

# Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA)

*Better Rice, Better Life*

## “Sustainable Rice Production Practices”

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# BRIA at a Glance



**Vision:** To contribute to better and sustainable rice production and nutrition in Southeast Asia.

**Goal:** To enhance the rice farmers' livelihood by strengthening the rice value chains and nutrition.

**Countries:**



**Duration:**

Oct 2013 – Nov 2017

**Budget:** €10m

Private (70%), BMZ (30%)

**Project staff:** 32

**Core Strategy:** *Better Rice, Better Life*

**Target Beneficiaries:** 30,000 farmers

**Approach:**

## Profession

- Capacity of rice farmers & value chain actors
- Rice agri-prenuership

## Production

- Optimization of inputs and increase of productivity
- Standards & certification

## Nutrition

- Increase of nutrient value of crops
- Rice fortification

Sustainable rice practices & farmer livelihoods

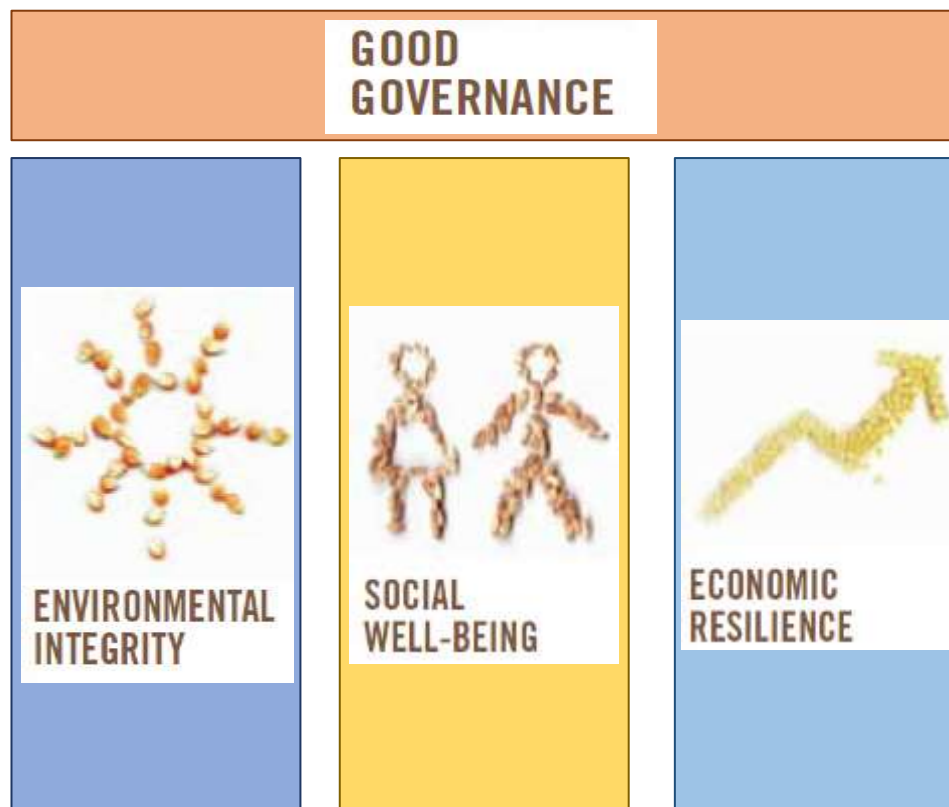
Functional and sustainable agri-business

Public-private partnership models

[www.better-rice-initiative-asia.org](http://www.better-rice-initiative-asia.org)

# What is Sustainable Rice Production?

*Rice production with considering the environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and also grounded and supported by good governance set-up, in order to increase the production of rice in a manner that is economically viable and environmentally sustainable.*

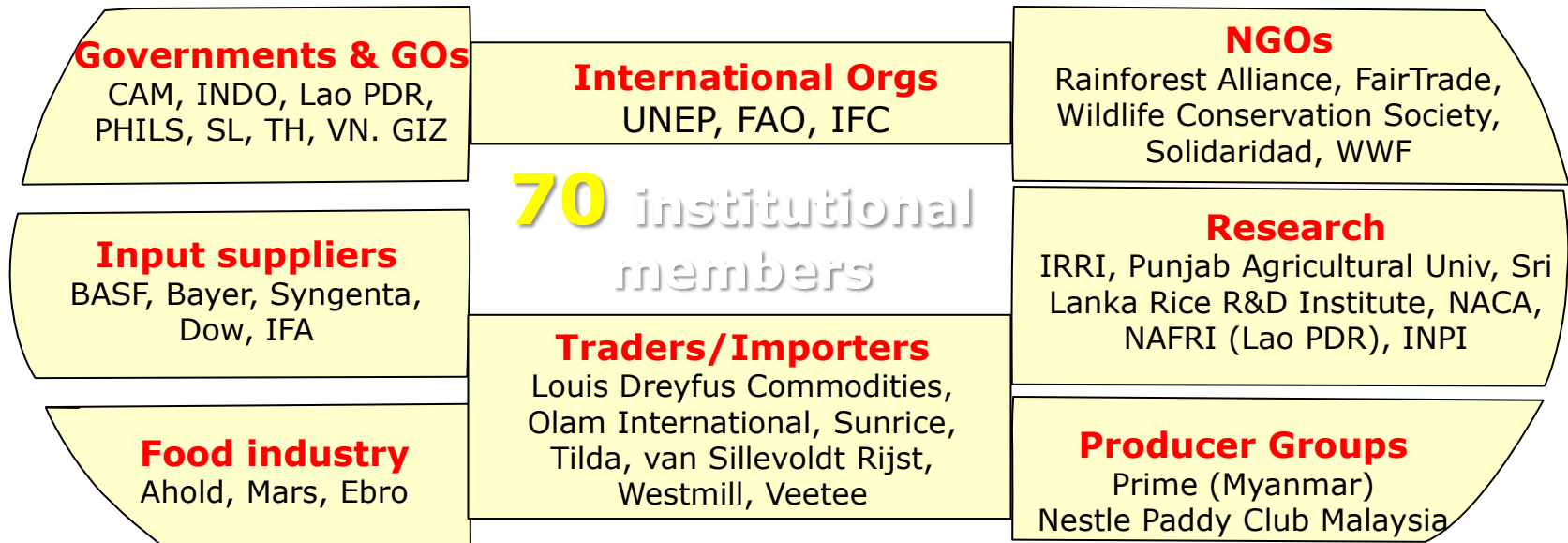


# Sustainable Rice Platform

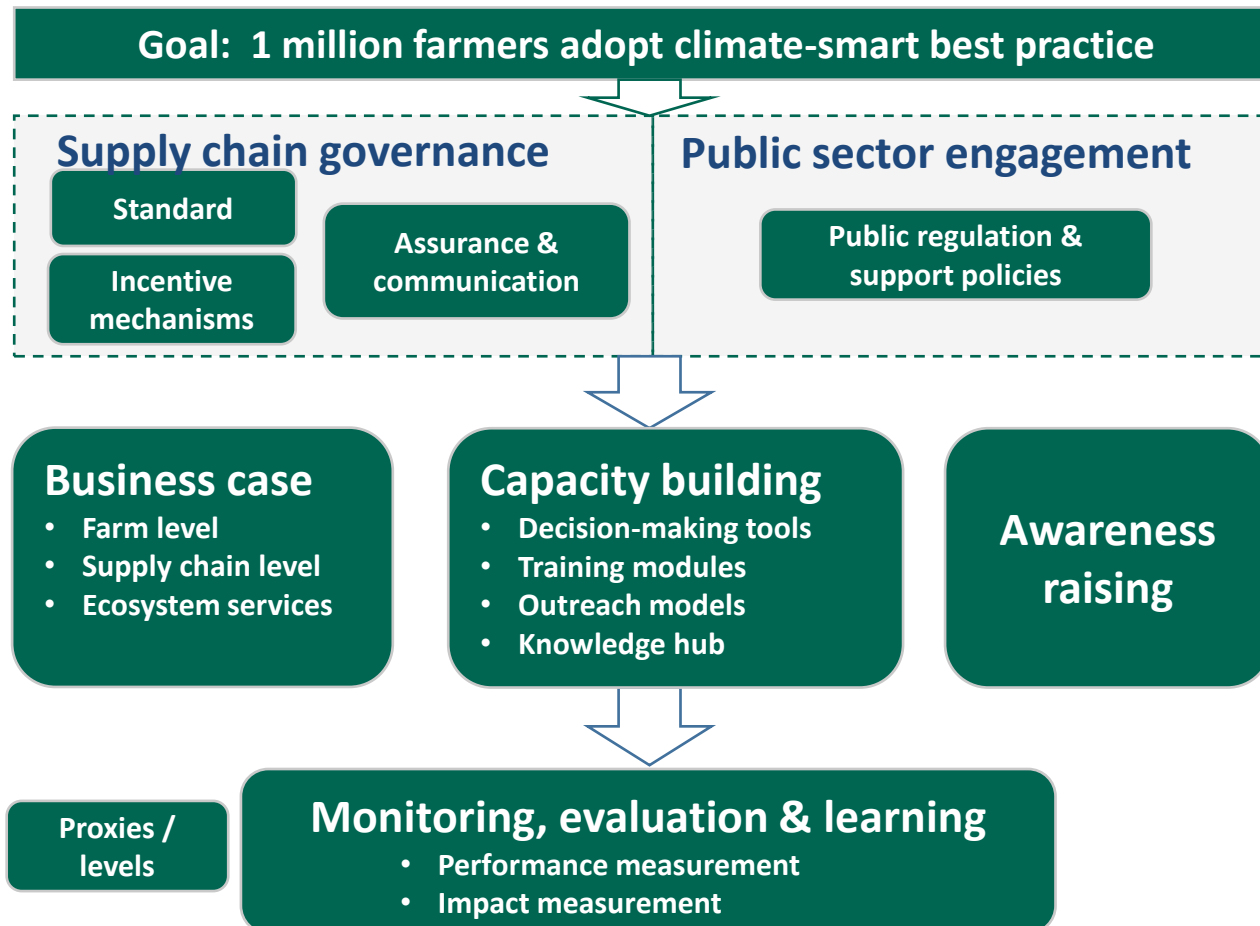


Addressing food security, vulnerability to climate change & resource efficiency

- **Founded in 2011: UN Environment and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**
- **Public-private partnership**
- **Main objectives:**
  - *Reduce vulnerability, enhance food security and resource efficiency*
  - *Serve as a knowledge repository, expertise, networks*
  - *Catalyze sector transformation through new alliances and by creating shared value*



# Sustainability evaluation by SRP tools



- **SRP Standard**
- **SRP Performance Indicator**

# Sustainability Standard to promote sustainable rice cultivation globally

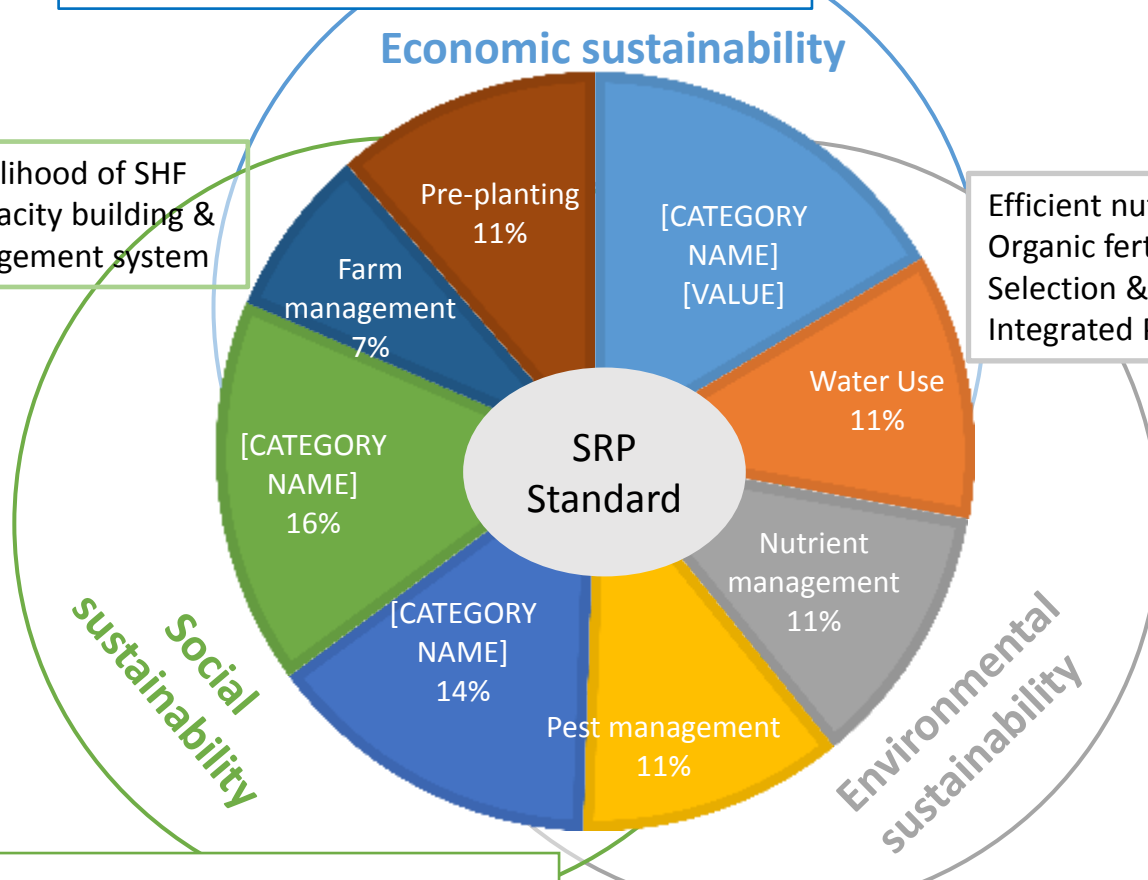


Profitability – net income from rice, market access  
Productivity

## Economic sustainability

Improve livelihood of SHF through capacity building & group management system

Efficient nutrient management  
Organic fertilizer  
Selection & use of inorganic fertilizer  
Integrated Pest Management principle (IPM)



## Social sustainability

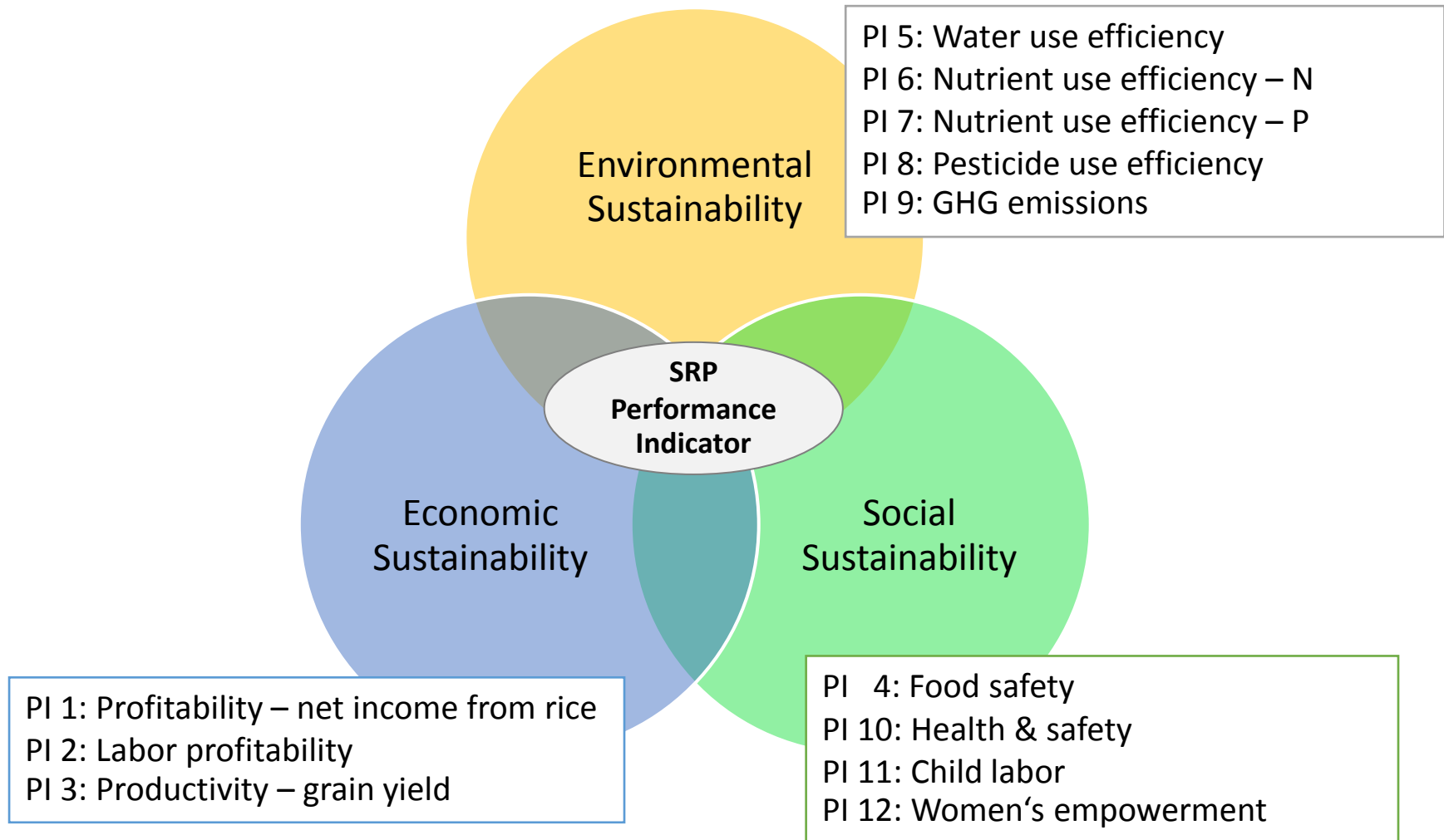
## Environmental sustainability

*Workers Healthy & Safety, Labour Rights, Child labor, Women's empowerment*

Land conversion, Land levelling  
Safe soil from heavy metal & salinity  
GHG emission

SRP Standard

# Performance Indicator to measure the impact of sustainable practices



# SRP Standard and Indicators: Measure the sustainability of any rice system



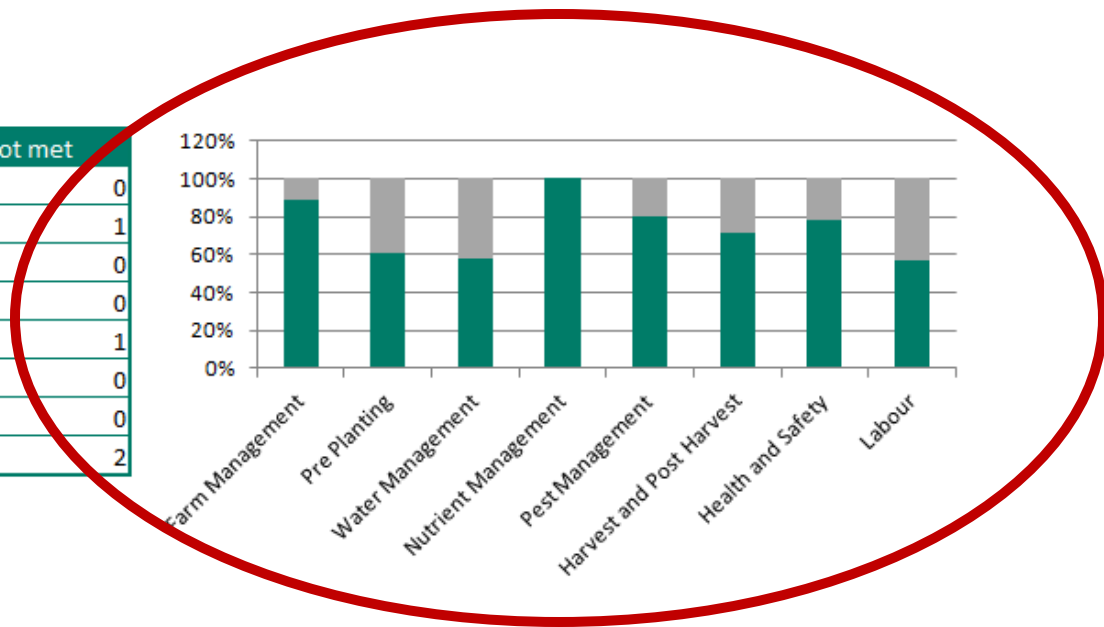
## Total score on standard

Score on standard	73	Points
Missed Thresholds	4	Requirements

## Chapter

= your score

Chapter	Score	Thresholds not met
Farm Management	89%	0
Pre Planting	61%	1
Water Management	58%	0
Nutrient Management	100%	0
Pest Management	80%	1
Harvest and Post Harvest	71%	0
Health and Safety	78%	0
Labour	57%	2





# ISSUE: How to assure the adoption of the Standard?



## Assurance System:

	Scalability	Intensity/ implement- ation costs	Credibility/ claimability	Target group
<b>Assurance Level 3</b> <b>Indep. CB:</b> 3rd party audit	+	Highest	+++	Premium rice, claimability
<b>Assurance Level 2</b> <b>Between farmer groups/ suppliers/ buyers:</b> Group peer-to-peer review/ 2nd party verification	++	Higher	+	e.g. alignment w/ (existing) corporate programs, local millers/ local markets
<b>Assurance Level 1</b> <b>In farmer group:</b> Farmer peer-to-peer review/ 1st party verification (incl Internal inspections & self-assessment)	+++	Lowest	-	NGOs, gov't. Mass implementation. Farmer learning

Innovative, flexible & credible. Allows for rapid scale-up, in line with SRPs objective to reach 1 million farmers by 2021.

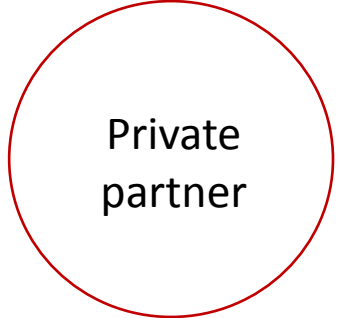
# 1<sup>st</sup> Level of assurance system



Among farmers, using the **Internal Control (Management) System**

- Working in a group
- Farming as a business = professional! (organisational chart, task & responsibility of the management team, etc.)
- Risk assessment (what needs to be improved? On technical)
- Group planning (crop calendar)
- Data collection – farm record
- Develop capacity building program
- Soil fertilization & IPM program!!!!
- Self evaluation & External Audit

# Joint forces of various stakeholders in testing the SRP standard



Farmers



## Approaches

- Pilot testing of the standard as a market linkages tools (certification models) in some BRIA countries (Thailand, and potentially Viet Nam)
- Integrate some of the requirements in the SRP standard to the BRIA training materials on National level
- Using SRP standard as one of the monitoring tools to measure the performance of BRIA farmers' practices

# PILOT TESTING - THAILAND

# Set up in Thailand



Public sector



The Rice Department of Thailand



Private sector



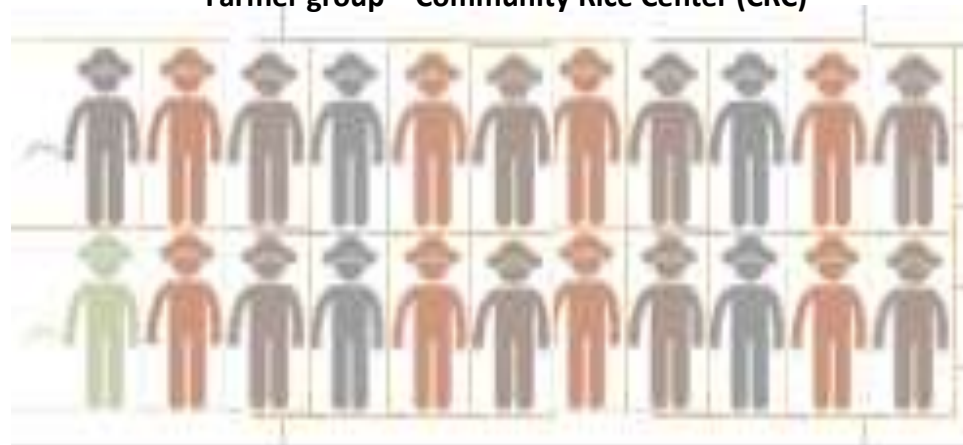
**Olam**



Science For A Better Life



Farmer group – Community Rice Center (CRC)



# Scope



- | <b>Target group:</b> | <b>Bua Ngam CRC</b> | <b>Klang CRC</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
|                      | 32 farmers          | 45 farmers       | 77 farmers   |
|                      | 849 rai             | 546 rai          | 1,385 rai    |
- **Variety:** Hommali Rice produced in Northeast Thailand
  - **Rice Quality:** GMP & Uniformed rice (other quality requirements to be specified)
  - **Production:** Sustainably produced as recommended by RD/DoAE/BRIA TH
  - **Period :** main crop season 2016 (April / May – Dec'16)
  - **Market linkage arrangement**
    - Guaranteed buying by Olam TH according to the agreed annual target through the participating local rice millers
    - Voluntary selling by farmers

## Result in 2016

The audit verified that **28 farmers of Bua Ngam CRC, and 43 farmers of Klang CRC can be considered as “working towards sustainability.”** The independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment also showed that farmer compliance levels averaged **84%** against the SRP Standard  
*400 tonnes of SRP-verified sustainable rice harvested, followed the “mass-balance model.”*



# Risk assessment



## Identified challenges

Farm record

Fertilizer application

Soil fertility

Traceability

Farm Management

## Corrective actions

Introduce an integrated data base system  
(Farmers' diary & software - OFIS)

Conduct Farmer training on sustainable cultivation practices, specifically on the identified topics:

- Soil nutrition testing & leaf chart
  - Land Levelling
  - IPM

Adopt Internal Management System

Improve market linkages

Farmers Records incl. the cost & benefit analysis to help farmers to improve their practices



# Verification system *(with utz)*



- Internal Management System

**Create confidence of farmer groups on:**

- ✓ Documentation & records
- ✓ Risk assessment
- ✓ Knowledge and understanding
- ✓ Internal inspection & sanction

- Independent assurance (3<sup>rd</sup> party audit) *by OneCert*

- ✓ Farmer level – cultivation technique
- ✓ Farmer group level – IMS

From 77 trained farmers, only **71 farmers** that is included in the assurance system *(due to the sanction system)*

# Way Forwards

- Scaling up in 2017, for **22,000 MT** of sustainable rice produced in the North East of Thailand
- Improve the IMS and capacitated farmers to be the manager of their own fields
- Improve data base management for impact assessment

## ON FARM:

- No Herbicide applied, although needed. IPM implementation should be re-enforced
- Seed drilling machine can save up seed cost and manpower, but the implementations of farmers are still limited.
- Land Laser Levelling is recommended by SRP, however due to the limited service provider, field size & the cost, it's hard to be implemented. However, manual levelling could be another option



# Issues and Challenges



- Collaboration among stakeholders
- Farmer group management
- Verification / Assurance System
- Monitor the compliance with the suggested practices
- Cost and benefit analysis of each suggested practices
- Incentive for farmers
- Impact assessment

# Recommendations



- Production technology = value creation & incentive for farmers?
  - Adoption to local context, promote local variety & use of local wisdom
  - PPP among stakeholder (policy maker, local authorities, private sectors, farmer groups)
  - Economic sustainability (cost & benefit calculation), and social sustainability
  - Monitoring and evaluation = feedback to farmers on their improvement
-

# Thank You!



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