
Introduction to Public System Report

Bonsucro, as a full member of ISEAL, has committed to produce and annually update a Public System Report for each of the ISEAL Codes (Standard Setting, Assurance and Impact). With this document we aim to provide a simplified overview of how Bonsucro manages its Certification Standards and its Standard Development Revision process, which will guide how we will conduct the revision of the Production Standard. It allows stakeholders to understand their involvement and how their views are a key part of the management of Bonsucro Standards and systems. For any questions related to this report or any another other aspects of the management of stakeholders’ involvement, you can contact Bonsucro at info@bonsucro.com and visit our website: www.bonsucro.com.

Standard

Scope
The Bonsucro standards define a set of principles, criteria and indicators for the assessment of the performance of operators of the sugarcane sector against the three pillars of sustainability (Production Standard) or against set rules of traceability for sugarcane derived products, which are traded and transformed within the supply chain (Chain of Custody Standard). The Standards allow the consistent assessment of farmers, millers, traders and end-users globally. Sugarcane derived products include, but are not limited to sugar, ethanol, yeast, bagasse and molasses. Bonsucro also has rules to recognise the use of such products in the production of other material (for example use of certified ethanol in the production of bioplastic).

Sustainability outcomes

- The Bonsucro production standard was developed around the three pillars of sustainability:
  - Social sustainability,
  - Environmental sustainability, and
  - Economic sustainability.
- Through a series of public consultations and expert input, the standard was developed around the main sustainability hotspots that needed to be addressed.
  - Social: implementation and compliance with ILO conventions governing child labour, force labour, discrimination, right to collaborative bargaining, consultation
with affected stakeholders at the centre of decision processes (based on FPIC), health and safety of operations, and access to drinking water.

- Environmental: evaluation and management of negative impacts on 10 main environmental topics, including: soil, water, air, protection of areas and landscapes with high conservation value (HCV concept), and management of fertilizers and agrochemicals
- Economic: quality of cane and efficiencies of the process to transform cane into sugar and/or ethanol, energy efficiencies, GHG emissions, and added value at farm and mill level

- The Bonsucro Chain of Custody Standard focuses on the mass balance principle. Whilst recognising that segregation is not currently economically feasible for operators in the sugarcane sector, as mixing of products occurs at every stage from collecting cane at farm level to storing sugar at the end user level, the Standard requires that operators keep robust accounting systems of the certified sustainable volumes coming in and going out. When selling certified products, operators guarantee an equivalent volume has indeed been received.

**Performance level**

- The Bonsucro Production Standard aims at helping producers to evaluate the performances of their activities. The standard was developed in such a way that no practice has been preferred against another, as Bonsucro recognises that practices are heavily area specific. The Production Standard is made of a number of metric indicators that set the performance standard for activities at farm and mill level. To consistently and rigorously evaluate how operators perform against the metric indicators, Bonsucro has developed a Bonsucro Calculator. Using the operators own real production data, it calculates their performance against the metric performance standard and specifies the compliance or non-compliance of each indicator
  - For example indicator – 5.2.2 water efficiency requires the operators to report the volume of their total fully irrigated sugarcane harvest, the area harvested, and the amount of water applied to the fields (extracted water, recycled water, effluents applied, including vinasse).

- To be certified as sustainable, the operators are evaluated against indicators that apply to the farm, to the mill, or to both. To be found compliant, an indicator must be met by both the farm and mill.
- Indicators are divided into core and non-core indicators.
  - Core indicators represent the most pressing issues faced by the sector that need urgent tackling and must be eradicated.
    - For example, child labour
• Non-core indicators set the efficiency level operators have to achieve to ensure their long-term viability.
  o For example, added value in USD/tonne
• Certification is granted by third party licensed certification bodies after the review of the operator’s activities at farm and mill levels, as well as validation of the data used in the performance calculator. The certification is under the responsibility of the mill and includes all farms included in the unit of certification (which can be all or part of the supplying area). Certification is achieved if and only if all core indicators are achieved by farm and mill as well as 80% of the total indicators by farm and mill.

Adaptations
• The Production Standard applies across all regions of production worldwide. There is no different set of indicators or performance standards for operators located in different areas of the globe. This was made possible because the focus is to evaluate the performance of operators and it was realized that irrespective of where operators are, they have to achieve a level of performance to be considered as sustainable. It was also the result of the engineering of indicators that take into consideration specific local conditions (e.g. by using a ratio like in 3.1.4 – factory performance index).
• Bonsucro created an adaptation of the Bonsucro Production Standard specific to smallholder farmers. This adaptation is not intended as a reduction of the standard, rather as an adaptation to the realities of smallholder sugarcane farming. Although some non-core indicators have been removed, the scope of the core indicators has remained the same, ensuring that Bonsucro certified farms are, for example, compliant with ILO conventions, do not use banned agrochemicals, and have environmental and health and safety plans in action. The Smallholder adaptation also has specific indicators that are aimed towards the management of a group certification.

Standard-Setting and Revision Process

When the standard was first written and by whom
The first version of the Production Standard to be published and used to certify operators was version 3.0. It was published in March 2011. It was developed between 2009 and 2011 by a group of experts divided into three working groups: Social, Agriculture and Milling.

Stakeholder categorization and geography
At the start of the Standard Revision Process, the Bonsucro secretariat will conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise that will identify the less represented groups of stakeholders whose views must be considered. As the standard is globally applicable, the secretariat will ensure that the stakeholder exercise considers relevant countries, organisations, groups, etc that are needed to
make the revision credible. Bonsucro will strive to offer adapted tools of engagement: in-person consultations, online questionnaires, webinars and private meetings in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Summary of the revision process
The Production Standard Revision will be formally launched on the 11th of March 2019 during Bonsucro Global Week.

- A Standard Revision Working Group will be formed comprising of individuals with expert knowledge of the subject and a capacity to represent stakeholders. The responsibility of the working group will be to produce drafts of the revised Standard both prior to and following stakeholder feedback, including justification of the proposed changes, and an assessment of risks and impact of each change.
- A formal public consultation period will be held for 60 days after the publication of the first draft of the revised Standard. All comments will be taken into consideration and will form the basis of the development of the second draft of the revised Standard.
  - During the consultation period the Bonsucro secretariat will strive to offer adapted tools of engagement: in-person consultations, online questionnaires, webinars and private meetings, pilot audits in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Decision-making process
There are three steps in the decision making related to adopting a revised standard:

1. The Standard Revision Working Group must come to a consensus on a final draft. The balanced composition of the Standard Revision Working Group ensures views of different stakeholders are equally considered and they reach a balanced decision.
2. The Technical Advisory Board has the responsibility to ensure that the revision process has been correctly followed by the Standard Revision Working Group when revising a standard. They make their decision by majority voting.
3. The final draft is then presented to Bonsucro’s Board of Directors for their approval and ratification. Approval is required by a two-thirds majority.

Review and Revision process
- Any queries/comments on the standard can be sent through via email info@bonsucro.com at any time (even outside the consultation period) and will be answered as soon as possible. All related issues regarding the content of the standard will be logged as comments for future revisions.
- The date of the launch of the next review is 11 March 2019 and it is expected to run for about 2 years.