RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

POLICY:

The Investment Plan Template for the Tea Sector

Document SA-P-SD-28

Version 1

English
The Rainforest Alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities.

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<td>July 25th, 2023</td>
<td>July 25th, 2023</td>
<td>August 14th, 2023</td>
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**Developed by:** Standards and Assurance  
**Approved by:** Director of Standards and Assurance

**Linked to:**  
SA-S-SD-1-V1.3 Rainforest Alliance 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm Requirements  
RA-S-MT-17-V1.1 Annex S16: Sustainability Investment Plan Template

**Replaces:** N/A

**Applicable to:**  
Farm Certificate Holders producing Tea (Camellia Sinensis)  
Certification Bodies auditing Tea Farm Certificate Holders

**Country/Region:** All Regions

**Crop:** Tea (Camellia Sinensis)  
**Type of Certification:** Farm Certification

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**More information**  
For more information about the Rainforest Alliance, visit [www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org), contact [info@ra.org](mailto:info@ra.org) or contact the Rainforest Alliance Amsterdam Office, De Ruijterkade 6, 1013AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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Changes to the Required Use of Annex S16 During Certification

As part of an effort to reduce the administrative burden for Certificate Holders during certification audits and to increase the quality of the certification data collected, the Rainforest Alliance is reviewing its approach on monitoring and gathering information related to Sustainability Investments.

This policy mandates a change to the requirement to use RA-S-MT-17-V1.1 Annex S16: Sustainability Investment Plan Template by Certificate Holders producing tea (Camellia sinensis) under Rainforest Alliance certification.

1. Implications for Farm Certificate Holders in the tea sector

From August 14th, 2023, Tea Farm Certificate Holders will no longer be required to use RA-S-MT-17-V1.1 Annex S16: Sustainability Investment Plan Template in preparation for an audit against the Rainforest Alliance 2020 Farm Standard. Certificate Holders may still choose to use the Annex S16 tool as a guidance document for their own purpose of analysis.

Instead, Tea Certificate Holders are required to use a new, simplified tool to collect information on SI (Sustainability Investments) expenses. If you have questions on the use of the tool, please contact your local Rainforest Alliance trainer.