

INFORMATION SHEET FOR SUPPLIERS



The
Sustainable Juice
Covenant

About the Sustainable Juice Covenant

Launched in 2017, the Sustainable Juice Covenant (SJC) is committed to driving sustainable change in juice supply chains across the globe. The SJC, hosted by IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, brings together actors from the complete juice supply chain – including juice producers, bottlers, traders, brands and retailers, as well as civil society organizations.

The SJC members have committed to a joint target of 100% sustainable juice volumes by 2030. Progress against this target is evaluated on an annual basis through a third-party monitoring process. To reach this common objective, the SJC members have agreed on following a joint definition and approach on sustainable sourcing.

A common approach on sustainability

The SJC's definition of sustainability is based on widely recognized sustainability schemes. Sustainability certifications and standards verify farming and

production practices on key sustainability criteria with the aim of monitoring and driving improvement over time. Under the SJC, juice products are considered sustainable if they meet social and environmental criteria along the entire supply chain – at farm level as well as at processing and bottling level.

Key motivation of the covenant is to use preferred sustainability schemes rather than coming up with yet another standard. However, ensuring a certain level of assurance is crucial. Therefore, benchmarks are used. Standards that have gone through a benchmarking process and that are found to be equivalent are accepted by SJC members.

By using a benchmark and therefore accepting a range of equivalent standards, the SJC is aiming to drive harmonization on an international level, to support alignment of market requirements to best practices and to promote transparency and comparability.

The broad choice of standards ultimately results in higher efficiency, lower costs, and less audit duplications. The SJC is regularly reviewing these baskets of standards to ensure a wide variety of approved standards.



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TARGET OF *100% sustainable*
juice volumes by 2030.

SJC targets for sustainable juice volumes

JANUARY 1st
2018

15%

JANUARY 1st
2020

30%

JANUARY 1st
2025

75%

JANUARY 1st
2030

100%



SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THE WHOLE SUPPLY CHAIN



[More info](#)

What is sustainable at farm-level?

At farm level, SJC uses the [Farm Sustainability Assessment \(FSA\)](#) tool from the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) platform as benchmark reference. The FSA is a self-assessment tool covering social and environmental criteria, and includes three levels: bronze, silver and gold. For results to be accepted by the SJC, independent third-party verification of the results is required.

Under the SJC, we recognize FSA bronze level or higher as sustainable at farm-level as well as other standards that have been benchmarked as equivalent to FSA bronze level or higher. A list of benchmarked standards for download can be found [here](#) under 'FSA benchmarking results'.

What is sustainable when it comes to processing, blending, and bottling?

At the processing, blending, and bottling levels, a valid social certification or audit report from a SJC approved standard is required.

Standards that have successfully been benchmarked against the Global Social Compliance Program (GSCP)

and have been recognized as level B equivalent are approved up until the end of 2023.

After that date, SJC will use the [Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative \(SSCI\) benchmark](#) as a reference.

The following standards are accepted at processing level under the SJC until the end of 2023:

For ETI/SMETA and BSCI, the following additional requirements are applicable under the SJC:

ETI/SMETA: Minor non-conformities are acceptable under the SJC. A SMETA certification is considered valid for three years following an audit. Juice volumes originating from a facility that has major or critical non-conformities are not acceptable under the SJC unless these have been corrected during the agreed remediation period* and a follow-up audit shows that these issues have been closed.

BSCI: Scores A, B and C are acceptable under the SJC. Audits are either valid for 1 year (score C) or 2 years (score A or B). Scores D, E and zero-tolerances are not acceptable under the SJC, unless the non-compliances have been remediated according to the corrective action plan and a follow-up audit changes the score to either an A, B or C.

*A remediation period in SMETA takes up to 90 days. Exceptions to this are possible in case of a force majeure or issues needing more time (e.g. capex). In case of the latter this must be documented by the auditee and approved by the auditor.

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