



Newsletter - Autumn 2012



Another newsletter? *Give me a break*, I hear you sighing. So, take a quick break for coffee and come back to read this!

The myriad of emails, meetings and calls we are involved with every day, although respectfully meant to inform us, quite often prevent us from taking time to do our own thinking.

We need to ensure agriculture, and its complex supply chains, becomes more sustainable, in order to produce enough good food for now and in the future for a growing global population. Such a sentence can seem somewhat like a politically correct mantra, but I do sense the importance of this work and feel honored to be able to work on it. It might take a bit of silence now and then to appreciate this but if that's all it takes, keep thinking!

Peter-Erik Ywema, General Manager

New members join the SAI Platform!



The Dawn Meats Group is one of the largest suppliers of Irish and British beef, pork and lamb. It is one of Europe's largest food processing companies and forms part of the Queally Group, Ireland's largest privately owned agri-business.

Dawn Meats Group has taken a proactive approach to sustainability on its production sites and in its farmer supplier base. To meet its commitments to sustainability Dawn Meats Group has formulated the plan: Sustainability Today For All Our Tomorrows.



First Milk is the only major dairy company owned by British farmers. Through growing its brands and diversifying its product and customer base, it aims to create an added value food business, with the aim of driving returns for its farmer shareholders.

As a business with a passion for innovation and sustainability, it is constantly seeking fresh ways of working with partners in the UK and overseas to drive pioneering solutions to industry challenges.



Beef + Lamb New Zealand is responsible for the promotion of beef and lamb within New Zealand, is jointly funded by farmers, New Zealand retailers and New Zealand processors and works closely with the foodservice industry in order to encourage excellence in beef and lamb cuisine.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand has been investing in the area of sustainability for a decade, working for example to develop a common methodology to use when measuring pastoral green house gas emissions.

New tools

Conversion of our Principles & Practices into a Checklist

Among SAI Platform's various Principles and Practices (P&Ps) is one for Arable and Vegetable Crops and one for Fruit. In a workshop held in July in The Netherlands, these P&Ps were used to draft a generic Checklist to be used by farmers to monitor their compliance with SAI standards.



A taskforce composed of 7 SAI Platform members from the Fruit working group and Arable and Vegetable Crops working group met to draft a concise, generic checklist, suitable for self assessment. The process was facilitated by consultants from UTZ Certified and Aidenvironment. The outcome will be presented for final approval in a joint working group meeting on October 23, before being launched publicly.

If you would like more information, please contact the [Secretariat](#).

Business Guide for Sustainable Sourcing

A practical and user-friendly guide on how to develop and implement sustainable sourcing strategies is being finalized. It will include inspiring case studies as well as very hands-on tools for practitioners. It is aimed at managers from industries relying on natural resources, in particular food companies.



The guide was developed with inputs received from the project partners and their members (IDH, IMD Business School, ITC and SAI Platform) as well as the project supporters and their members (SEDEX, SFL and BSR).

Official launch: International Supply Management Congress, 29 Nov. - Amsterdam.

Participation is by invitation only. If you are interested contact the [Secretariat](#).

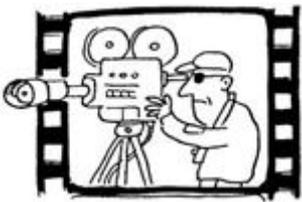
Growing sections



Database of Members' Projects

Over 60 pilot projects and programs on sustainable agriculture under the responsibility of SAI Platform's member companies are listed on [our website](#). Some of these projects have been listed since 2011 but have now been updated, and some others are brand new.

They can be searched for by key commodity, sustainability topic or country on: <http://www.saipatform.org/activities/projects> — Dip in and get inspired!



More Videos

New great videos have been posted on our [website](#). A souvenir video of our Tenth Anniversary, featuring exclusive interviews from our members' Executives, and a video detailing our achievements over the last ten years.

Many more videos related to SAI Platform and sustainable agriculture in general are also available on the website.

Coming up

Our Sustainability Training for Executives in Argentina



SAI Platform has partnered with the Food & Agribusiness Program at the University of Buenos Aires' Agronomy School on a training course on sustainability in agriculture. The training draws from the Executives Master Class developed with the renowned Swiss Business School IMD, and adds a layer that specifically deals with Latin America's needs and concerns regarding sustainable agriculture.

The course will take place on November 5-6, 2012

For more info contact Marcos Daziano daziano@agro.uba.ar or visit: <http://www.saiplatform.org/activities/training/executives-training/training-latin-america>



Webinar on biodiversity

We are all trying to get a handle on biodiversity to fully understand the impacts, both positive and negative that our food production systems are facing. Many are challenging food production, maintaining that agricultural production is having a negative impact on biodiversity.

Francis Vorhies, Executive Director of Earthmind, with over 20 years of international experience as a sustainability economist, will be speaking on a potential solution to this dilemma. October 25, for SAI Platform members only .

Working Groups



The excellent study tour to the Ukraine, kindly hosted by Agrotterra, showed us the indispensable value of meetings and discussions in the field with farmers and between one another. The working group has had two conference calls over the Summer on topics such as the financial tool for sustainable farming and the self assessment checklist for farmers. On October 23 a joint meeting with the Fruit working group in Brussels is scheduled, combined with a dinner with LEAF board members.



On September 7 the Beef Working Group met to review the progress of its work on developing guidelines for calculating GHG emissions from Beef production. The work programme is now focused on documenting the guidelines into a consultation document for sharing with a wider stakeholder group early in 2013. The Group also agreed to initiate the development of Principles and Practices for Sustainable Beef production, starting with a review of the current dairy P and P's and a comparative review of individual company supply schemes. The next meeting is planned for January 2013.

