The next SAN pesticide concept were discussed with Chiquita, Dole and Fyffes, as well as Berne Declaration, PAN UK and WWF Germany.
- In August 2015, the SAN Technical Operations Committee will recommend further improvements for the new SAN scoring system, criterion structure and standard implementation plan.
- The SAN International Standards Committee will give its technical approval for the new 2016 SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard in early September.
- In October, the SAN board of directors will discuss its final approval.
- In January 2016, the new 2016 SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard will be published.