



Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network

Preparing Small and Growing Businesses for Sustainable Markets

Project Profile

WHAT IS SCAN?

A project of the Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI), partnering with key global standard-setters and technical assistance institutions, SCAN is a capacity building platform project aimed at providing customized, needs-based technical assistance to producers wishing to adopt sustainable practices and enter sustainable markets.

WHAT ARE THE PROJECT'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES?

To implement a global, generic technical assistance network that will mobilize an increased number of organizations to provide support services to producers wishing to enter sustainable markets.

WHERE IS SCAN'S GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS?

Pilot projects in 5 countries (Asia; East Africa; West Africa; Central America and South America).



WHO ARE SCAN PARTNERS?

- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
- Fair Trade Labelling Organizations International (FLO)
- Solidaridad/Certification Support Network
- CABI International
- ISEAL Alliance
- TWIN Trading
- Rainforest Alliance
- SNV
- French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)
- Utz Certified
- HIVOS

WHAT IS THE PROJECT STATUS?

SCAN Partners have developed a global project framework and a core set of needs have been identified at the generic level. SCAN is currently mobilizing resources and expertise to begin implementation in pilot countries.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT TIMELINE?

Pilot Projects – Starting in late 2008, pilots will be implemented over three years to establish national platforms of local partners in each pilot country to conduct needs assessment and develop customized training and support services.

FOCUS SUPPORT AREAS:

- Good agricultural practices/sustainable practices
- Financial literacy/risk management
- Traceability and quality management systems
- Organizational development
- Market information (access/use)



WHY WAS SCAN DEVELOPED?

Growing markets for sustainable products offer producers a unique opportunity to utilize a specialty market structure to sell higher priced products while simultaneously maintaining a high level of social and environmental integrity.

Over the years many agricultural commodities sectors have seen major growth in the number of voluntary supply chain initiatives aimed at increasing sustainable production practices globally. The growth in sustainability initiatives however, has given rise to both opportunities and challenges for developing country agricultural producers.

Most sustainability initiatives currently in operation recognize and promote social, economic and environmental sustainability as part of a holistic approach to sustainable development. Such initiatives have worked hard to identify and implement sustainable production practices but they have been overburdened and under-resourced to support large-scale transition to sustainable production and management.

Most technical assistance programs currently in place are topic specific and are often linked to one particular sustainability initiative. Similarly, and largely as a result of insufficient resources, existing training activities associated with sustainability initiatives often focus only on achieving compliance. As a result, to date limited resources exist to train producers about how to manage a sustainable business and actively participate in international sustainable and specialty markets.

There is considerable overlap between the practices promoted by sustainability initiatives at the administrative and production level. With the transaction costs associated with the delivery of training and the depth of the technical assistance needed throughout commodity producing countries, there lies a clear opportunity to improve efficiency and scale in the delivery of sustainability-oriented technical assistance. The aim of SCAN is to link "initiative specific" efforts through a common platform for technical assistance delivery towards achieving this goal.

STRATEGIC APPROACH - BUILDING A BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE:

The strategic approach for SCAN was established over the course of a series of multi-stakeholder meetings facilitated by the SCI, HIVOS and CSN. The core elements of the SCAN platform are as follows:

1. International Secretariat:

The SCI, as the international secretariat, is responsible for the coordination of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Board and the National Implementation Platforms (NIP) (see below for description) and will ultimately be the organizing body behind project implementation. The coordination of a Funding Committee and Technical Committee will also be facilitated by the Secretariat.

2. International Multi-stakeholder Advisory Board:

Responsible for providing high level guidance to the secretariat and overall initiative development and consists of stakeholders with an expertise in technical assistance delivery.

3. National Implementation Platforms (NIP):

In each country where SCAN is implemented a NIP will be established, made up of international members (SCAN partners present in the country) and local actors (government agencies, NGOs, producers, industry, etc). This Platform will be responsible for conducting needs assessments, and also provides customized training, building from the global curriculum to address the particular needs of the producer group.

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SCAN is a project of the Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI), facilitated by the IISD and UNCTAD

