Call for sharing experiences and good practices in the use and application of the CFS-RAI

Template for submissions

Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the CFS-RAI

Please document the experience and good practices in applying the CFS [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems](http://www.fao.org/3/au866e/au866e.pdf) (CFS-RAI) in the template below. Please note that if you wish to share more than one of this type of direct experience, you are invited to fill in multiple forms.

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| Title of the experience  | **RAI Scoring Tool** |
| Geographical coverage  | *Global* |
| Country(ies)/ Region(s) covered by the experience | In addition to the global RAI Scoring Tool, there is version tailored for Southeast Asia – the ASEAN-RAI Scoring Tool  |
| **Contact person**  | Name: Hafiz MirzaEmail address: hmirza@iisd.org |
| **Affiliation**  | □ Government□ UN organization□ **Civil Society / NGO - IISD**□ Private Sector□ Academia□ Donor□ Other (specify) ………………………………………………………… |

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| 1. How have the CFS-RAI Principles been used in your context?
 | The Responsible Agricultural Investment Scoring Tool (RAI Scoring Tool) is a comprehensive, detailed instrument created for use by private sector agribusinesses to ensure that their new or existing operations in the sector are CFS-RAI compliant (and compliant with ASEAN-RAI guidelines in ASEAN member states). |
| 1. Which specific Principle(s) of the CFS-RAI was/were most relevant to the experience? *(choose all that apply)*
 | [x]  Principle 1: Contribute to food security and nutrition [x]  Principle 2: Contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic development and the eradication of poverty [x]  Principle 3: Foster gender equality and women’s empowerment[x]  Principle 4: Engage and empower youth[x]  Principle 5: Respect tenure of land, fisheries, and forests, and access to water [x]  Principle 6: Conserve and sustainably manage natural resources, increase resilience, and reduce disaster risks[x]  Principle 7: Respect cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, and support diversity and innovation [x]  Principle 8: Promote safe and healthy agriculture and food systems [x]  Principle 9: Incorporate inclusive and transparent governance structures, processes, and grievance mechanisms [x]  Principle 10: Assess and address impacts and promote accountability  |
| 1. Brief description of the experience
 | The RAI Scoring Tool is a comprehensive, detailed instrument created for use by private sector agribusinesses to ensure that their new or existing operations in the sector are CFS-RAI compliant (and compliant with ASEAN-RAI guidelines in ASEAN member states). The tool is structured based on agribusiness functions and practices, mapped to all 10 CFS-RAI principles. The practices (e.g., on strategy, employment systems, grievance mechanisms) are cross-referenced with existing key performance indicators (KPI) (e.g., from CSAF, GIIN, ILO etc.).It is currently being tested but will be available for use online by the end of 2022.  |
| Who has been involved in the experience? | **□ Government****□ UN organization****□ Civil Society / NGO****□ Private Sector**□ Academia**□ Donor****□ Other** (specify) Key partners, funders and supporters in this project include IISD and Cerise (which are co-developing and piloting the tool); Grow Asia and FAO (which along with IISD are a part of the SDC-Funded ASEAN-RAI Programme, which includes development of the ASEAN-RAI Scoring Tool); the ASEAN Secretariat – ASEC – which originally asked IISD and Grow Asia to develop the ASEAN-RAI Guidelines; and SDC, SSNUP and Bamboo Capital which are funding and supporting the work. (Impact investors participating in the SSNUP programme and the ABC Fund are supporting development of the RAI Scoring Tool, as well as a set of in-depth, longitudinal studies, including by encouraging their investees to test the tool.)  |
| How were those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition involved? | Stakeholders such as farmers, communities, marginalised groups (women, youth, others) etc. are a part of the process of piloting the tool in a number of countries in Africa (and in ASEAN later in 2022).  |
| Main activities | Developing and pilot-testing the tool during 2021 and 2022. The development phase drew (and continues to draw) on the experience of international organisations, civil society and the private sector (both financial/impact investors and agribusinesses). The current pilot-testing phase is an online and field-work based assessment of the tool (and the practices/performance based routes of impact on affected groups) with a series of agribusinesses in Africa and ASEAN. (From later this year the tool will be rolled out for use by agribusinesses, impact investors and others in a number of ways.) |
| Timeframe | Commenced March 2021, ongoing. |
| 1. Results obtained/ expected

*(for each, specify whether these outcomes are actual (as of when), or expected (and by when)* | The tool has progressed through different versions since inception (version 7 at present). It has been restructured and refined through consultations with many groups (see above) and is usable for its intended purpose. Its usability is being improved through pilot-testing it with agribusinesses, at specific operations and with associated stakeholders. This pilot-testing is still at an early point, but so far indicate that the tool is of great value in identifying, in particular, agribusinesses’ gaps in complying with CFS-RAI principles in tangible ways, i.e., in terms of their management/operational practices.  |
|  | Once finalized (recognizing that the tool is a living document), it will become available for use by:* Agribusinesses seeking to ensure that they behave in RAI compliant ways. The results of the practices they adopt (based on KPIs already tested) will be measured using pertinent metrics, permitting performance measurement.
	+ The details of the performance will potentially permit fine-tuning of practices to improve CFS-RAI compliance.
* Financial/impact investors. One source of support and funding for this work is impact investors. The tool will allow them to better assess the impact-value of their investments, and guide investees more effectively in future projects.
* Others. For example, not all agribusinesses will have the resources to ensure CFS-RAI compliance (or use the tool). Various groups will be able to support such agribusinesses (and related stakeholders) by using the RAI Scoring Tool as a diagnostic instrument and for guidance.
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| 1. What were key catalysts that influenced the use of CFS-RAI?
 | The CFS-RAI was the point of departure, recognizing that its effective adoption by the private sector required their reformulation as concrete business practices, in a language intelligible to business.  |
| 1. What were the major constraints and challenges in the use of the CFS-RAI?
 | This is a big undertaking – e.g., in applying the CFS-RAI to businesses of all types: large, small; in different sectors; at various points in (various) value chain(s)…  |
| 1. How have these constraints and challenges been addressed?
 | * Through large-scale consultations with many stakeholders, including workshops.
* Remaining in consultation with the stakeholders while developing the tool
* Rigorous procedures for pilot-testing (and effectively, guided use) the tool
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| 1. What mechanisms have been developed to monitor the use of the CFS-RAI?
 | Monitoring compliance with the CFS-RAI is built into the tool.  |
| 1. Based on the experience presented, what good practices would you recommend for successful use or implementation of the CFS-RAI ?
 | Ensure that actions, activities understood by ultimate beneficiaries and expressed in a way they understand. Be ready for likely push-back and be in a position to reassure affected parties. For example, the tool is not intended to be another instrument, standards (related to sustainability, responsibility etc.) etc. on top of many already in use by the private sector. The tool is designed to be used alongside existing ones. This will support CFS-RAI adoption because they are not ‘just’ another set of rules.  |
| 1. Are there any concrete plans to further use the CFS-RAI?
 | The CFS-RAI are a part and parcel of the RAI Scoring Tool. A version specific to ASEAN has been developed and will be tested/used later in 2022 (discussion is already underway with a number a agribusinesses in Southeast Asia).  |
| Link(s) to additional information | An online version of the RAI Scoring Tool will be available in the second half of 2022.  |