



FSA now even more robust as latest Country Legal Compliance Assessment added

BRUSSELS 11 March 2019 - The Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) supports the uptake of sustainable agricultural practices in over 35 countries. Its legislation filters allow users to adapt the FSA questionnaire according to a country's laws, keeping it relevant wherever its used. Based on a new Country Legal Compliance Assessment, SAI platform is publishing updates to the FSA Implementation Framework that provide stronger assurance, and greater clarity in where and how the legislation filters can be used.

As well as automatically pre-answering the FSA questionnaire saving farms time, the legislation filters also complement standards and schemes that have been benchmarked against the FSA. This allows several standards to achieve bronze or silver level equivalence with the FSA.

Explaining the improvement Joe Rushton, FSA Manager commented *"Previously legislation filters were only permitted for the USA, Canada, Australia and EU member states. However, this assumed that regulations are adequacy enforced in these countries"*.

"For each country, users now have a consistent and impartial way of evaluating a farms risk of legal non-compliance in relation to the FSA and justifying under which circumstances using legislative filters is appropriate" Joe added.

Anthesis RiskHorizons™ was used to categorise countries into Very low, Low, and Medium risk of FSA related legal non-compliance. This was based on several measures of a country's environmental, social, and governance performance. How legislation filters can be used now depends on the countries risk category and the implementation option.

	Option 1: Benchmarking of Farm sustainability schemes	Option 2: Self-assessment with verification
Very Low Risk Countries	Standards can be assessed together with SAI Platform approved legislation filters, with no conditions.	Farms can pre-answer the FSA questionnaire based on SAI Platform approved legislation filters.
Low Risk Countries	Standards can be assessed together with SAI Platform approved legislation filters, provided that the scheme has measures in place to support legal compliance.	Pre-answering of FSA questions based on national legislation will no longer be supported, either via Excel or the FSA web-app.
Medium Risk Countries	Standards will no longer be assessed together with the SAI Platform approved legislation filters.	Pre-answering of FSA questions based on national legislation will no longer be supported, either via Excel or the FSA web-app.



"I am really pleased that SAI Platform can now conclude this important piece of work. The changes that we are announcing today are based on systematic research, careful consideration and constructive dialogue with members and partners, and I want to thank everyone for their input and patience during this process" concluded Sven Sielhorst, Systems Director.

FSA users can read more about the use of legal filters in the updated version of the [FSA Implementation Framework](#) and [Benchmarking methodology](#). **The changes will have no impact on the status of FSA verified farm management groups, and any update to FSA benchmarking results will be subject to a 12-month transition period.** For an overview of those benchmarks effected, please refer to the [benchmarking results list](#). SAI Platform will review the Country Legal Compliance Assessment when necessary, and at least every five years.

For more information, please contact [SAI Platform](#).

Country Legal Compliance Assessment: List of Very Low, Low, and Medium risk countries¹ as determined by RiskHorizons™

Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Medium Risk
Australia	Czech Republic	Bulgaria
Austria	Estonia	Croatia
Belgium	Hungary	Greece
Canada	Israel	Italy
Denmark	Korea (Republic of)	Romania
Finland	Latvia	
France	Lithuania	
Germany	Luxembourg	
Iceland	Malta	
Ireland	New Zealand	
Netherlands	Poland	
Norway	Portugal	
Sweden	Singapore	
Switzerland	Slovakia	
United Kingdom	Slovenia	
	Spain	
	United States of America	

¹ Not All countries were evaluated