



An overview of the

Bonsucro Production Standard for Smallholder Farmers

Smallholder farmers are the crucial foundation of many sugarcane supply chains around the world. To date, the participation of smallholders in the Bonsucro certification process has been limited. Considering the beneficial impact of sustainability for smallholder farmers and their dependent supply chains, Bonsucro embarked on a review of the Bonsucro Production Standard in the smallholder context.

The Smallholder Standard has been designed to support the uptake of the Bonsucro Principles and Criteria for sustainable sugarcane farming.

Development Process

Bonsucro is a full member of the ISEAL Alliance and conducted the process of standards revision in accordance with the ISEAL Standard Setting Code with input from membership, global stakeholders, the Smallholder Steering Committee, and the Bonsucro Technical Advisory Board.

Audience

- Sugarcane producers who wish to achieve certification and meet the definition of smallholder farmers
- Bonsucro Licensed Certification Bodies to Conduct Audits
- Global Sugarcane Sector (public standard)

Scope of the Standard

The Bonsucro Production Standard for Smallholder Farmers covers environmental, social, and economic sustainability with performance-based indicators, specifically designed for application to sugarcane production.



Environmental



Social



Economic

How it relates to the Production Standard

From the beginning of the development process, the review of the Bonsucro Production Standard for the smallholder context was not intended as a reduction of the Standard. There are non-core indicators that have been removed, but the scope of the core indicators has remained the same, ensuring Bonsucro certified farms mean, for example, compliance with ILO conventions, no use of banned agrochemicals, and environmental and health and safety plans are in action. However, there are new requirements added in Principle 7 that are specific for smallholder farmers.

Reporting Tools

Farm Group Calculator:

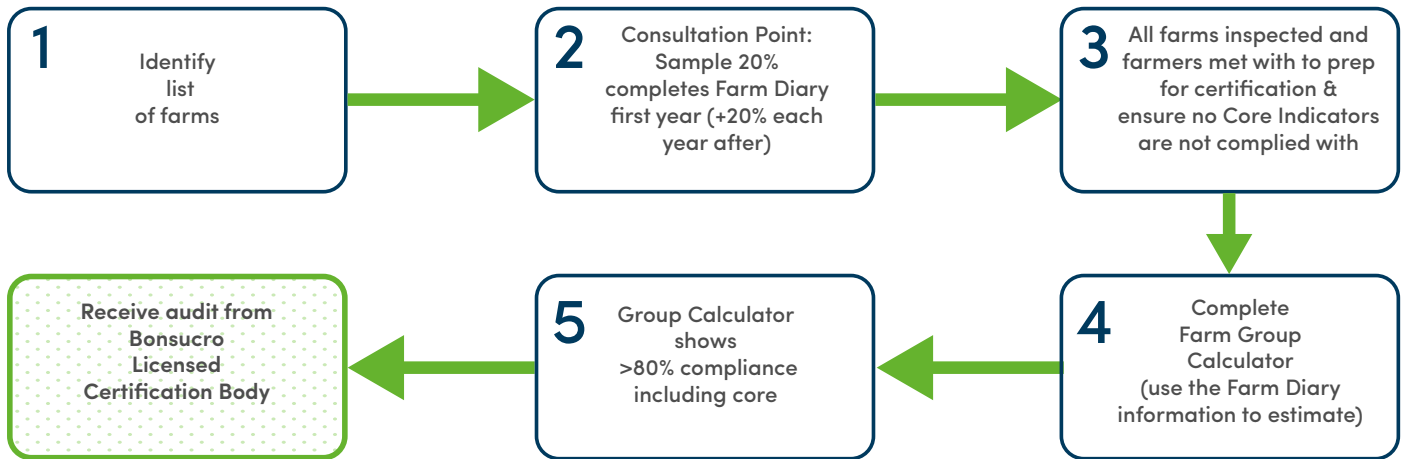
This is the calculator used for compliance. For now, the excel version must be used. One group calculator (farm association or the mill if the mill's cane extension team is leading the process) must be completed.

Farm Diary:

Bonsucro has provided a template that can be adapted for local understanding as long as 'essential' information is captured which is used for estimating compliance on non-core indicators for the group. This is explained in the *new* Principle 7, Organisation of Farmers. The farm diary can be adapted to platforms such as apps or existing data collection platforms to enable uptake.



Farm Group Steps to Certification



Summary of Changes



PRINCIPLE 1: Obey the law

Land/water right provisions, legal compliance



PRINCIPLE 2: Respect human rights and labour standards

ILO Convention implementation, clarified applicability to waged and/or family labour and added sector specific definitions on hazardous work



PRINCIPLE 3: Manage input, production and processing efficiencies to enhance sustainability

Yield indicator and removed data-heavy 'footprint' indicators (can still be calculated as main contributors are still collected)



PRINCIPLE 4 - Actively manage biodiversity and ecosystem services

Environmental impact and management plan topics consolidated (five categories and now includes use of IPM), no change on agrochemical fertiliser application indicators



PRINCIPLE 5 - Continuously improve key areas of the business

Streamlined indicators requiring data collection, focus on extension services and total cost instead of R&D investment



PRINCIPLE 6 - EU RED

The Bonsucro Production Standard for Smallholder Farmers cannot be used to demonstrate compliance with the EU Renewable Energy Directive. If farms wish to demonstrate compliance with the EU Renewable Energy Directive scope, please use the Bonsucro Production Standard. If you have feedback on this restriction, please contact Bonsucro (info@bonsucro.com).



PRINCIPLE 7 - Organisation of farmers (NEW!)

Group management, stepwise farm diary and training provision, extension services, internal inspections

