

Sustainable Rice Platform Capability Statement

About the Sustainable Rice Platform

The Sustainable Rice Platform e.V. (SRP) is a global multi-stakeholder alliance comprising 110 institutional members from public, private, research, civil society and the financial sector. Originally co-convened by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and private sector partners, SRP is an independent not-for-profit organization, working with its members and scaling partners to transform the global rice sector by improving smallholder livelihoods, reducing the social, environmental and climate footprint of rice production, and by offering the global rice market an assured supply of sustainably produced rice.

SRP promotes resource-use efficiency and climate change resilience in rice systems (both on-farm and throughout value chains) and pursues voluntary market transformation initiatives by developing sustainable production standards, indicators, incentives and outreach mechanisms to boost wide-scale adoption of sustainable best practices throughout rice value chains.

As well as partnering with market actors, SRP participates in a number of scaling projects supported by bilateral and multilateral agencies and implemented by SRP and its members. Such projects unlock an essential path to transformation of the global rice sector and to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and national climate change targets.

SRP Capabilities

Directly and through its Secretariat, project consultants and membership, SRP has the capacity to deliver the following roles to support implementation of scaling projects.

- 1 **Value chain development:** linking farmers to higher-value markets for sustainable rice through the SRP-Verified Assurance Scheme, including access to independent third-party Verification Bodies and downstream market actors.
- 2 **Improving livelihoods:** SRP offers rice smallholders serving local markets an entry point to access the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators as part of a non-certified continuous improvement programme, resulting in improvements in net farm incomes.
- 3 **Technical assistance:** Authorized training and technical assistance for extension services, implementation partners and farmers, aligned with national policy agendas, NDC commitments and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- 4 **Policy advocacy:** contribute to development of rice policy measures to incentivize adoption of climate-smart sustainable best practice, support institutional development to embed the principles of sustainable rice production in policy and practice through SRP National Chapters and development of National Interpretation Guidelines for the SRP Standard).

- 5 **Partnerships:** Serve to anchor multi-stakeholder partnerships to manage/implement scaling projects.
- 6 **Valorization:** Collateralization of the SRP Standard offers a robust quantitative tool to derisk financial services aimed at supporting sustainable rice value chains.
- 7 **Knowledge-sharing:** Disseminate project activities through SRP's global network via social media channels, as well as through the communication networks of its partners (including 4 UN agencies) and promote peer-to-peer learning via South-South knowledge exchange initiatives.

Selected SRP projects (member-implemented)

Asia: ***BRIA II – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia:*** The cooperation between GIZ and Olam International Ltd. focuses on improving livelihoods for 35,000 small farmers in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. In Thailand, up to 16,000 farmers were reached in 300 Community Rice Centres, 10,000 farmers in Vietnam and 9,000 farmers in Indonesia. The SRP Standard serves as a framework to foster sustainable rice production among rice smallholders.

Asia: ***Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative (SRLI):*** SRP is a founding member of SRLI, a consortium comprising the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, UNEP, FAO, the International Rice Research Institute and GIZ.

GEF Inclusive Sustainable Rice Landscapes Project (Thailand): SRP will deliver training and knowledge-sharing inputs to this project, managed by UNEP with execution led by GIZ (ongoing).

GEF Sustainable Rice Financing Facility: An ongoing GEF-funded initiative led by SRP, FAO and WBCSD to establish sustainable rice blended finance facilities for Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam. More GEF projects are in preparation for Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam in collaboration with FAO and the Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative, of which SRP is a founding member.

Africa: ***Regional Rice Value Chain Project:*** Working with Rikolto, SRP developed an M&E system to underpin the Islamic Development Bank's US\$200 million Regional Rice Value Chain Project, which covers 10 sub-Saharan African countries. The activity was funded by SDC.

Training for Trainers and Farmers (Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Philippines): Development of training curricula focusing on SRP certification under the FAO 'Capacity Development and Experience Sharing for Rice Value Chains through South-South and Triangular Cooperation' (GCP/GLO/229/ROK) project] (ongoing).

Nigeria: ***SRP implementation:*** Olam International is implementing the SRP Standard at its 6,000 hectare commercial rice farming operation.

Indonesia: ***Rikolto Rice Cluster for Sustainable Rice Sector Transformation Project*** is based mainly in Indonesia and also operates in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, DRC, Uganda, Tanzania, and Vietnam** to contribute to sustainable rice sector transformation at national, regional and global levels, in order to

provide safe, healthy, sustainable and quality rice to consumers, generate decent profits and jobs for all actors along the value chain, especially for smallholder farmers (men, women and youth), reduce the environmental impact of rice farming and to preserve the environment for future generations.

Cambodia: ***Ibis Rice Project:*** Implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society's Cambodia Program (a member of SRP), IBIS Rice is an ambitious, not-for-profit conservation enterprise working with Cambodian farmers to produce world-class, Wildlife Friendly™, organic jasmine rice. The rice is sold at a premium, boosting household income and reducing food insecurity. In return, villagers agree to respect wildlife sanctuary laws.

Myanmar: ***Climate-smart Rice Project:*** The 3-year US\$5.5 million project led by UNEP, SRP, Helvetas and private sector partners aimed to transform rice value chains through wide-scale adoption of climate-smart and resource-efficient sustainable best practices. The project was funded by NORAD and SDC.

Pakistan/India: ***Water Productivity Project (WAPRO):*** SRP partnered with Helvetas, Mars Food, Rice Partners Ltd (NetZeroAg), Westmill Foods, Galaxy Rice and WWF Pakistan in implementing the **Water Productivity Project** - a 6-year project to enhance water management in rice and cotton in the Punjab region. The CHF 6.6 million programme was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) with matching funding from private sector partners. The project led to significant reductions in use of water and agrochemicals, higher incomes for rice farmers and significant GHG mitigation benefits.

Thailand: ***Thai Rice NAMA project,*** implemented by GIZ and 11 Thai government agencies. The project aimed to reduce emissions by 29% for 100,000 irrigated rice farming households in Thailand. The project marked the inclusion of GHG mitigation from rice cultivation in the government's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Sustainable Aromatic Rice Initiative (SARI-T) implemented by GIZ, Mars Food, Ebro Foods and the Thai Rice Department. This ongoing project is building the capacity of 1,200 Thai rice growers in Roi Et province to adopt sustainable best practices and enhance smallholder livelihoods.

Vietnam: ***SRP implementation*** by 4,000 farmers supplying Loc Troi Group, a major rice producer and exporter, supported by IRRI and the International Finance Corporation.

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