



**SAN Addendum -**  
Additional SAN Criteria for oil palm,  
sugarcane, soy, peanuts and  
sunflower farms

Sustainable Agriculture Network

April 2009

© Sustainable Agriculture Network

Copies of this document are available for free in electronic format at any Sustainable Agriculture Network member or at the Rainforest Alliance website:

[www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org)

If you are not able to access electronically this document, you may write to us at the following address to get hard copies at a reasonable cost-covering price:

Sustainable Agriculture Network Secretariat  
Rainforest Alliance  
P.O. Box 11029  
1000 San José  
Costa Rica

Please send your comments or suggestions concerning this Sustainable Agriculture Network Standards & Policy documents' contents to:

[agstandards@ra.org](mailto:agstandards@ra.org)

Or via regular mail to:

Sustainable Agriculture Network Secretariat  
Rainforest Alliance  
P.O. Box 11029  
1000 San José  
Costa Rica

**CONTENTS**

Introduction	3
The Sustainable Agriculture Network and Rainforest Alliance	3
The Sustainable Agriculture Network's Mission	3
Standard structure	4
Scope	4
SAN's Scoring System	5
Terms and Definitions	5
SAN Addendum - Additional SAN Criteria	8

## Introduction

### The Sustainable Agriculture Network and Rainforest Alliance

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) is a coalition of independent non-profit conservation organizations that promote the social and environmental sustainability of agricultural activities by developing standards. A Certification Body certifies farms that comply with SAN's standards. Each inspection body - authorized by a Certification Body - provides audit services for farmers and agricultural companies in their respective countries. SAN members also offer their knowledge and experience in working towards the development of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard. Rainforest Alliance currently holds the Secretariat for the Sustainable Agriculture Network and coordinates the development and review of standards and related policies for the SAN. Rainforest Alliance also administers the *Rainforest Alliance Certified*<sup>TM</sup> trademark.

Those farms that can meet the SAN criteria are awarded the *Rainforest Alliance Certified*<sup>TM</sup> seal of approval. Since 1992, almost 800 certificates for more than 31,000 farms - including small family farms of cooperatives, as well as plantations - in 24 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania and Vietnam) have met the SAN standards on almost 600,000 ha for 22 crops: coffee, cocoa, banana, tea, pineapple, flowers and foliage and citrus. Other crops include Açai, Avocado, Aloe Vera, Chestnut, Cupuaçu, Grapes, Guava, Heart of Palm, Kiwi, Macadamia, Mango, Onion, Passion Fruit, Plantain, Rubber and Vanilla.

SAN representatives and their operating countries are: Conservación y Desarrollo (C&D), Ecuador; Fundación Interamericana de Investigación Tropical (FIIT); Guatemala; Fundación Natura, Colombia; ICADE, Honduras; IMAFLORA, Brazil; Pronatura Chiapas, Mexico; SalvaNatura, El Salvador and Rainforest Alliance. Rainforest Alliance is the operating member of the SAN for the time being in Africa and Asia.

### The Sustainable Agriculture Network's Mission

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) promotes efficient agriculture, biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development by creating social and environmental standards. SAN fosters best management practices across agricultural value chains by encouraging farmers to comply with SAN standards and by motivating traders and consumers to support sustainability.

SAN pursues its mission by:

- Integrating sustainable production of crops and livestock into local and regional strategies that favor biodiversity conservation and safeguard social and environmental well-being.
- Raising awareness among farmers, traders, consumers and business leaders about the interdependencies among healthy ecosystems, sustainable agriculture and social responsibility.
- Impressing upon business leaders and consumers the importance of choosing products grown on environmentally sustainable and socially responsible farms.

- Stimulating dialog among environmental, social and economic groups, North and South, about the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

### Prologue to the SAN Addendum

Technical knowledge about natural resource management and responsible agriculture is evolving. Topics such as energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, landscape conservation, land tenure and use rights, as well as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions nowadays form part of international standards for sustainable agriculture. There are projections about the significant increase of crop area for the production of biofuels and consequently the greater demand of palm oil diesel, sugarcane ethanol and other biomass. Within this conceptual framework, the SAN recognized the urgency to differentiate responsibly managed sugarcane, soy and oilpalm plantations from other farms.

In August 2007, the Sustainable Agriculture Network decided to enhance the scope of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard and cover more recent aspects of natural and human resource management on farm land, covering oilpalm, sugarcane, soy and other biofuel crop plantations. SAN's International Standards Committee approved the initiative to develop a SAN Addendum to the Sustainable Agriculture Standard in November 2007. The present version of *SAN Addendum - Additional SAN Criteria for oil palm, sugarcane, soy, peanuts and sunflowers* was submitted twice to a 60-day public consultation period that complies with the requirements defined in *ISEAL Alliance Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards* (<http://www.isealliance.org/>). The results of this public consultation were analyzed by SAN's International Standards Committee, which - supported by SAN's Secretariat - produced the current version of this document. This document was approved by the SAN International Standards Committee on February 16, 2009. The legitimacy of the public consultation process was approved by the SAN Board of Directors on March 3, 2009.

### Standard structure

Sustainable Agriculture Standard consists of ten principles. Each principle is composed of various criteria. *SAN's Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version April 2009* contains 94 criteria. The criteria describe good practices for social, environmental and agronomic management, and their compliance is evaluated during audit processes. The Addendum follows this structure of ten principles composed of criteria.

### Scope

This document only contains criteria that are not included in SAN's *Sustainable Agriculture Standard*. With the publication of SAN's Addendum by June 1, 2009 certification audit processes are authorized for plantations that cultivate the following crops:

- Oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*)
- Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*)
- Soy (*Glycine max*)
- Peanuts (*Arachis hypogaea*)
- Sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*)

Only oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanuts and sunflower farms are subject to audits based on the *SAN Addendum* plus the *SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard*. All farms and producer groups

cultivating the crops included in SAN's *Farm Certification Policy* are subject to audits based on the contents of SAN's *Sustainable Agriculture Standard*.

## SAN's Scoring System

Auditors apply the following scoring system during audits:

- **General Compliance:** Farm performance is scored based on all applicable criteria.
  - In order to obtain and maintain certification, the farms must comply with at least 80% of all applicable criteria and 50% of each principle's applicable criteria.
  - Some criteria may contain inserts in lower case letters for clarity. The inserts are evaluated as part of the criteria, not separately. All binding criteria are identified throughout the text by a two-level numbering system (1.1, 1.2, etc.) in bold type.
  - In the case of oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanut or sunflower plantation audits, audits are based in *Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version April 2009 - Sustainable Agriculture Network* and *SAN Addendum – Additional SAN Criteria for oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanut and sunflower farms - Sustainable Agriculture Network*.
- The audit team scores farm performance according to all of the criteria applicable to a specific crop. In order to obtain and maintain certification, the farms must comply with at least 50% of each principle's criteria, and with 80% of all criteria.
- **Critical Criteria:** *Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version April 2009 - Sustainable Agriculture Network* contains 14 critical criteria.
  - These are identified with the text "*Critical Criterion*" at the beginning of the criterion.
  - A farm must completely comply with a critical criterion in order for the farm to be certified or maintain certification - partial compliance is not sufficient.
  - Any farm not complying with a critical criterion will not be certified, or certification will be cancelled, even if all other certification requirements have been met.
- If the farm does not comply with the implementation of any of the practices defined in the criteria of *Sustainable Agriculture Standard, version April 2009 - Sustainable Agriculture Network*, this fact will result in the designation of a non-conformity, which is determined on the basis of each individual criterion. There are two categories of non-conformities: 1) Major Non-Conformity, and 2) minor non-conformity. The following is the level of compliance established for each of these two categories:
  1. **Major Non-Conformity (MCN):** indicates a 0% to 49% compliance with a criterion.
  2. **minor non-conformity (mcn):** indicates a 50% to 99% compliance with a criterion.

## Terms and Definitions

- **Carbon dioxide sequestration:** The capture of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in a solid material (such as growing trees, other vegetation, and soils) or a carbon sink through biological or physical processes, such as photosynthesis. CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration is one of the means to mitigate the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere released by the burning of fossil fuels.

- **Clean technology:** Products, services, and processes that tie together renewable materials and energy sources, reduce the use of natural resources, and cut or eliminate emissions and waste. Clean technology includes renewable energy (wind power, solar power, biomass, hydropower, and biofuels), information technology, green transportation, electric motors, lighting, and other appliances that are more energy efficient.
- **Competent professional:** A person with demonstrated professional expertise, skills and experience in the specific area where the advice is given.
- **Connectivity:** Connectivity is the level to which a landscape enables or blocks movement among resource fragments. Landscape connectivity is composed of structural connectivity (spatial structure of a landscape that can be described from map elements) and functional connectivity (response of individuals to landscape features or biological component). Connectivity enables the movement of species between ecosystem patches and functioning of the ecological system within a landscape.
- **Conservation of ecosystems:** The conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties (*Source: Convention on Biological Diversity*).
- **Destruction of ecosystems:** The significant direct or indirect disturbance of an ecosystem caused by a human being. For the case of terrestrial natural ecosystems this includes tree logging, extraction of non-woody plants, burning, aspersion of herbicides or other pesticides, partial or complete conversion to agriculture land, urban use, development, or wasteland, as well as intentional introduction of invasive or exotic species. For the case of aquatic ecosystems, this comprises change of depth or direction of a watershed or drying of wetlands. Within this definition, also the disturbance by natural catastrophes, such as floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, storms, tornados and other strong winds, as well as landslides are covered.
- **Greenhouse gas:** A greenhouse gas is a gas that contributes to the natural greenhouse effect. The Kyoto Protocol covers a basket of six greenhouse gases (GHGs) produced by human activities: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride (*Source: European Environment Agency. Environmental Terminology and Discovery Service (ETDS)*).
- **High value ecosystems:** Natural ecosystems of special importance to environmental conservation, such as habitat that enables the reproduction of endemic and endangered species or hosts viable wild animal or plant populations; provision of ecosystem services such as watershed protection in serious circumstances; or rare ecosystems. Examples are primary and secondary forests, bush and grass lands, paramo, streams, rivers, pools, lakes, lagoons, swamps, marshes and bogs. Each SAN representative provides further local interpretation to this definition - considering local biophysical conditions.
- **Impact:** Disturbance, consequence, repercussion or similar permanent effect of a human or natural cause. Impacts may be positive or negative. They may affect a natural system, the environment, an animal or plant population or individuals (environmental impacts), or human individuals or populations (social impacts).
- **Landscape:** The visible features of an area of land, including physical elements such as landforms, living elements of flora and fauna, abstract elements such as lighting and weather conditions, and human elements, for instance human activity or the constructed environment.

- **Land tenure:** Land tenure is the name given, particularly in common law systems, to the legal regime in which land is owned by an individual, who is said to "hold" the land.
- **Live fences:** The usage of live woody species for fences. This can consist of individual trees connected with wire or other fencing material or densely-planted hedges without interconnecting wire.
- **Medical disorder:** Functional abnormality, disturbance or any abnormal condition that impairs normal functioning of the human body. Medical disorders can be categorized into mental disorders, physical disorders, genetic disorders, behavioral disorders and functional disorders.
- **Mitigation plan:** A series of actions to compensate the destruction of natural ecosystems including the definition of responsible persons and specific timelines for each action. Actions include the planting of native plant and tree species, set aside of areas for natural regeneration, as well as ex-situ measures of conservation authorized by government authorities.
- **Natural ecosystems:** A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (*Source: Convention on Biological Diversity*). Examples are aquatic ecosystems, such as streams, rivers, pools, ponds, lakes, lagoons, and other bodies of liquid water that exist naturally; wetlands such as swamps, marshes, mangroves or bogs; terrestrial ecosystems, such as primary and secondary forests, bush lands, grass lands or other advanced natural succession stages without significant human disturbance for minimum 10 years. Each SAN representative provides further local interpretation to this definition - considering local biophysical conditions.
- **Natural resources:** A feature or component of the natural environment that is of value in serving human needs, e.g. soil, water, plant life, wildlife, etc. Some natural resources have an economic value (e.g. timber) while others have a "noneconomic" value (e.g. scenic beauty). (Source: UNUN <http://www.eionet.europa.eu>).
- **Primary forest:** A forest which originally covered a region before changes in the environment brought about by people (Source: PHC <http://www.eionet.europa.eu>).
- **Rehydration:** The process of restoring lost water to the body tissues and fluids. Prompt rehydration is imperative whenever dehydration occurs, from diarrhea, exposure, lack of drinking water, or medication use. Rehydration can be by the oral route or by the intravenous administration of fluids.
- **Renewable energy:** Energy sources that do not rely on fuels of which there are only finite stocks. The most widely used renewable source is hydroelectric power; other renewable sources are biomass energy, solar energy, tidal energy, wave energy, and wind energy (Source: EEA multilingual environmental glossary <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu>).
- **Secondary forest:** Natural forest growth after some major disturbance; e.g. logging, serious fire, or insect attack (Source: European Community Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism. <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu>).

## SAN Addendum - Additional SAN Criteria

- 1.11** The farm must annually describe its energy sources and the amount of energy used from each source for production processes, transport and domestic use within the farm limits. The farm must have an energy efficiency plan with goals and implementation activities for increased efficiency, for reducing dependency on non-renewable sources and for increasing the use of renewable energy. Where appropriate, the use of on-farm energy sources must be preferred.
- 2.2** *Critical Criterion.* From the date of application for certification onwards, the farm must not destroy any natural ecosystem. Additionally, from November 1, 2005 onwards no high value ecosystems must have been destroyed by or due to purposeful farm management activities. If any natural ecosystems have been destroyed by or due to purposeful farm management activities between November 1, 1999 and November 1, 2005, the farm must implement the following analysis and mitigations:
- Conduct an analysis of the ecosystem destruction to document the scope and ecological impact of the destruction.
  - Develop a mitigation plan with advice from a competent professional that is consistent with applicable legislation and that compensates for the negative impact.
  - Implement the activities of this mitigation plan, including for example the set aside of a significant percentage of the farm area for conservation purposes.
- This criterion's content has been changed for the SAN Addendum and applies for oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanuts and sunflower farm audits only – substituting the Sustainable Agriculture Standard's criterion 2.2.
- 2.4** *The harvesting or other taking of threatened or endangered plant species is not permitted. Cutting, extracting or harvesting trees, plants and other non-timber forest products is only allowed in instances when the farm implements a sustainable management plan that has been approved by the relevant authorities, and has all the permits required by law. If no applicable laws exist, the plan must have been developed by a competent professional.*
- This criterion's content has been changed due to the modified criterion 2.2 for the SAN Addendum and applies for oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanuts and sunflower farm audits only – substituting the Sustainable Agriculture Standard's criterion 2.4.
- 2.9** The farm must implement a plan to maintain or restore the connectivity of natural ecosystems, within its boundaries, considering the connectivity of habitats at the landscape level; e.g. through elements such as native vegetation on roadsides and along water courses or river banks, shade trees, live fences and live barriers.
- 5.13** The farm must inform permanent and regular seasonal workers - and the workers organizations that represent them - of any plans for changes in farm management activities or organizational structure with potentially significant social, environmental and economic effects.
- Workers who will be replaced by the use of machines or for any other reason due to significant changes in farm management activities or organizational structure must be

given priority consideration for opportunities to be contracted in other labors on the farm and must be trained for those new tasks.

- b. In confirmed cases of job loss and lack of employment opportunities, the farm must provide economic compensation for workers according to national labor legislation. In the absence of national legislation, the labor contract for permanent or seasonal workers must include a severance provision.

This criterion's content has been changed for the SAN Addendum and applies for oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanuts and sunflower farm audits only – substituting the Sustainable Agriculture Standard's criterion 5.13.

- 6.4 **Workers that carry out activities identified as being dangerous or a health risk in the occupational health and safety program, or those that require special skills such as the handling and application of agrochemicals, carrying heavy loads, harvesting manually or using agricultural machinery or equipment, must receive a medical check-up at least annually to assure their physical and mental capacities for such work. Workers must have access to the results of their medical examinations. Those workers who either express or are observed having medical or mental health issues, must have the timely attention of and, as indicated, treatment by medical personnel - with the authority to find that a worker is unfit for the specific job he/she is doing and he/she needs job reassignment. Farm management must implement actions to avoid medical disorders of farm workers caused by harvest and other labor practices. Adequate rehydration must be provided at all times.**

This criterion's content has been changed for the SAN Addendum and applies for oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanuts and sunflower farm audits only – substituting the Sustainable Agriculture Standard's criterion 6.4.

- 7.2 ***Critical Criterion.* The farm management must implement policies and procedures for identifying and considering the interests of local populations and community interest groups regarding farm activities or changes that could have an impact on their health, employment or local natural resources. The farm must document and make available for public view all complaints and comments it receives related to its activities and its replies to them.**

This criterion's content and category have been changed for the SAN Addendum and applies for oilpalm, sugarcane, soy, peanuts and sunflower farm audits only – substituting the Sustainable Agriculture Standard's criterion 7.2.

- 7.6 **The farm must have a legitimate right to land use and tenure, demonstrated by presenting the appropriate official documentation. If there is no such documentation the farm must show either:**
- a. The absence of significant disputes on land use, tenure and access, or;
  - b. The consent of local communities, regarding the land, natural and agricultural resources.

- 8.8 *Critical Criterion.* **APPLIES FOR SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION ONLY** Farms that harvest sugarcane with machines are not allowed to use fire for harvest preparation. All other farms – employing manual rather than mechanized harvesting - must eliminate fire for harvest preparation within a maximum period of three years and must implement the following rules:
- a. Explain their fire-elimination plan to workers, suppliers and surrounding communities.
  - b. Comply with local legislation about the use of fire for farm management.
  - c. Conduct burning in a way that minimizes the impact on workers, surrounding communities and natural resources.
- Fire must not be allowed to spread to conservation areas. The workers in charge of burning must be adequately trained in fire management, control and suppression.
- 8.9 The use of fire for pest and disease management must only be used if it is the option of less environmental impact in comparison with other pest control measures. This option must be approved by competent authorities, must reflect technical considerations and focus on problematic areas only.
- 10.6 The farm must implement practices to diminish its emissions of greenhouse gases and increase carbon dioxide sequestration. Such practices include soil cover management, planting trees and other perennial vegetation, proper sourcing and management of fertilizers and fuels, management of effluent ponds and manure, proper waste management, use of clean technologies, improvement of energy efficiency, reduction in tillage, and participation in local or regional initiatives aimed at greenhouse gas reduction and carbon dioxide sequestration.