

Sustainable Spices Initiative

How to become a member?

The [Sustainable Spices Initiative](#) -SSI is a global platform that brings together companies from the spices, herbs, dehydrated vegetables and food industry and retail, who are willing to develop a collective strategy and take a leading role towards the sustainable production, processing and global trade of these ingredients.

This transformative process is driven by the development of programs together with industry stakeholders in producing countries, non-governmental organizations and government bodies, aiming to scale up the investment in sustainable value chains and contributing to collective solutions for sector sustainability challenges at the local level.

The ultimate ambition is that these programs help to develop fully sustainable supply chains, whilst the commitments in the short and medium terms are:

- Minimum 10% absolute growth in sustainable sourcing in at least 3 of the top ingredients (in any category: spices, herbs and dehydrated vegetables) by each participating member (in percentage share) by 2021.
- Minimum 25% sustainable sourcing in at least 3 of the top ingredients (in any category: spices, herbs and dehydrated vegetables) by each participating member by 2025.

What does becoming an SSI member mean?

- Being part of the frontrunner group building sustainability throughout the spices, herbs and dehydrated vegetables sector to drive transformative processes towards more sustainable value chains, starting at the farm level.
- Co-determine strategic agenda for the SSI Global platform and contributing to local SSI initiatives.
- Investing in sustainable supply and piloting projects with suppliers.
- Participating in collective platform for learning and sharing best practices.

What does SSI expect of its members?

- Comply with local and national legislation, including environmental and labour regulations and commit to internationally accepted codes of conduct for fair and free trade. Where regulations are absent or lack enforcement, SSI members commit to follow international principles for responsible business as stated in the OECD guidelines: <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/guidelines/>.
- Be credible, integral and hold a respectable reputation within the food industry, as their behaviour should not compromise the goals and credibility of SSI, in any way.
- Have an active role driving sustainability in its own supply chain and sector.
- Commitment to SSI and ambition in company sustainability targets by signing of Letter of Intent with IDH and report yearly progress to the commitments acquired.
- Contribute with an annual fee between €3500 to € 1500 for private companies¹; €250 for Ngo's

¹ Fees for private companies: € 3500 for companies with turnover > 50 million euro
€ 2500 for companies with turnover between 50 million and 20 million euro
€ 1500 for those with turnover < 20 million euro.

- Perform an adequate due diligence of their suppliers to assure that purchased spices and herbs have been traded and processed in compliance with laws and regulations of the country of origin.
- Active participation in SSI any of the committees (Steering, Standards, Membership & Impact), working groups, etc.
- Attend SSI Member's meetings twice a year (a General Assembly in the first half of the year, and meeting late in fall).
- Learn and share knowledge with other SSI members and, engage other key industry stakeholders.

Becoming a member: step by step

Interest

1. Express your interest by reaching out to the Spices team at IDH (contact details at the bottom of this email) or/and with a member of the SSI memberships committee.
2. IDH will share pre-reading material on SSI (SSI's: General presentation; Covenant 2025; Governance document; Letter of Intent template)
3. An intake call will take place with IDH to clarify doubts/questions on the documents.

Application

4. If the company/organization decides to formally apply for the SSI membership, the company is required to write a motivation letter addressed to the **SSI memberships committee**, that contains:
 - a. Brief introduction to the company/organization
 - b. Experience and/or interest of working in sustainability
 - c. Motivation to become an SSI member
 - d. What is expected to receive/learn from SSI
 - e. What is the company's added value to SSI
5. Upon reception of the letter, IDH will arrange a 30 min interview with the Memberships Committee (M.C).

Decision and formalization

6. The M.C. will advise the Steering Committee, who decides on the membership on the candidate company/organization.
7. The candidate is announced to all current SSI members, whom as a membership's right, will have one week to object on the new candidate.
8. If there are not objections from the members, the Membership is confirmed and announced to the candidate.
9. Formalities after confirmation: signing a Letter of Intent and uploading the company's logos to the SSI website.

Interested? Get in touch with us:

Dannely Carvajal, Program Officer Spices (carvajal@idhtrade.org) and/or

Jan Gilhuis, Senior Program Manager (gilhuis@idhtrade.org).