

Bonsucro's Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. The SDGs aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all people by 2030.

The goals integrate social, economic, and environmental sustainability and cover topics such as health, education, gender equality, climate action, and more.

Creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context. Many organisations refer to the sustainable development goals in their impact reporting because it is such a well-recognised framework used by local, national and international agencies.

Bonsucro and the SDGs

Bonsucro contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals via the Bonsucro **Code of Conduct** for Members, the requirements that our **Standards** place on sugarcane producers to achieve Bonsucro Certification, and Bonsucro's wider activities described in the Bonsucro **Strategic Plan**.

Within each SDG there are targets and indicators describing interventions and approaches that help achieve the goals. Many of Bonsucro's requirements for membership and certification align with specific SDG targets and indicators.



How does Bonsucro contribute?

Code of Conduct

Bonsucro requires all its members to comply with the Bonsucro Code of Conduct, pass our due diligence process, and agree to be bound by Bonsucro's Grievance Mechanism. Members commit to the principles of continuous improvement, respect for human rights, and compliance with the law. By embedding this commitment into their operations members contribute to specific targets of the SDGs, with support and influence from Bonsucro to continue improving.

Bonsucro Standards

The Bonsucro Production Standard details the requirements and guidance for sustainable production and milling of sugarcane. Many indicators of the Bonsucro Standard drive action that contributes to specific targets of the SDGs. In order to achieve certification, producers must meet requirements to keep workers safe, respect labour rights, protect natural resources, limit GHG emissions and more.

Our wider activities

Bonsucro is a convening platform, sharing knowledge and engaging diverse actors in the sugarcane sector to tackle complex issues that align with SDG targets. This includes convening the conversation on living wage and promoting implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business.

Bonsucro strongly contributes to 11 SDGs (see pages 4-11 for details):

- 2 – Zero hunger
- 3 – Good health and wellbeing
- 5 – Gender equality
- 6 – Clean water and sanitation
- 8 – Decent work and economic growth
- 10 – Reduced inequalities
- 12 – Responsible consumption and production
- 13 – Climate action
- 15 – Life on land
- 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17 – Partnerships for the goals

Bonsucro indirectly contributes to four SDGs (see page 12-15 for details):

- 1 – No poverty
- 7 – Affordable and clean energy
- 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 14 – Life below water

SDG 4 (education) and SDG 11 (cities) are not related to Bonsucro activities.

Certified operators and the SDGs

Bonsucro-certified **producers that are fully compliant** with the Bonsucro Production Standard version 5.2 contribute towards ten SDGs:

- 2 – Zero hunger
- 3 – Good health and wellbeing
- 5 – Gender equality
- 6 – Clean water and sanitation
- 8 – Decent work and economic growth
- 10 – Reduced inequalities
- 12 – Responsible consumption and production
- 13 – Climate action
- 15 – Life on land
- 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

Suppliers that purchase Bonsucro-certified material support the systems that recognize and reward operators' efforts and contributions to sustainability and the SDGs.

SDG Targets

Connections to Bonsucro explained

Each sustainable development goal has a suite of associated targets. Each target has indicators. [Click here for details.](#)

Here we describe which targets align with Bonsucro's work and/or certification.

Operators that are fully compliant with the Bonsucro Production Standard version 5.2 contribute to targets within 10 different SDGs. Operator compliance with the Bonsucro Standard is independently verified by licensed certification bodies.

SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER



TARGET 2-3

DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS

The Bonsucro Smallholder Standard includes guidance to enhance both sustainability and productivity of sugarcane, and thereby income to smallholder farmers. It also promotes economic sustainability (criterion 5.9).

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires mills to respect contract terms for cane payments to farmers including smallholders (core indicator 1.3.2) and sets requirements for worker salaries to be sufficient to achieve an adequate standard of living (criterion 2.2).



TARGET 2-4

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

The Bonsucro Production Standard includes criteria and guidance to support resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, promote water stewardship, and progressively improve land and soil quality.

The Standard also requires that risks and impacts are systematically assessed (criterion 1.2) and sustainability management plans are implemented (criterion 1.1).

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



TARGET 3-4

REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

The Bonsucro Production Standard has several indicators around occupational health and safety to protect and promote worker health and wellbeing. There is a specific requirement that hazards are identified, managed and communicated. This includes occupational risks, environmental risks, heat stress, and pre-existing medical, mental and cognitive health issues (indicator 2.1.1 and 2.1.2).

Bonsucro specifically promotes the work of the Adelante Initiative to address the prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease among cane cutters.



TARGET 3-9

REDUCE ILLNESSES AND DEATH FROM HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND POLLUTION

The Bonsucro Production Standard has several indicators around occupational health and safety and controlled use of legal and safe chemicals. These include a requirement to provide a healthy and safe working environment (criterion 2.1), including the free provision and use of appropriate PPE (core indicator 2.1.4). It requires operators to manage safe storage and disposal of chemicals (core indicator 4.5.1) and to train workers on correct handling of chemicals, fuel and hazardous waste (indicator 4.5.2).

The Standard requires operators to limit harm from pollution by carrying out risk assessments, minimizing the detrimental effects of waste discharge into waterways (indicator 4.3.6) and complying with legislation on air emissions from boilers (indicator 5.2.1).

SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY



TARGET 5-1

END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Recognising the equal rights of workers, including women and girls, the Bonsucro Production Standard states: The operator ensures that workers do not suffer from discrimination, for all workers on the premises included in the unit of certification. (Core indicator 2.3.1)



TARGET 5-5

ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

The Bonsucro Production Standard encourages continuous improvement of worker welfare, including community-based women's-empowerment training and recruitment operations to promote women's presence in management and skilled positions (indicator 5.4.1).

SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



TARGET 6-3

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

The Bonsucro Production Standard has several indicators around water issues, including identifying risks to water quality in the watershed (core indicator 1.2.3), developing and implementing a Water Stewardship Plan (core indicator 4.3.2), and minimising detrimental effects of waste discharge into receiving streams (indicator 4.3.6).

The Standard also requires that workers have on-site access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities (core indicator 2.1.3).



TARGET 6-4

INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires that each operator develops and implements a Water Stewardship Plan (core indicator 4.3.2). Operators are also asked to maximise and report on water efficiency per mass of product (indicator 4.3.4) and maximise irrigation productivity (indicator 4.3.5).



TARGET 6-5

IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Bonsucro Production Standard asks operators to map local water initiatives and list organisations involved in water management. Also to engage in collaborative actions with other water users, government and civil society in catchment or aquifer water planning and management, including how to allocate water equitably and without conflict, especially where water resources are stressed (indicator 4.3.3).

SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



TARGET 8-4

IMPROVE RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Bonsucro’s Strategic Aims include “improve the environmental impact of sugarcane” and “create value across the supply chain”. To support this, the Bonsucro Production Standard includes many indicators around minimizing environmental degradation, while also maximising economic stability by adding value per tonne of cane (indicator 5.1.1).



TARGET 8-7

END MODERN SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to ensure that workers do not suffer from forced labour, abuse, harassment and violence (core indicators 1.2.3, 2.3.2, and 2.3.3). Operators must ensure that there is no child labour (core indicator 2.3.4). The Standard also requires operators to uphold the labour rights of all workers (principle 2).

Bonsucro also actively promotes among the Bonsucro Members Network the ‘UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights’.



TARGET 8-8

PROTECT LABOUR RIGHTS AND PROMOTE SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS

The Bonsucro Production Standard Principle 2 “respect labour rights & occupational health and safety standards” contributes directly to this SDG target. Principle 2 includes 17 core and 6 non-core indicators including a requirement to ensure all workers have contracts (core indicator 2.2.1), and health & safety risks to workers are managed (core indicator 2.1.2).

SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES



TARGET 10-1

REDUCE INCOME INEQUALITIES

Bonsucro Production Standard criterion 2.2 requires operators “To provide all workers (including migrant, seasonal and other contract labour) with benefits and salary sufficient to achieve an adequate standard of living” (indicators 2.2.1 to 2.2.6).

Bonsucro also actively convenes Members on the topic of Living Wage, and is working in partnership to pilot more work in this area. Adoption of Living Wage in the sugarcane industry, and greater sharing of responsibility within the supply chain would contribute to reducing income inequality.



TARGET 10-3

ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND END DISCRIMINATION

Recognising the equal rights of workers, the Bonsucro Production Standard states: “The operator ensures that workers do not suffer from discrimination, for all workers on the premises included in the unit of certification.” (Core indicator 2.3.1)



TARGET 10-4

ADOPT FISCAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES THAT PROMOTES EQUALITY

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to develop and implement a Sustainability Management Plan that includes a suite of policies including those that promote human rights and other social policies (core indicator 1.1.1).

The Standard includes an aspirational indicator encouraging operators to “benchmark prevailing wages for direct workers” in line with the Living Wage methodology, and update every three years or in line with company policies (indicator 2.2.6).

Bonsucro also actively convenes Members on the topic of Living Wage, and is working in partnership to pilot more work in this area. Adoption and action on Living Wage can contribute towards greater equality.

SDG 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



TARGET 12-2

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Bonsucro Production Standard includes many indicators around managing the use, protection and restoration of natural resources including soil and water, biodiversity and high conservation value areas (principle 4, indicators 4.1.1-4.3.6).

The Standard requires that all operators develop and implements a Sustainability Management Plan (core indicator 1.1.1).



TARGET 12-4

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE

The Bonsucro Production Standard includes the following indicators around the responsible management of chemicals and waste: The operator maximises the efficiency of agrochemicals applied (core indicator 4.4.3). The operator only applies legal and safe agrochemicals (core indicator 4.4.4). The operator safely manages storage facilities and safely disposes of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, other hazardous materials and their containers (core indicator 4.5.1). The operator trains workers on the handling and correct use of farm chemicals, fuel and hazardous materials (indicator 4.5.2). The operator recycles or safely disposes of non-production waste (indicator 5.2.2).



TARGET 12-5

SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE GENERATION

The Bonsucro Production Standard asks operators to have a Waste Management Plan and implement a recycling/reuse/safe and responsible disposal/storage programme for major categories of waste (indicator 5.2.2).



TARGET 12-6

ENCOURAGE COMPANIES TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to develop and implement a Sustainability Management Plan that includes objectives and targets, to comply with the Bonsucro Production Standard (core indicator 1.1.1). Certification against the Bonsucro Standard requires monitoring and annual reporting of sustainability metrics.

Through the Bonsucro Code of Conduct for Members, all Bonsucro Members are encouraged to annually share examples of their sustainability reporting and evidence of continuous improvement on sustainability.

SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION



TARGET 13-1

STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY TO CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to conduct a climate risk assessment, and ensures that a Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Plan is in place and Implemented (core indicator 3.2.1)



TARGET 13-3

BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY TO MEET CLIMATE CHANGE

Through requirements in the Bonsucro Production Standard to plan, monitor and report on Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience, operators and supply chains are building their knowledge about their own operations and climate change impacts. They are also able to use the Bonsucro Calculator to generate data about their greenhouse gas emissions from sugarcane production and processing.

Throughout the supply chain, Bonsucro promotes the importance of climate action, shares knowledge on climate change considerations for the sugarcane sector and provides opportunities for members to engage in collective action. Opportunities include projects funded by Bonsucro Impact Fund and learning events.

SDG15 – LIFE ON LAND



TARGET 15-5

PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HABITATS

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires that operators develop and implement a Biodiversity Management Plan that addresses threats and impacts that the cane production has on biodiversity, ecosystem services and High Conservation Value (HCVs) areas, identifying mitigation and restoration measures that must be taken (core indicator 4.1.2).



TARGET 15.3

**END DESERTIFICATION
AND RESTORE
DEGRADED LAND**

The Bonsucro Production Standard asks operators to protect and rehabilitate biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as maintain and enhance HCVs (criterion 4.1, indicators 4.1.1 to 4.1.4). The Standard also requires operators to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan to avoid erosion, and maintain and improve soil health (core indicator 4.2.2).



TARGET 15.2

**END DEFORESTATION
AND RESTORE
DEGRADED FORESTS**

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires that no areas of natural ecosystem are converted to agriculture, including forests. (core indicators 4.1.3 and 4.1.4)

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



TARGET 16.7

**ENSURE RESPONSIVE,
INCLUSIVE AND
REPRESENTATIVE
DECISION-MAKING**

Inclusivity is central to Bonsucro's identity as a multi-stakeholder initiative with a global membership drawn from all parts of the sugarcane sector with an interest in sustainability. Our governance and operations seek to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to map internal, external and vulnerable stakeholders, and elaborate an Engagement Plan for these stakeholders (core indicator 1.2.1). The Standard also asks operators to promote consultation and information exchange between and amongst employers and workers' organisations through social dialogue, for all workers on the premises included in the unit of certification (indicator 2.4.2).



TARGET 16.B

**PROMOTE AND
ENFORCE
NON-DISCRIMINATORY
LAWS AND POLICIES**

The Bonsucro Production Standard includes the following indicators to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies: The operator has a system in place to ensure compliance with all applicable local, national and ratified international laws and regulations (core indicator 1.3.1). The operator ensures that there is a mechanism to raise grievances (core indicator 1.4.2). The operator ensures that workers do not suffer from discrimination, abuse, harassment and/or violence (core indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2).



TARGET 17-16

ENHANCE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration is a core principle of Bonsucro, and partnership for sustainable development is embedded in our strategy and our ways of working.

We encourage Bonsucro Members to collaborate and work in partnership to address sustainable development. For example, project grants available via the Bonsucro impact Fund are only eligible for organisations working in partnership.

Also, the Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to map internal, external and vulnerable stakeholders, and elaborate an Engagement Plan for these stakeholders (core indicator 1.2.1).

Indirect contributions to SDG Targets

Bonsucro and Bonsucro-certified operators indirectly contribute to the following SDG targets.

Contributions come from wider impacts associated with the requirements of the Bonsucro Standards, influencing systemic change in the sugarcane sector, and developing new work prioritized within the current Bonsucro Strategic Plan 2021-2026.

SDG 1 – NO POVERTY



TARGET 1.2

REDUCE POVERTY BY AT LEAST 50%

Bonsucro's Smallholder Standard, and work to boost inclusion of smallholders in sustainable supply chains, helps farmers in developing countries on their sustainability journey. Although poverty alleviation is not a tracked impact of Bonsucro, more productive and resilient crops are likely to contribute to increased household incomes and reduced poverty among smallholder farmer communities.

The Bonsucro Production Standard sets requirements for salaries to be sufficient to achieve an adequate standard of living (criterion 2.2). This has potential to reduce poverty among sugarcane workers by ensuring fair payment for their work.

Bonsucro also actively convenes Members on the topic of Living Wage and is working in partnership to pilot more work in this area. Adoption of Living Wage in the sugarcane industry would contribute to reducing poverty among sugarcane workers and their communities.



TARGET 1.4

EQUAL RIGHTS TO OWNERSHIP, BASIC SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to map and engage with vulnerable stakeholders, (Core indicator 1.2.1). Also that use of land and water resources does not diminish the legal, customary or user rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (criterion 2.5)

SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER



TARGET 2.A

INVEST IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND GENE BANKS

Bonsucro engages with actors throughout the supply chain to motivate shared responsibility for the costs of sustainable production. This includes enhanced cooperation and investment in extension services, training and technology that benefit small scale agricultural production.

The Bonsucro Impact Fund supports projects that address critical sustainability challenges in the sugarcane sector. This has included grants to test agricultural technologies in new settings and roll out innovative approaches. Each project aims to identify value, build partnerships, and build an evidence base for scaling up successful interventions.

SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



TARGET 7-2

INCREASE GLOBAL PERCENTAGE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Sugarcane-derived renewable fuels are emerging as an alternative to fossil fuels. Certification via the Bonsucro Production Standard and EU-RED Standard can assist biofuel companies to trade with renewable energy markets around the world. A drive for continuous improvement and sharing best practice can also support sugar mills to become net exporters of electricity from renewable sources e.g. bagasse.



TARGET 7-3

DOUBLE THE IMPROVEMENT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In the production of ethanol from sugarcane (commonly used for biofuel) the Bonsucro Production Standard asks that operators maximise the energy return on energy invested. i.e. the ratio between the energy delivered by ethanol and the energy invested in the production of the ethanol shall be greater than 7. (indicator 3.2.5)

SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



TARGET 9-3

INCREASE ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS

As described in Bonsucro's current strategy, engaging with financial institutions is a key activity we are developing to create more inclusive and sustainable value chains, and add value across the sugarcane supply chain. This supports SDG target 9.3 to increase small-scale enterprises' access to financial services and affordable credit.



TARGET 9-4

UPGRADE ALL INDUSTRIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

In order to comply with the Bonsucro Production Standard and our principles of continuous improvement, many Bonsucro-certified industries do invest in upgraded infrastructure and adopt clean technologies to achieve greater efficiency and sustainability.

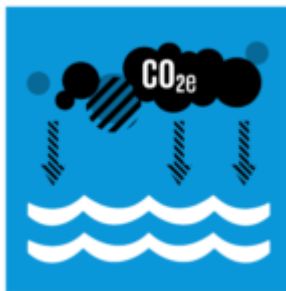
SDG 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER



TARGET 14-1

REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

Bonsucro does not have specific rules about marine pollution, but the Bonsucro Standard has clear indicators around ensuring water quality, minimising pollution, and protecting biodiversity. Many island nations and coastal regions produce sugarcane, and so compliance with Bonsucro Standards in such regions will help to reduce nutrient pollution of marine zones.



TARGET 14-3

REDUCE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Coastal acidification includes local changes in water chemistry from freshwater river inputs and excess nutrient run-off (e.g. nitrogen and organic carbon) from land. The Bonsucro Standard has indicators to avoid excessive use of fertilisers and agrochemicals and minimize the detrimental effects of waste discharge into receiving streams (indicator 4.3.6).

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS



TARGET 16-2

PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE

The requirements of the Bonsucro Production Standard addresses the risks of child labour, forced labour, and freedom from abuse, harassment and/or violence for all (core indicators 1.2.3, 2.3.2 and 2.3.4). The combination of these requirements serves to contribute to this SDG target.



TARGET 16-3

PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW AND ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Bonsucro Production Standard requires operators to have a system in place to ensure compliance with all applicable local, national and ratified international laws and regulations (core indicator 1.3.1). Also to have an accessible grievance mechanism in place (core indicator 1.4.2).

Similarly, the Bonsucro Code of Conduct requires all Members to conduct their operations in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (clause 3.3) and all Members are encouraged to establish grievance mechanisms as part of their continuous improvement on human rights.

Reference info and graphics sources:

[Bonsucro-Production-Standard-V5.2-July-2023-ENG.pdf](#)

[Code of Conduct - Bonsucro](#)

[THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#)

[SDG 1: Targets and Indicators – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 2: Targets and Indicators – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 3: Targets and Indicators – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 4: Targets and Indicators – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 5: Targets and Indicators – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 6: Targets and Indicators – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 7: Targets and Indicators – Sustaining Development](#)

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[SDG 17: Targets and Indicators relate to Finance – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 17: Targets and Indicators related to Technology and Capacity Building – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 17: Targets and Indicators related to Trade – Sustaining Development](#)

[SDG 17: Targets and Indicators related to Systemic Issues – Sustaining Development](#)