

## PG Sustainability in the Food Sector Minutes

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 10:00 – 12:00

**Location:** conference call

**Participants:**

- Aldi South Group, Emma Kennedy
- Systembolaget, Hanna Sutherlin
- Clama, Anne Stemmer
- Coop, Raphael Schilling
- LIDL HK, Zoe Sin
- Rewe Group, Florian Schaefer
- KESKO, Tuuli Luoma
- ALDI NORD, Christian Heggen
- EDEKA, Carole Romero
- Sailing Group, Miina Mälgand

**Absent:**

- El Corte Ingles, Sergio Miguelez Moran
- El Corte Ingles, Delia Gomez Garcia
- Grupo Calvo, Victoria Sanchez Jimenez
- Axfood, Kristina Areskog Bjurling
- LIDL, Emi Katoh
- Mousquetaires, Coralie Alazet

**amfori Secretariat:**

- [Anna Stancher](#), Strategy and Innovation
- [Raquel Motta](#), Strategy and Innovation
- Stephanie Menendez, Member Account

**Agenda topics:**

- [Farm Self-Assessment](#)
- [GRASP](#)
- [Project Group Organization](#)
- [Other business](#)

## Farm Self-Assessment

### Feedback on self-assessment tool:

- Questions and length: unanimously agreed as appropriate for the pilot phase
- Target audience: appropriate for medium-large farms, language and requirements a bit too complex for smallholders
- Tab Business Information: differentiate working hours requirements per category of workers, including temporary workers
- Tab Self-assessment:
  - Extend assessment of discrimination beyond gender to include migrant workers across all relevant questions
  - Simplify / clarify formulations of Q2, Q4, Q8, Q23, Q31
  - Replace open text field to report current practices with tick box approach
  - Hide scoring of each question
- Tab Results:
  - Remove percentage scoring per PA, as this could be a disincentive to correct self-reporting
  - Develop an alternative result system that can present results in a more constructive way e.g. indicates areas of improvement and provides advice on next steps

### Feedback on usability:

- Not relevant for those members that are widely using GRASP
- Agreed as relevant and usable by members that are not using GRASP

### Discussion on pilot:

- Pilot will be led by members and communicated by members within their supply chains
- Scale: 3-4 suppliers and 10-15 farms (in total, to be distributed among the PG members that participate in the pilot)
- Format: Excel tool, self-assessment not available in Platform
- Data and results generated in the pilot will not be transferred to Platform.
- Envisaged benefit to farms: review of current practices.
- If pilot successful, amfori will develop a tutorial for farms on how to use the tool

### **Decisions:**

- amfori Secretariat to complete the review of the self-assessment and present final tool by next PG meeting
- As a tool is not yet mature, pilot will be scheduled in the next PG meeting

## GLOBAL GAP GRASP

amfori provided an overview of GRASP (see slides): tools, benefits, limitations.

Members discussed whether GRASP can or cannot be considered a social audit tool. The predominant view was that GRASP is a risk assessment tool but it cannot be equated to a social audit.

Main benefits identified by GRASP users:

- Easy entry point for social compliance
- GLOBAL GAP extensive expertise in agriculture is an asset to roll out GRASP on large scale
- GGN enables traceability in supply chains

**Limitations of GRASP:**

- Not sufficiently robust: auditors are not social experts
- Not linked to capacity building or remediation
- It does not lead to improvements: same findings pop up again and again

**Recommendations:**

- amfori should engage in dialogue with GRASP
- The two systems need to collaborate more closely, even if a recognition is not feasible

**Decision:**

- PG facilitators will raise this request with line managers and seek approval to engage in dialogue with GLOBAL GAP GRASP
- Internal amfori decision to be communicated in next PG meeting

## PG organization

Participation rate: the PG discussed absenteeism. It is decided that:

- Attendance is monitored by the Secretariat
- Members who have applied to be part of the PG but have zero attendance rate by the end of the year will be relieved of their commitment and removed from the mailing list
- Based on the above, the PG will decide on accepting new members in 2020

November meeting:

- Agreed to change the November meeting from conference call to face to face.
- A Doodle Poll has been sent to agree on a date that allows travel to Brussels for a majority of PG members.
- amfori food sustainability expert will participate.

## Other business

MSC recognition: the new version of the MSC Chain of Custody standard comes into force on 28<sup>th</sup> September. amfori is making available guidelines for members and producers on how to use amfori BSCI audits to meet the MSC labour requirements. See Pulse of September 4<sup>th</sup>.

IDH smallholder project: IDH is leading a research project on:

- Definition of smallholder in the context of social auditing
- Social auditing methodologies for smallholders

amfori has participated in the consultations to contribute information on the amfori BSCI system and challenges to include smallholders in social audits. A final report is not yet issued. Information will be shared with the PG to the extent that will be made available by IDH.