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Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform

The global food and drink industry initiative for sustainable agriculture

Newsletter - April 2015

Agriculture in the desert?

The Abu Dhabi (UAE) government aspires to be an Agriculture and Technology hub between the East, the West and Africa.
This in turn motivated us to support the 2014 edition of Global Forum for Innovation in Agriculture (GFIA) as its Sustainable Agriculture Partner. We have used this opportunity to provide two SAI Platform member speakers in the plenary sessions and held two workshops on farmer partnership.
Our 'nestor' Hans Joehr (Nestle) spoke about his company's work to address challenges such as lack of investment in the social and agricultural infrastructure in a region or country - which can make it difficult for farmers to supply high-quality, safe, and sustainably grown crops. Nestle works with farmers to provide people with access to the knowledge and information they need to sustainably increase productivity. Jean Bernou, CEO of McCain Europe, showed passionately how they have established a social enterprise addressing reduction of food waste and unemployment in deprived areas. This venture, which McCain aims to expand in other countries, is about long-term unemployed people picking up the potatoes from the field - that remain in the soil after the machines have left the fields.
GFIA's conference and exhibition were well attended with thousands of people and 100s of stands, but not so much by our members! I believe this was a missed opportunity, because at GFIA, you can see and learn what is possible, now and in the future, with regard to good agricultural practices, high tech and low tech alike.

Do you join us in the desert next time?

Yours, Peter Erik

Peter Erik Ywema, SAI Platform, General Manager

Working Groups

Arable and Vegetable Crops

On behalf of the Arable & Vegetable working group, SAI Platform organized a workshop in Toronto, Canada on 5 March 2015. The workshop focused on sustainability initiatives in Canada for oilseed, grain and potato producers. Read more.

Beef

Since the launch of the Principles for Sustainable Beef Production in 2013, the working group has not rested and has been hard at work establishing the first Farm Sustainability Assessment for Beef in the EU.
Read more.

Coffee

The working group proudly announces the release of three training

Key Topics

Coming soon - SAI Platform's General Assembly and workshop in Campinas, Brazil

SAI Platform issues position on Climate Smart Agriculture

SAI Platform and two of its members presented at the 2015 edition of Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) in Abu Dhabi, March 9-11

SAI Platform/IMD Master Class on Sustainable Sourcing - June 2015 edition now open for registration

SAI Platform @ Milan Expo - focusing on implementing sustainable agriculture practices and partnering with farmers

Update from the Fruit Juice CSR Platform

Advisory Council Corner

At SAI Platform, we attach great importance to recommendations and advice given by our Advisory Council members, each of whom are experienced experts in the field of sustainable agriculture. In each newsletter we give the floor to one of our advisors.

For this issue of the newsletter we spoke with Juni Sul, Oxfam GB's Private Sector Adviser with Oxfam. Juni joined the ADCO recently to take over from Steve Jennings, who left the organization and who we would like to thank for his contributions. Juni is passionate about working with companies to improve their engagement with smallholder farmers and women in agricultural supply chains.
Read more

videos for coffee farmers on: "Picking and drying", "Stumping and pruning" and "Group Organisation".
Read more.

Dairy

As part of the working group's commitment to support the Dairy Sustainability Framework, it launched 5 pilot projects: Ireland (Bord Bia), USA (Innovation Centre for US Dairy), Indonesia (Friesland Campina), New Zealand (Fonterra) and The Netherlands (Friesland Campina).
Read more.

Fruit

The working group will meet in Campinas Brazil on 27 April 2015, where it will confirm its focus and projects for 2015. The working group is continuing its support and activity in the Brazil Orange project and the Doñana Strawberry project. Read more.

Promoting and Partnering for Sustainable Agriculture

Coming soon - SAI Platform's General Assembly and workshop in Campinas, Brazil

On April 27-30, 2015, SAI Platform will hold its 2015 Seminar and General Assembly in Campinas, Brazil. The topic of the Seminar this year is "Promoting farmer partnerships - The missing link in sustainable agriculture".
Read more.

Committees

Biodiversity

Members of the committee and other stakeholders actively working in the field met on February 3 and 4 in Murcia, Spain, to discuss their best practices in the area of biodiversity action

SAI Platform issues position on Climate Smart Agriculture

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is a hotly debated topic in the year of the COP 21 Climate Summit later this year in Paris. To contribute meaningfully to this debate, and at the request of several members, SAI Platform issued a position paper on CSA, recognizing the positive role it can play while also highlighting the need to clarify its scope and relation to Sustainable Agriculture. Read more.

SAI Platform and two of its members presented at the 2015 edition of Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) in Abu Dhabi, March 9-11

Thousands of representatives from food companies, ministries, scientific institutions and the investment and innovation communities gathered in Abu Dhabi for the 2015 edition of the GFIA. They discussed key challenges in agriculture and discovered game-changing innovation, technologies and global industry collaboration to promote food security and sustainable agriculture. Read more.

SAI Platform/IMD Master Class on Sustainable Sourcing - June 2015 edition now open for registration

Registration is now open for the next edition of this class, taking place on 4-5 June 2015 in Lausanne, Switzerland.
This exciting and interactive training and learning opportunity helps participants develop realistic and practicable implementation approaches to meet companies' sustainable sourcing targets for agricultural raw materials.
"Very useful and insightful" and "it was such a good course, and there was so much to absorb, that I hope to be able to come back next year" are just a few of the positive comments we received on the November 2014 edition of this class.
Read more.

SAI Platform @ Milan Expo - focusing on implementing sustainable agriculture practices and partnering with farmers

From May to October 2015, the World Expo on "Feeding the Planet - Energy for Life" will take place in Milan. SAI Platform will be present at this important event from 14-16 October, focusing on feeding the planet sustainably. We will be organizing several events, including one on the roll-out of the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) and another on how to partner with farmers to promote and implement sustainable agriculture practices, and how to overcome hurdles and leverage on drivers for such partnerships. We are inviting civil society, farmer organizations and business representatives for these events. We will also hold a meeting with SAI Platform's Advisory Committee members. Stay tuned for more information on activities. Click here for more info on EXPO.

Update from the Fruit Juice CSR Platform

The 12 February 2015 Plenary Meeting of the Fruit Juice CSR Platform confirmed 4 key goals for the platform:
1) Aggregate data on what we are doing already and define priorities as a whole
2) Information sharing and discuss challenges/sector needs
3) Communication on what is being done and improve sector image, based on proof points
4) Facilitate interaction and collaboration between stakeholders and align with planning and implementation.
Read more.

Farm Sustainability Assessment

At the end of the year, SAI Platform took a strategic decision to scale and speed up FSA implementation and readiness.
Read more.

Farmer and Supplier Partnership

The outcome of the committee's year of work is a practical and insightful guide entitled "Partnering with farmers towards sustainable agriculture: overcoming the hurdles and leveraging the drivers - Practitioners' guide 2.0".
Read more.

Water

With the increasing pressure and concerns on water availability for agricultural production worldwide, and our growing membership, the Water Committee is ever more ambitious in its objectives and pursuing positive outcomes.
Read more.

Member and Partner News

Cool Farm Tool wins awards for taking sustainable agriculture to scale

Cool Farm Tool, used by major agri-food businesses to calculate greenhouse gas emissions, established new legal footing with the Cool Farm Alliance to further scale sustainable agriculture. The online tool is now

existing initiatives.
The next physical Plenary Meeting will be held on Thursday 18 June in Amsterdam. For more info.

SAI Platform Training & Events

SAI Platform General Assembly 2015, Campinas, Brazil 27-30 April, 2015

'Promoting Farmer Partnerships - The Missing Link in Sustainable Agriculture' is the theme of the 2015 edition of SAI Platform's General Assembly (GA) 2015, a 'must attend' learning and sharing opportunity offering SAI Platform members and invited stakeholders an exciting menu of interactive meetings, insightful field trips, engaging networking events and effective training workshops.

For more information, please contact Yael Fattal.

Crash Course on SAI Platform - Webinar

12 may 2015 4PM

Open to our new members and non-member companies that are interested in membership. For more info click here.

The Sustainable Food Lab's annual Leadership Summit

7-11 June 2015, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

This summit is an opportunity to explore new challenges-emerging issues in the food system as well as the leadership required to engage across organizations, sectors and regions. Some of the specific challenges and themes discussed include: effective engagement with suppliers and farmers, collective action in landscapes and watersheds, sector transformation of commodity systems, living wages in supply chains, measuring outcomes, and system leadership. Read more.

Arable & Vegetable Crops meeting and field trip

From 23 June 2015 to 25 June 2015 near Gdańsk, Poland

For more SAI Platform upcoming events.

being extended to include water and biodiversity.
More on the Cool Farm Tool and Alliance.

Bacardi Advances Sugarcane Standards in Fiji with Model Farm Program

Bacardi, in an effort to advance sustainable sugarcane farming, is pledging that by 2022, 100% of its sugarcane derived products used for its rum will come from certified, sustainable sources.
Read more about Bacardi's Model Farm Program and partnering with WWF.

Unilever's commitment to buy 100% sustainable rapeseed by 2015

View an interview with Dave Pendlington, director of procurement operations and sustainable agriculture at Unilever, on the positive impact sourcing 100% sustainable rapeseed oil is having on the supply chain.
Read the interview.

New Members

SAI Platform is pleased to welcome **Barry Callebaut Group, Döhler** and **Ebro Foods** as new members.

Barry Callebaut
Read more.

Döhler
Read more.

Ebro Foods
Read more.