



# Banana Dialogue Convening Meeting

18 December, 2020



# Agenda

1. **Ground Rules** by Ria Stout - Chief Program Officer
2. **Welcome & Opening Remarks** by Daniel Katz – Board Chair
3. **The Vision of the Rainforest Alliance 2020 Standard** by Annemieke Wijn - Board Member
4. **Snapshot of the Dialogue since July** Ria Stout
5. **Main Topics:** core principles, snapshot of changes and next steps:
  - Pesticide Management Non-Application zones, Drones, Exceptional use by Ruth Rennie – Sr. Director Standards and Assurance
  - 10% Natural Conservation Areas In- and outside farm boundaries - Ruth Rennie
  - Shared Responsibility by Aparajita Bhalla – Sr. Director Market Transformation
6. **Convening Remarks** by Daniel Katz



# Ground Rules

*Ria Stout – Chief Program Officer*

# Anti-trust preventions



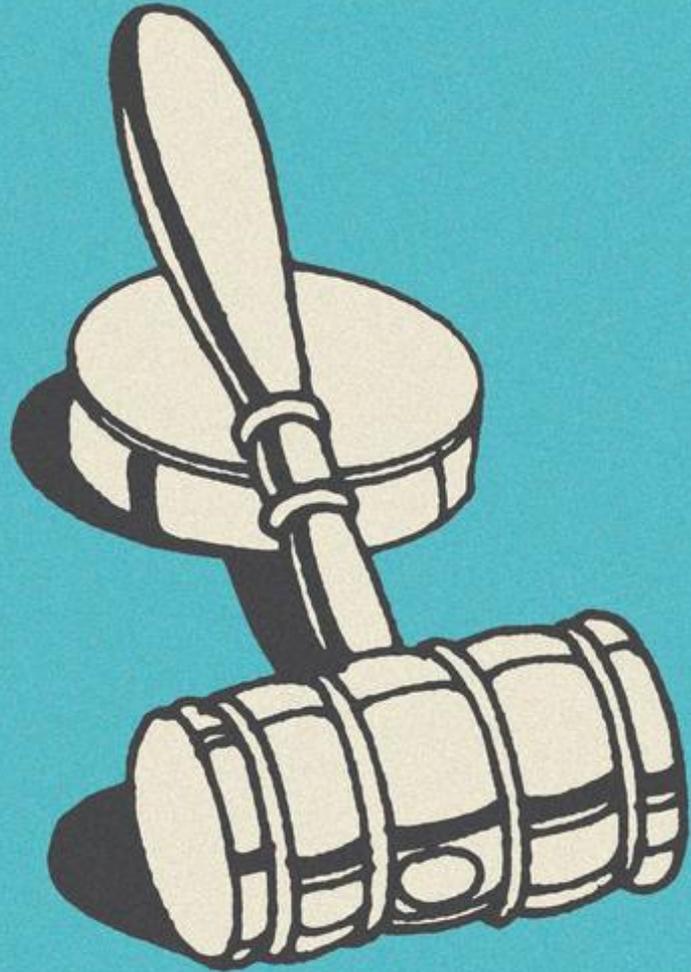
**To avoid antitrust violations:** we will take the following preventions;

- Lay out clear ground rules in advance – see next slide and the invite
- Set out a clear positive agenda
- Take clear notes to have formal minutes of what was discussed at the meeting. This meeting will be recorded
- The Rainforest Alliance will moderate the meeting – the chair will prevent discussions that go beyond the ground rules

In addition:

- Comments & Questions in the Chatbox
- Raise your hand if you wish to speak
- Please add the organization you represent next to your name

# Anti-trust ground rules



*As participants in this meeting, we need to be mindful of the constraints of the anti-trust laws of the United States, Europe and other jurisdictions.*

*There shall be no discussions, agreements or concerted actions that may restrain competition. This prohibition includes the exchange of competitively sensitive information including, but not limited to, individual prices, production, sales, capacities, costs, rates, coverages, market practices, claims settlement practices, company level investments, non-public terms of agreements with specific customers or partners, confidential or customer-specific plans, or any other competitive aspect of an individual company's operation. This prohibition also includes discussion of any agreement on prices or costs, including the allocation of costs between and among the participants in this discussion.*

*The participants acknowledge that any efforts made by participants in our discussion to promote sustainable and enhanced product supply shall not result in any understandings or agreements to limit individual activities or efforts to the same ends.*

*Each participant is obligated to speak up immediately for the purpose of preventing any discussion falling outside these bounds.*

**Welcome by**  
**Daniel Katz**  
*Board Chair*





# The Rainforest Alliance 2020 Standard

*Annemieke Wijn - Board Member*

Our vision  
is a world where  
**people** and  
**nature thrive**  
in **harmony**





# How we have been engaging

Ria Stout



# Pesticide Management

*Ruth Rennie – Senior Director Standard & Assurance*

# Transforming to more environmentally friendly farming practices remains key



High reliance on pesticides and low reliance on natural solutions

High reliance on natural solutions and low reliance on chemical pesticides

The Rainforest Alliance is committed to working towards more sustainable farming practices.

The reduction of hazardous chemicals is imperative to address a range of issues, linked to workers' health, pollution of water and soil, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss.

# Same Approach 2017 – 2020

## New in 2020:

Active follow up  
and monitoring  
through data  
collection  
**(indicator)**

Rainforest Alliance (2017)	Rainforest Alliance (2020)
<b>Prohibited List</b> based on FAO/WHO	<b>Prohibited List</b> based on FAO/WHO. <b>The list was updated.</b>
<b>Risk Mitigation List</b> developed with IPMPrime (OSU IPPC)  with risk mitigation requirements	<b>Risk Mitigation List</b> developed with IPMPrime (OSU IPPC) and updated based on the Lancet paper with risk mitigation requirements.
<b>Exceptional Use Policy &amp; Procedure</b> (SAN, 2017 - update Oct 2020)	<b>Exceptional Use Policy &amp; Procedure. Exceptions will be country /crop /pest specific</b> (New, RA2021)
Applicable to <b>farm</b>	Applicable to <b>farm</b>
Wide range of crops	Wide range of crops



# Pesticide Management

## Changes made to Annex 7 in version 1.1 - See updated action plan:

- Adapted according to requests:
  - Definitions buffer zones (around protected areas) and non-application zones.
  - Definition vegetative barriers which also apply for aerial application.
  - Definition flight plan (for aerial application)
  - Interpretation of roads based on the applicable legal definition
  - Length of the application bar for aerial application

## Next steps

Ongoing research & stakeholder consultation on

- Aerial spraying and drone use
- Exceptional Use policy



# Aerial Spraying: Protection of People and Nature

## Core principles maintained:

- Protection of persons, living areas, and areas where persons can be present is key, including for collective spraying of smallholder farms
- Drains with permanent water have to be protected from direct spraying

## Invitation to RAC producers & retailers to

- ✓ Collaborate with RA to develop guidance on best practices to ensure safe spraying especially in areas where smallholders live



# Aerial spraying by Drone

**RA conducting research and interviews with relevant producers, service providers and regulatory agencies**

Based on feedback from sector organizations, research topics include:

- Identification and management of risks, including impact of accidents
- Possibility of working with unmanned ultralight aircraft
- Review of the maximum weight
- Flying more than one drone at the same time
- Reevaluate if the drones must be in sight

**Invitation to RAC producers & retailers to:**

- ✓ Identify relevant actors for consultation
- ✓ Provide feedback on draft



# Pesticides - Exceptional Use Policy

*To be published June 30, 2021*

## Core principles maintained:

- Rainforest Alliance's approach is not to push for big changes overnight but work on gradual change over time.

## Exceptional Use Policy Process Clarified

- Will be renewed every 6 months
- First deadline for applications from producers Dec 31, 2020
- All requests, final decisions, justifications and conditions for alternatives published by June 30, 2021 on RA website
- Exceptions granted for one year, or a different timeframe if necessary. Exceptions may be renewed

## Invitation to RAC producers & retailers to:

- ✓ Participate in a workshop in Q1 2021 to discuss the requests and implementation challenges before publication

# 10% Natural Conservation Areas

*Ruth Rennie – Senior Director Standard & Assurance*



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# Protection of Natural Ecosystems and Vegetation

## Core principles maintained:

- Not RA's intention to sacrifice agriculture for vegetation, or risk job losses
- Balancing ecological needs with social and economic needs of farmers and workers is a core principle of sustainability
- The 10% requirement is more flexible:
  - Includes more natural vegetation types to reach the 10% requirement
  - The 10% may be reached in or outside the farm

## Added:

- Definitions on Conservation and Restoration areas **outside farm boundaries** (new Annex 13)

## Invitation to RAC producers & retailers to:

- ✓ Collaborate with RA in research on current vegetation coverage levels and realistic timelines to achieve the 10% in different contexts



# Shared Responsibility

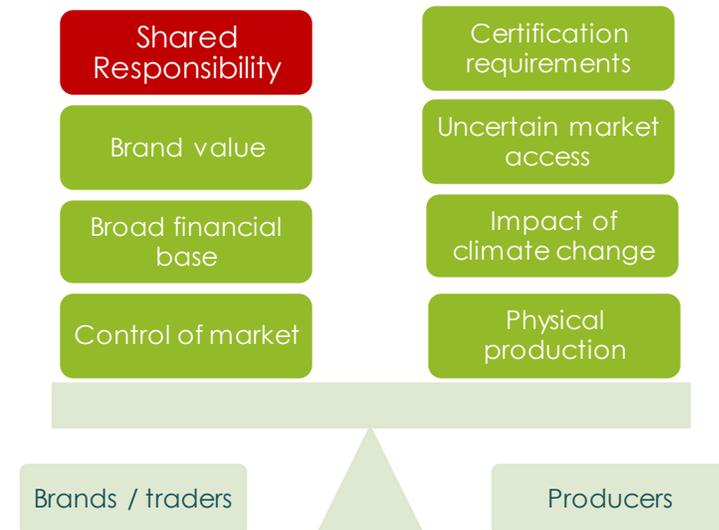
*Aparajita Bhalla – Senior Director Market Transformation*



# Shared Responsibility: Balance the rewards of sustainable production and sharing the risks

## Enable the supply chain to:

- Reward the front-line of sustainable agricultural production; (small group) producers and worker benefits = Sustainability Differential.
- Contribute toward the investments needed to become and remain certified (= Sustainability Investments).





## Making a paradigm shift – one step at a time

- **Adapted implementation date** to fit the contracting cycle in the industry post transition to the farm standard.
- **Clarified where responsibility for non-conformities should sit:** Farm certificate holders will not be penalized in an audit if they do not receive the SD”
- **Confidentiality of production costs maintained** do not need to be shared to safeguard confidentiality.
- **Ongoing sustainability investments** can be part of the SI if contributing to implementing the standard and included in the Investment Plan.
- **Clarifications on the use of SD** payments to farm certificate holders that should be used towards worker benefits in cash or kind.

See also questions 76-89 of the replies to the [Sector Organisations](#) and FAQ See on website.



# What comes next

## **Learning by doing; identifying the best approach to implementation**

- Early implementers to learn in practice with front-running producers and retailers.
- Means of assuring accountability across the chain without excessive administrative burden

## **Tools to guide implementation:**

- Investment plan linked seamlessly to risk and management assessment tools to help producers assess their financial needs linked to certification.
- Guidance document under development

## **Invitation to RAC producers & retailers to:**

- ✓ Collaborate with RA on demonstration pilots that will inform implementation approach



## Join the Alliance



# CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD PRODUCES, SOURCES, AND CONSUMES

### And enable:

- continuous improvements at the farm level,
- better returns for certified producers,
- more data driven decision making,
- improved management of certified groups and farms
- connecting actors towards more sustainable production & consumption (SDG 12).

# **RAINFOREST ALLIANCE**