

Outline of Draft CARICOM VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD for COCONUTS AND COCONUT PRODUCTS.

(Project No. 170049)

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Title: CARICOM VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD for COCONUTS AND COCONUT PRODUCTS.

1. 0 Introduction

This standard sets out the requirements for the production of sustainable Coconuts and Coconut Products. It guides economic, social and environmental requirements to be met by an entity desirous of meeting the standard. It is divided into three parts, the achievement of each part allows for progress on to the next and finally to achieve the use of a Caribbean Sustainability Product Mark, if so desired by the participating entity. The three sections are as follows:

Section 1: Addressing Best Production Practices

Section 2: Sustainability requirements (Economic, Environmental and Social)

Section 3: Guidelines for the use of a CARIBBEAN Sustainability Product Mark.

2.0 Scope

This standard will define the **requirements for best production practices, sustainability measures and use of the CARIBBEAN Sustainability Product Mark for Coconuts and Coconut Products in CARICOM MEMBER STATES** for the production of fresh and dry coconuts, water coconuts, coconut oil and products of processed coconut such as desiccated coconut.

This standard does not apply to:

- a) coconut plants
- b) other products, food or non-food where the coconut is used only as a flavouring.

3. 0 Normative References

ISO/TS 22002-1:2009(E) in the requirements for GMPs.

ISO 14001:2015, *Environmental Management Systems. Requirements with guidance for use.*

ISO 26000:2010, *Guidance on Social Responsibility.*

ISO 37000:2021, *Governance of Organisation. Guidance.*

ISO/TS 26030:2019, *Social responsibility and sustainable development — Guidance on using ISO 26000:2010 in the food chain.*

IWA 48:2024(en) Framework for implementing environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles.

The ISO 59000 family of standards on circular economy.

RSPO Principles and Criteria. 2024. 2024 RSPO Principles and Criteria for the sustainable cultivation of oil palms and the production of sustainable palm oil and oil palm products.

2.1.2 Scope. Version 4.0.

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4.0 Term and Definitions

5.0 General Requirements

Section 1 Addressing Best Production Practices

5.1 Best Production Practices

This section is expected to outline to producers of Coconuts and Coconut Products, requirements in areas of Best Production Practices for:

- Construction and layout of buildings and associated utilities.
- Layout of premises, including workspace and employee facilities.
- Supplies of air, water, energy and other utilities.
- Supporting services, including waste and sewage disposal.
- Suitability of equipment and its accessibility for cleaning, maintenance and preventive maintenance.
- Management of purchased materials.
- Measures for the prevention of cross-contamination.
- Cleaning and sanitizing.
- Pest control.
- Personnel hygiene.
- On-farm storage and transport.
- Waste management.
- Pest control on farm premises.

Prerequisite programmes specific to crop production

- Irrigation.
- Fertilization.
- Plant protection products.
- Harvest and post-harvest activities.

Section 2 - Sustainability requirements

5.2. Governance

This section is expected to provide producers of Coconuts and Coconut Products with requirements and guidance in the area of Governance for:

- Documenting their purpose.
- Documenting the roles and responsibilities of personnel, developing succession plans.
- Establishing objectives and strategy for value generation.
- Respecting laws, including relevant internationally accepted laws, and behaving ethically.
- Ensuring stakeholder engagement and equity.
- Managing their resources.
- Accountability of environment, social and economic impacts and operating with oversight.

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5.3 Economic (operations)

This section is expected to provide producers of Coconuts and Coconut Products with requirements and guidance in the area of Quality and Productivity (operational aspects) to:

- Ensure the production of safe, good quality products for consumers, developing market access.
- Manage productivity during growing, harvesting and/or processing, including staff training and development.
- Ensure clear and transparent operations and fair operating practices for workers, suppliers and consumers.
- Ensure traceability from raw materials to final product and product separation, if required.

5.4 Social

This section is expected to provide producers of Coconuts and Coconut Products with requirements and guidance in the area of Social Responsibility (social aspects) for:

- Respecting national labour regulations, ensure minimum wages are met.
- Allowing freedom of association.
- Managing labour.
- Respecting worker health and safety.
- Addressing social issues such as child labour, forced labour, discrimination, gender equity, workplace violence and harassment.
- Engaging with and respect communities and assisting in local development.
- Assisting small-holders with access to training and technology

5.5 Environmental

This section is expected to provide producers of Coconuts and Coconut Products with requirements and guidance in the area of the Environment (environmental aspects) for:

- Meeting national environmental regulations.
- Ensuring the implementation of climate mitigation actions.
- Ensuring sustainable ecosystem management, no deforestation and the management of diseases.
- Ensuring proper resource utilisation and circularity of resources.
- Ensuring proper waste management (effluent, emissions), from production, raw material processing to final packaging.
- Ensuring proper water management throughout the process, including water needs to waste water.
- Ensuring no or limited impact to the physical environment and natural resources (land, water, minerals) with production, processing or distribution.
- Training of personnel in proper use, storage and disposal of hazardous products, if used.
- Energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions (calculation of greenhouse gases).

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Section 3 – Guidelines for the use a CARIBBEAN Sustainability Product Mark

5.5 CARIBBEAN Sustainability Product Mark

This section is expected to provide producers of Coconut Products with requirements and guidance to obtain and use a CARIBBEAN Sustainability Product Mark by:

- Conformance to all previous sections within the standard.
- Conducting an internal audit.
- Correcting non-conformances following an internal audit.
- Application to use the Product Mark.
- Obtaining an External Audit.
- Completing all corrective actions to secure certification.

6.0 Annexes