SAFA

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS

The New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard' Stakeholders Workshop
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DRIVERS FOR SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING: INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT AND RESPONSES

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TODAY'S SUSTAINABILITY LANDSCAPE

- ITC's Standards Map documents 170 sustainability standards, codes of conduct and protocols addressing sustainability hotspots in global supply chains
- More than 3 000 global firms regularly issue reports on their social and environmental practices according to own codes or cross-industry codes
- The recognized value of holistic metrics for sustainability has sharply increased recently, as evidenced by the growing number of organizations shifting to impact assessment tools that maintain cost-effectiveness in data collection and analysis and communicate results in a useful manner to business users
- Although several public institutions (e.g. Inter-American Development Bank) are keen on impact assessment, it is the private sector (e.g. McDonald, Mondelez /Kraft) that are stimulating the demand to understand supply chain sustainability, in response to their shareholders and customers' demand

MARKET DRIVERS AND MORE

- States weakness as a global regulator and the expanding international market sparked the emergence of transnational private regulation for making sense of transgressed borders in a globalized economy

- Fast-changing markets and global value chains require highly technical information that is best managed by private actors, such as retailers

- Inter-state externalities of global public goods - such as CO_2 emissions, food safety, financial stability, human rights - entail high transaction costs of cooperation to ensure cross-border effectiveness

- The use of supply chains as instruments of transnational cooperation represents an innovative approach of effective regulation across multiple forms of governance and partnerships in the realm of for food security, environmental safety and human rights

GOVERNANCE ACROSS BOUNDARIES

- Transnational private regulation (TPR) fills the divide between public/private and domestic/international space with new rules (e.g. standards, codes of conduct), practices (e.g. contracts, voluntary agreements) and processes across jurisdictional boundaries, as agreed upon by economic actors and social players

- TPR regulates the conduct of private actors, albeit frequently in collaboration with private entities; most of the time, public actors operate as facilitators, or even promoters, of TPR

- Private governance is not an alternative (but a complement) to international public regulation, as this choice has often backfired (e.g. financial markets)

- TPR has filled gaps when States failed to agree on a common agenda (e.g. environment) but as issues emerge as global policy problems, inclusiveness of schemes' governance is decisive for their legitimacy and hence, effectiveness

THE NEED FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- As TPR spread through global markets, there is need to ensure that these schemes evaluate their practice through adequate measurement tools and a greater use of impact assessment
- TPR's high variability calls upon objective evaluation mechanisms and comprehensive impact assessment in order to evaluate effectiveness: assessment is a means towards higher efficiency and further improvements
- Evaluation is crucial for any scheme legitimacy and in turn, effectiveness, especially when the objectives of stakeholders differ (or even conflict)
- In 2013, FAO released SAFA Guidelines for both ex-ante sustainability assessment and ex-post monitoring, progress-tracking and evaluation of sustainability impacts in the food and agriculture sector

THE JUNGLE OF SUSTAINABILITY CLAIMS

Green labels?

- Climate neutral
- Energy-smart
- Bird-friendly (coffee)
- Dolphin-free (tuna)
- Forest stewardship
- Integrated production
- Green food
- Organic, etc.

Numerous best-practices exist but most are single focused

There is no agreed threshold of what is green, nor scientific agreement (e.g. GHG)

In practice, legal requirements provide the threshold

THE NEED FOR A COMMON LANGUAGE

Production? Processing? Retail?
Environmental? Economic? Social? Governance?
Impact assessment? Certification? Reporting? Planning? Capacity-building?

DIFFERENT TOOLS FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES

Sustainability tools differ in:

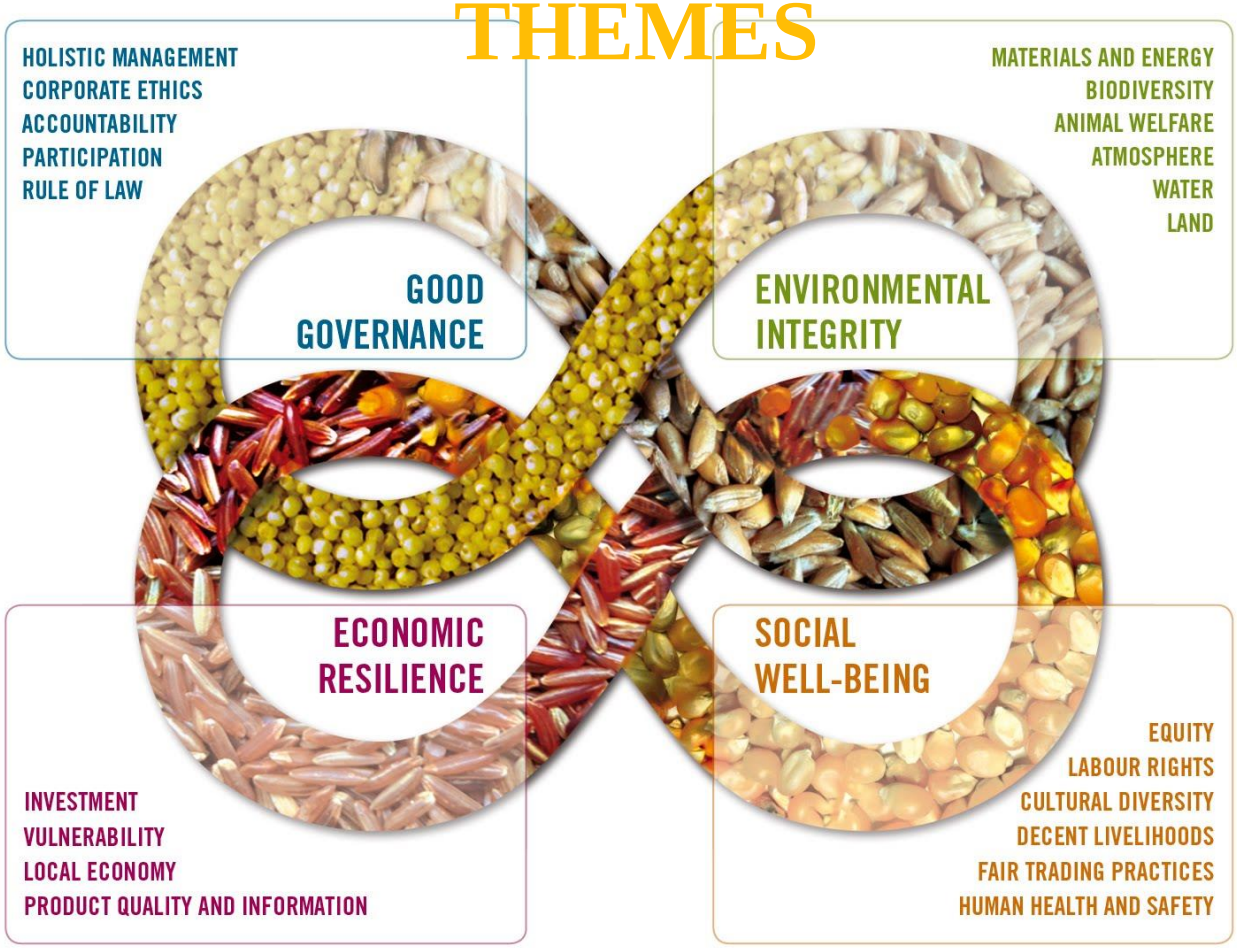
- coverage of supply chain
- coverage of sustainability
- nature of the tool
- scope

SAFA expands upon existing schemes to provide an umbrella-like framework for all, with a sustainability threshold

SAFA

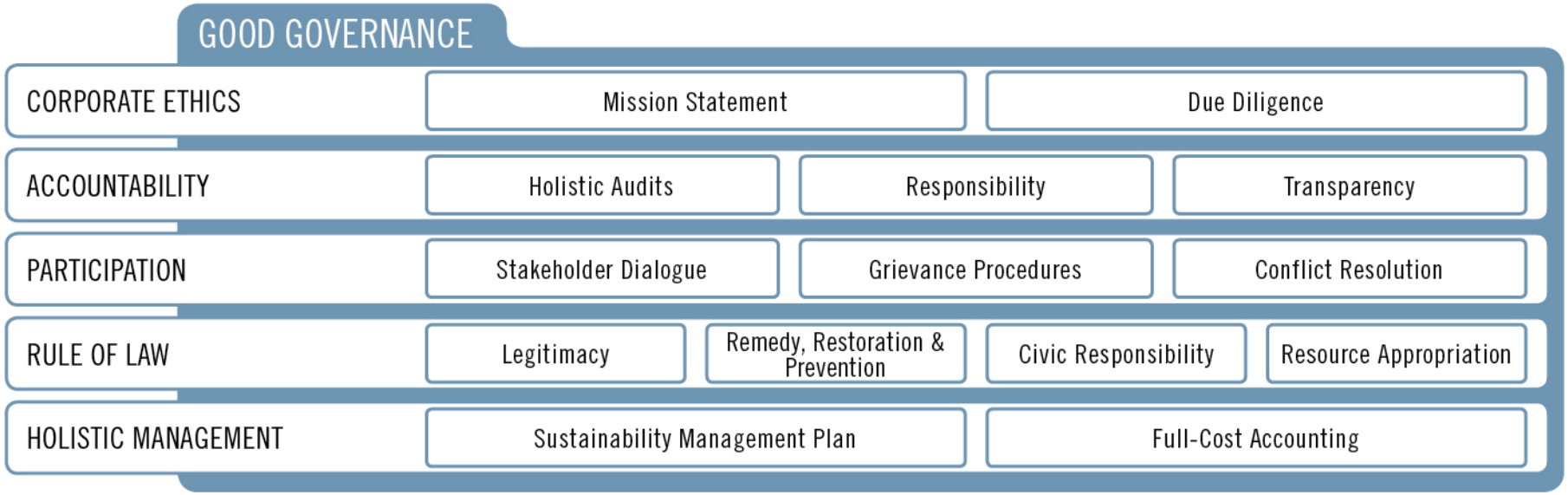
SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS

SUSTAINABILITY DIMENSIONS AND THEMES



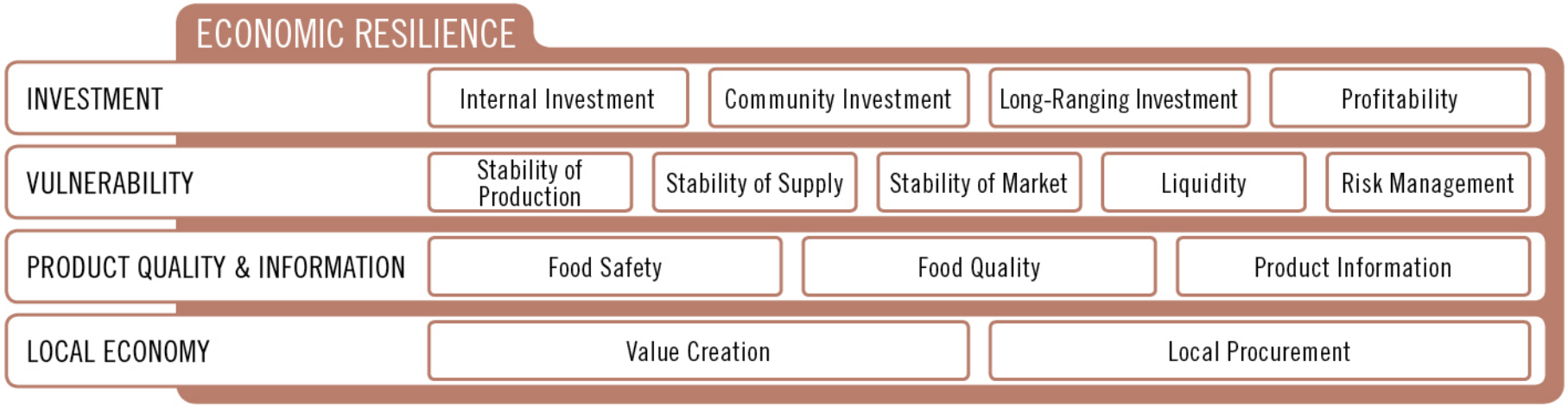
A multi-purpose framework for governments, businesses and NGOs

SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR: GOVERNANCE



SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR: ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR: ECONOMIC



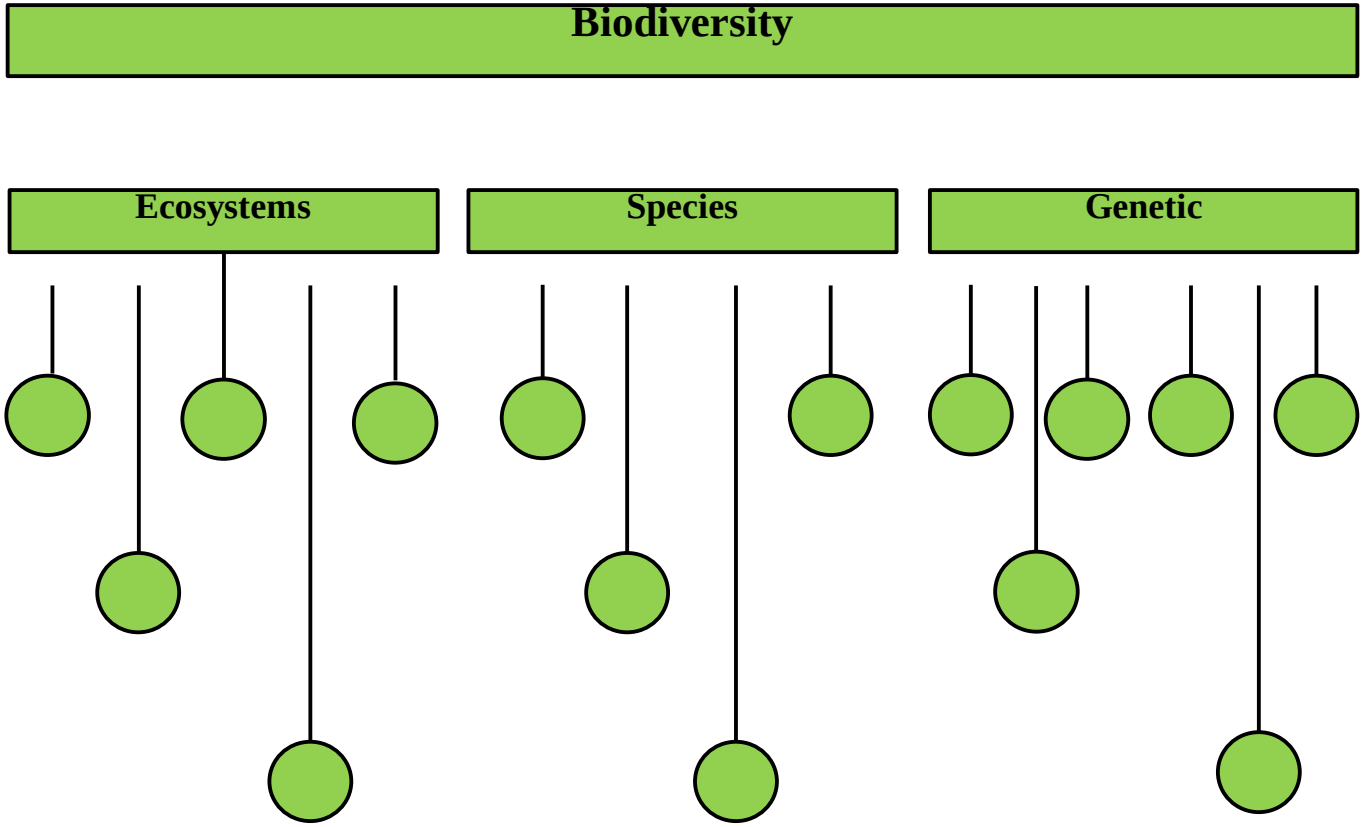
SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR: SOCIAL

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

DECENT LIVELIHOOD	Quality of Life	Capacity Development	Fair Access to Means of Production	
FAIR TRADING PRACTICES	Responsible Buyers	Rights of Suppliers		
LABOUR RIGHTS	Employment Relations	Forced Labour	Child Labour	Freedom of Association and Right to Bargaining
EQUITY	Non Discrimination	Gender Equality	Support to Vulnerable People	
HUMAN SAFETY & HEALTH	Workplace Safety and Health Provisions	Public Health		
CULTURAL DIVERSITY	Indigenous Knowledge	Food Sovereignty		

METRICS FOR AGRI-FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

SAFA METRICS HIERARCHY



← Theme Goal
(e.g. ensure conservation)

←Sub-theme Objective
(e.g. diversity, functional integrity and connectivity of ecosystems conserved)

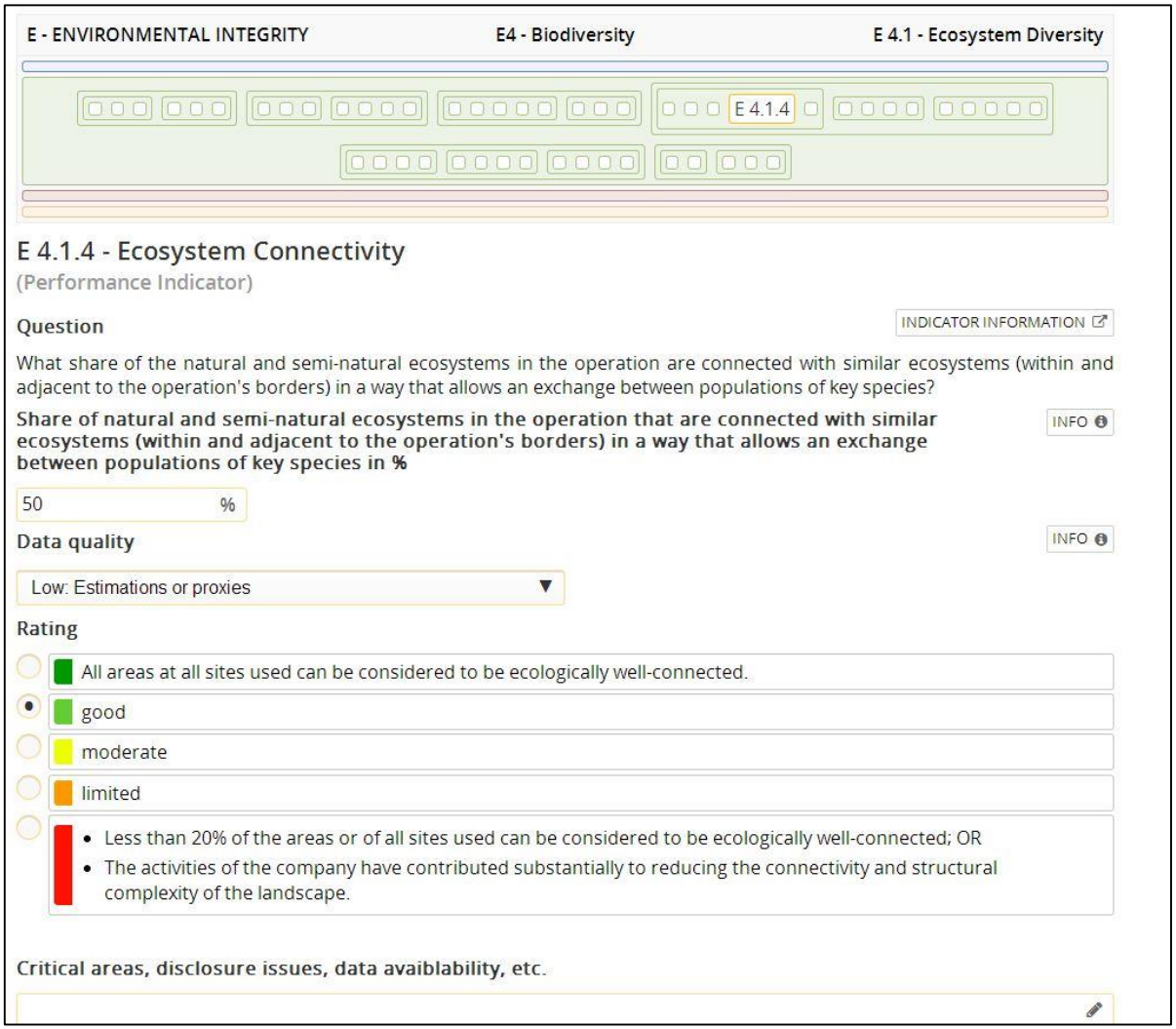
←Performance indicators
(e.g. Land use and land cover change)

←Practice-based indicators
(e.g. ecosystem-enhancing)

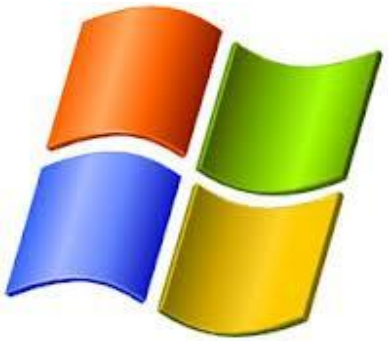
←Target-based indicators
(e.g. landscape cons. plan)

Default (and customized) indicators to fulfill Sub-themes' objectives

METRICS FOR ALL: SAFA TOOL 2.2.40

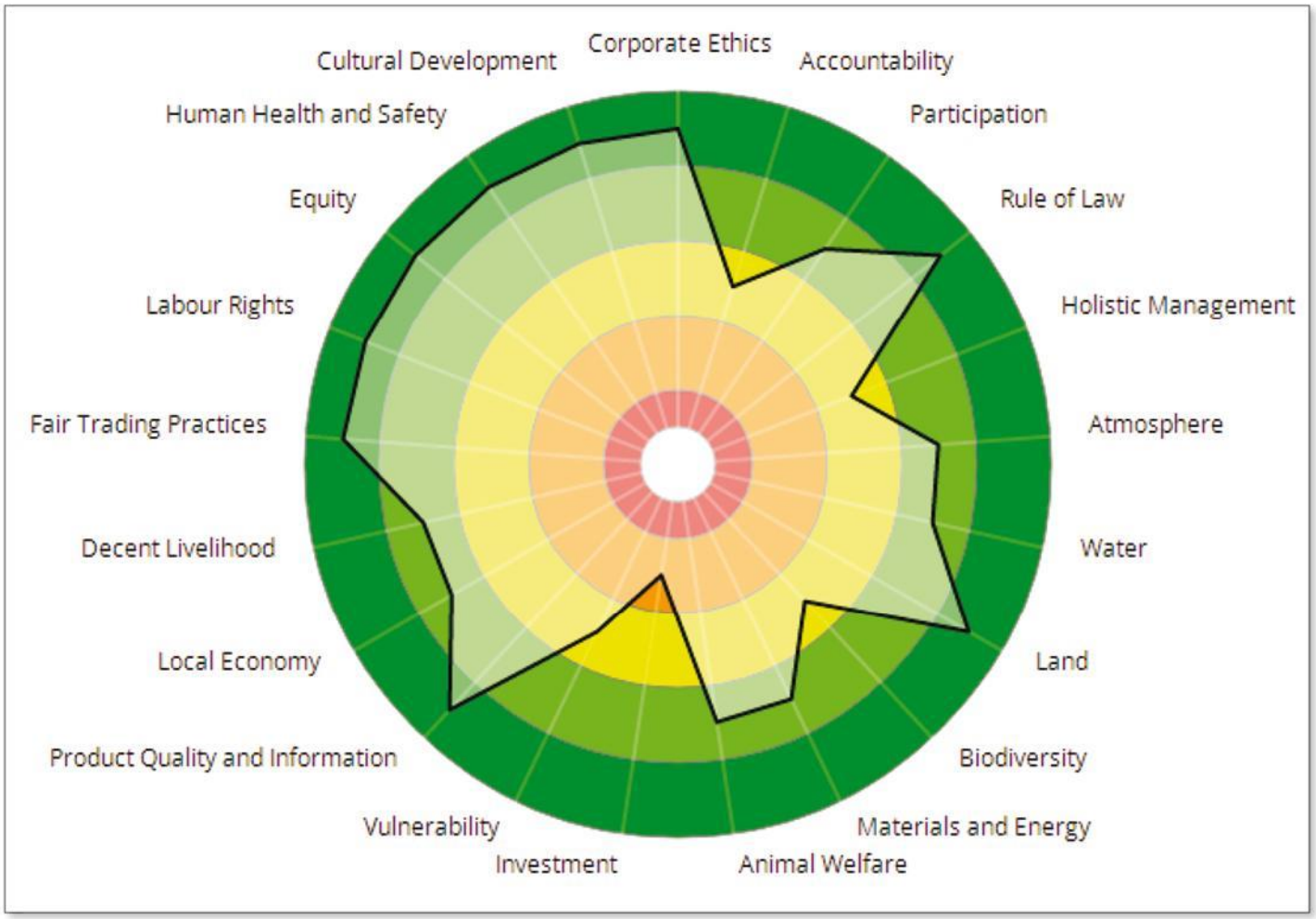


OPEN ACCESS SOFTWARE



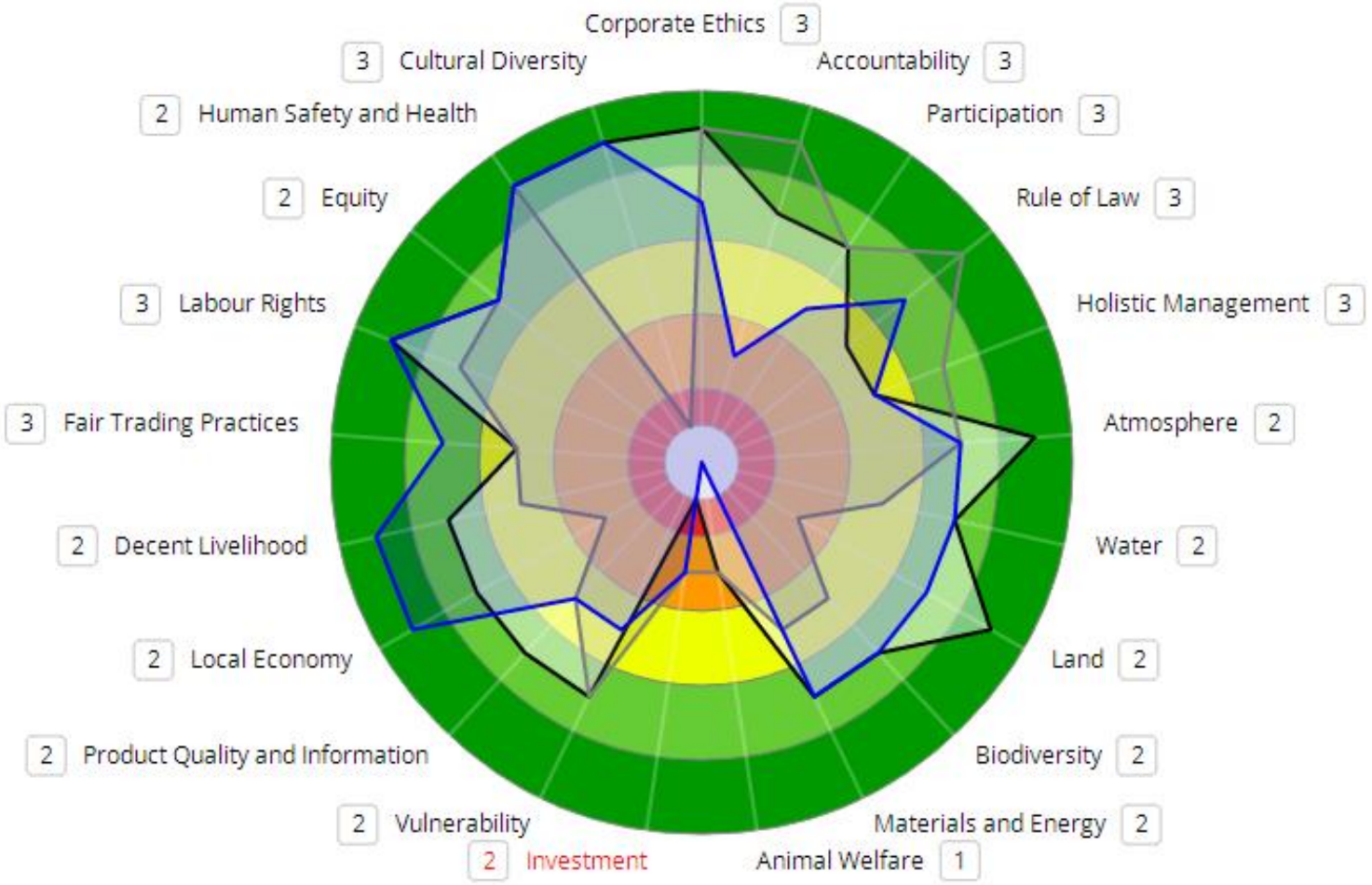
Self-reporting or delegated assessment

A FARMING ENTERPRISE PERFORMANCE



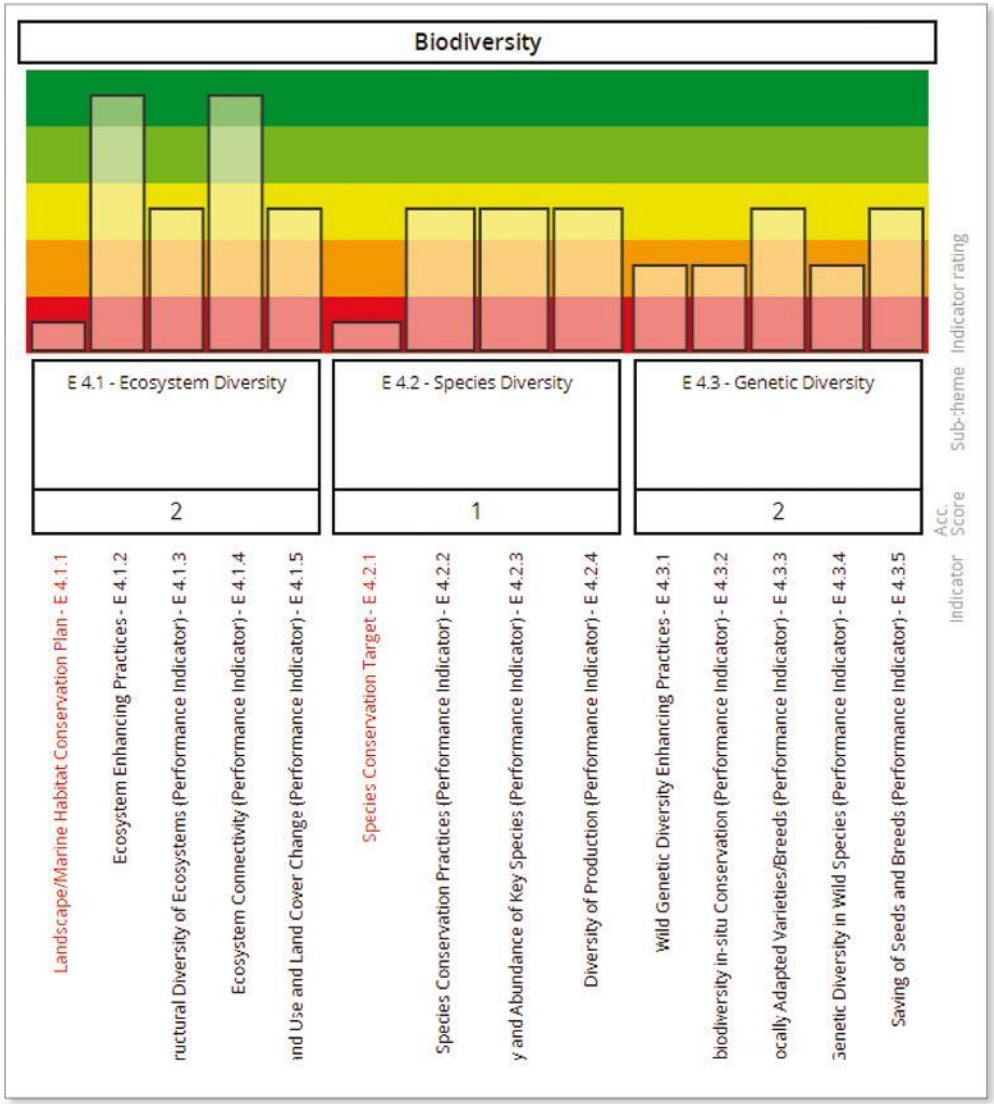
SAFA is NOT an index but an impact assessment tool

A VALUE-CHAIN PERFORMANCE



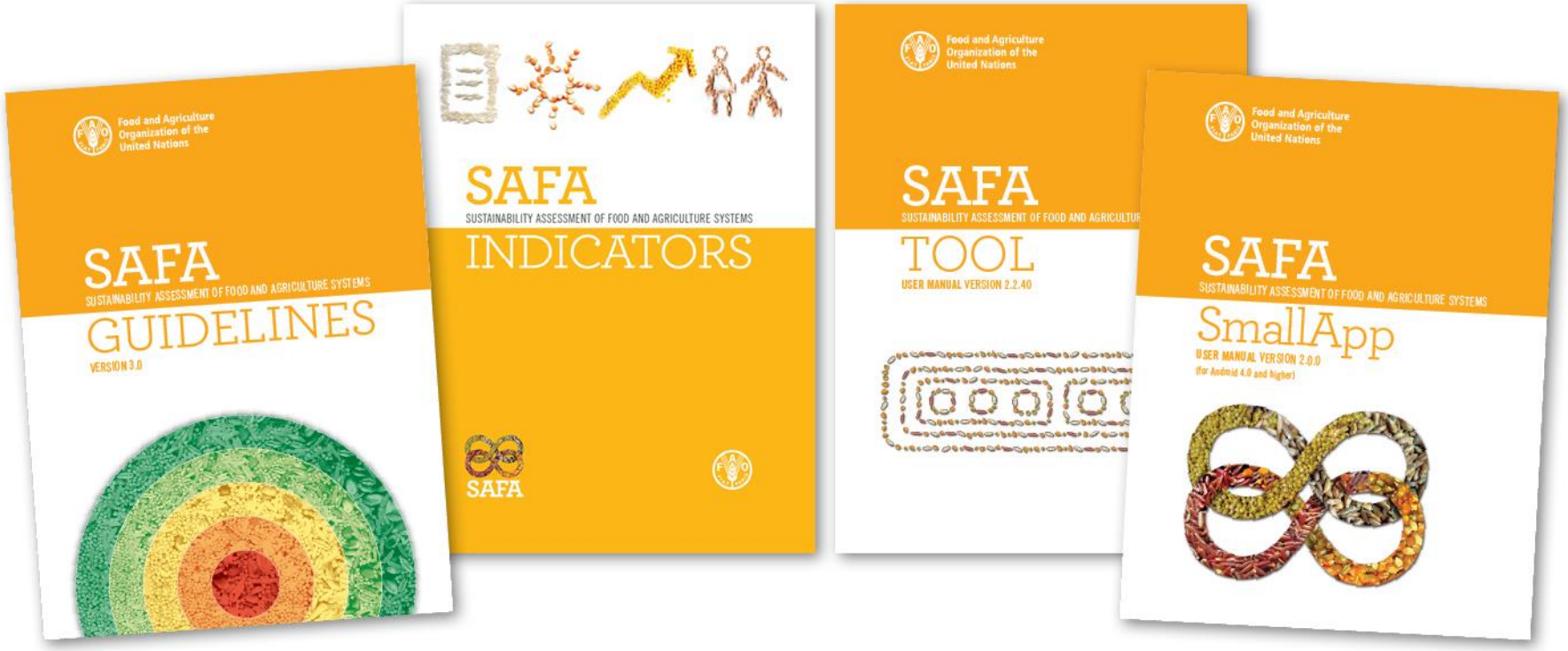
SAFA Tool overlays outcomes of production, processing and marketing

DISAGGREGATED RATING OF A THEME



Visualization of hotspots at the indicator level allows focusing on areas requiring additional knowledge and improvement

SAFA AS A UNIVERSAL REFERENCE



Products and e-training freely available from FAO

SAFA APP FOR SMALLHOLDERS 2.0.0

➢ Developed in 2014, in cooperation with the Committee on Sustainability Assessment (COSA), Grameen Foundation and Soil&More Foundation

➢ A SAFA application for Android cell phones and tablets, tailored for smallholders: lack of capacity, lack of time, lack of data

➢ Targets learning and self-improvement on agricultural small-scale farms

➢ One hour survey, asking up to 100 questions that fulfill 44 indicators for all 21 SAFA themes (instead of 116 Default Indicators of the SAFA Tool)

➢ Generates a traffic light coloured (3 thresholds) SAFA Histogram, unveiling hotspots across SAFA Themes + editable SMS and e-mails with recommendations




SAFA DATABASE

Survey results

Send to database

Feedback

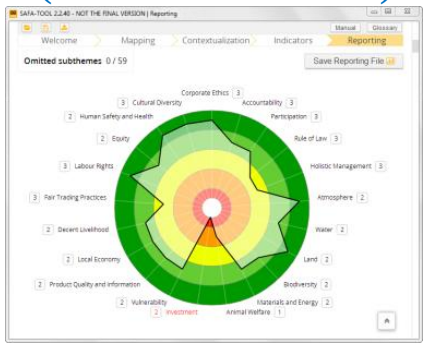
Feedback

SAFA Platform

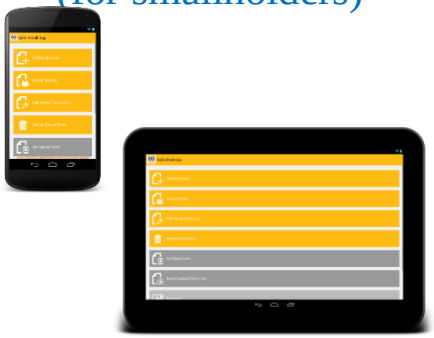
SAFA Database

FAO Databases

SAFA Tool Desktop
(macro-assessments)

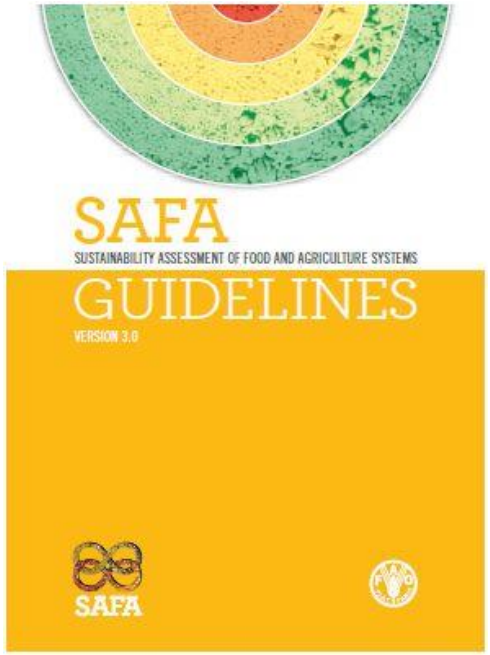


SAFA APP Androids
(for smallholders)



- Feeding back (PC, Mac, App) to FAO and storing SAFA assessments (xml)
- Queering and sharing SAFA-generated information among users
- Accessing FAO data (Faostat, Aquastat, Gaez) for benchmarking enterprise' performance

SAFA APPLICATIONS



SAFA TOOL (2013)
Macro-assessment of supply chains
=> for hotspot identification

SAFA APP (2015)
Specific to small-scale agriculture
=> for capacity-building

SAFA SAFEGUARDS (2016?)
=> for impact assessment of projects

POTENTIAL OTHER INITIATIVES
SAFA interpretation into
good business practices

A variety of different assessment applications but based on the same language

SAFA INSPIRED APPLICATIONS

The New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard

Export credentials. Since 2012, funded by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment & Industry partners; developing on-line tools for sustainability assessment and reporting to ensure that overseas consumers can verify the sustainability credentials of NZ export products (e.g. wine, kiwi)

smart sustainability monitoring and assessment routine

Business claim. Launched by the Sustainable Food Systems Society GmbH in October 2013; SMART-Farm-TOOL provides quick farm screening that is peer reviewed (following ISO 14040) by FiBL experts for communication of food companies with business partners

SELF-EVALUATION AND HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF FARMERS AND PASTORALISTS — SHARP

Capacity-building. Developing since early 2014 within FAO Farmers-Field-Schools for smallholders in Africa; used by FFS facilitators to raise awareness of climate change, guide community actions to develop resilience, and inform policy makers about the local needs of communities

PROGRAMA INTEGRAL SISTEMA CACIQUE GUAYMALLÉN

Impact assessment. Since mid-2014, used by Argentinean irrigation project (UTF/ARG/015/ARG) to assess impact of different water use and management scenarios across Mendoza' municipalities; informs programme decision-making and prioritizing development actions (video see next slide)

VIDEO

7mn SAFA video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2NcIcotCKY&feature=youtu.be

2 mn video - regarding SAFA's application/adaptation in Argentina.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_EA7o5sMmU&feature=youtu.be

SAFA STAKEHOLDERS

- **Community of practitioners** (pilot studies undertaken)
  - ✓ Retail companies with a diverse supply network
  - ✓ Food chains of the same commodity, comparing organic and GMO systems
  - Large food companies with an international supply network
  - Medium-size processing companies (industrialized, emerging and developing)
  - Small-scale production enterprises focusing on: agricultural food production; non-food production; aquaculture and capture fisheries; forestry (plantation and native forest); and wild harvest operations
- **Multi-stakeholders organizations** (e.g. Global G.A.P., ISEAL, SAI Platform, TSC)
- **Companies** (e.g. Ageco Group, Barilla, BASF, BAT, Cotton Inc., METRO, Migros)
- **Private organizations with public members** (e.g. Agros, P4E)
- **Civil society institutions** (e.g. COSA, FAST, Grameen Foundation, IFOAM, RAFI)
- **Academia** (e.g. Univ. Bern, Budapest, CIHEAM, Hohenheim, Mexico, SLU Sweden)
- **United Nations**: ITC, United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards
- **Governments:** Argentina (Mendoza), Germany (GIZ), Brazil (EMBRAPA)

SAFA USAGE

- **Enterprises -** *to understand, measure, manage and build capacity*
  - Performance hotspots in operations and supply chains (ESG risk analysis)
  - Benchmarking suppliers for sustainable procurement
  - Integrated reporting that drives performance (internally and externally)
  - Gap analysis with on-going schemes (differentiation and improvement)

- **Governments, policy-makers and investors** – *for strategic planning and decision*
  - Coherent framework for Sustainable Development Goals
  - Impact assessment, ex-ante or ex-post interventions/investments (e.g. EBRD)
  - Global supply chains requisites

- **Standards community –** *to improve and eventually converge*
  - Best practices learning (e.g. IFOAM Best Practices Guidelines)
  - Gap analysis on all aspects of sustainability (beyond LCA)

SAFA

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS

www.fao.org/nr/sustainability/sustainability-assessments-safa

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