FSS
FOOD SECURITY
STANDARD

Food Security in the context of global coffee supply chains

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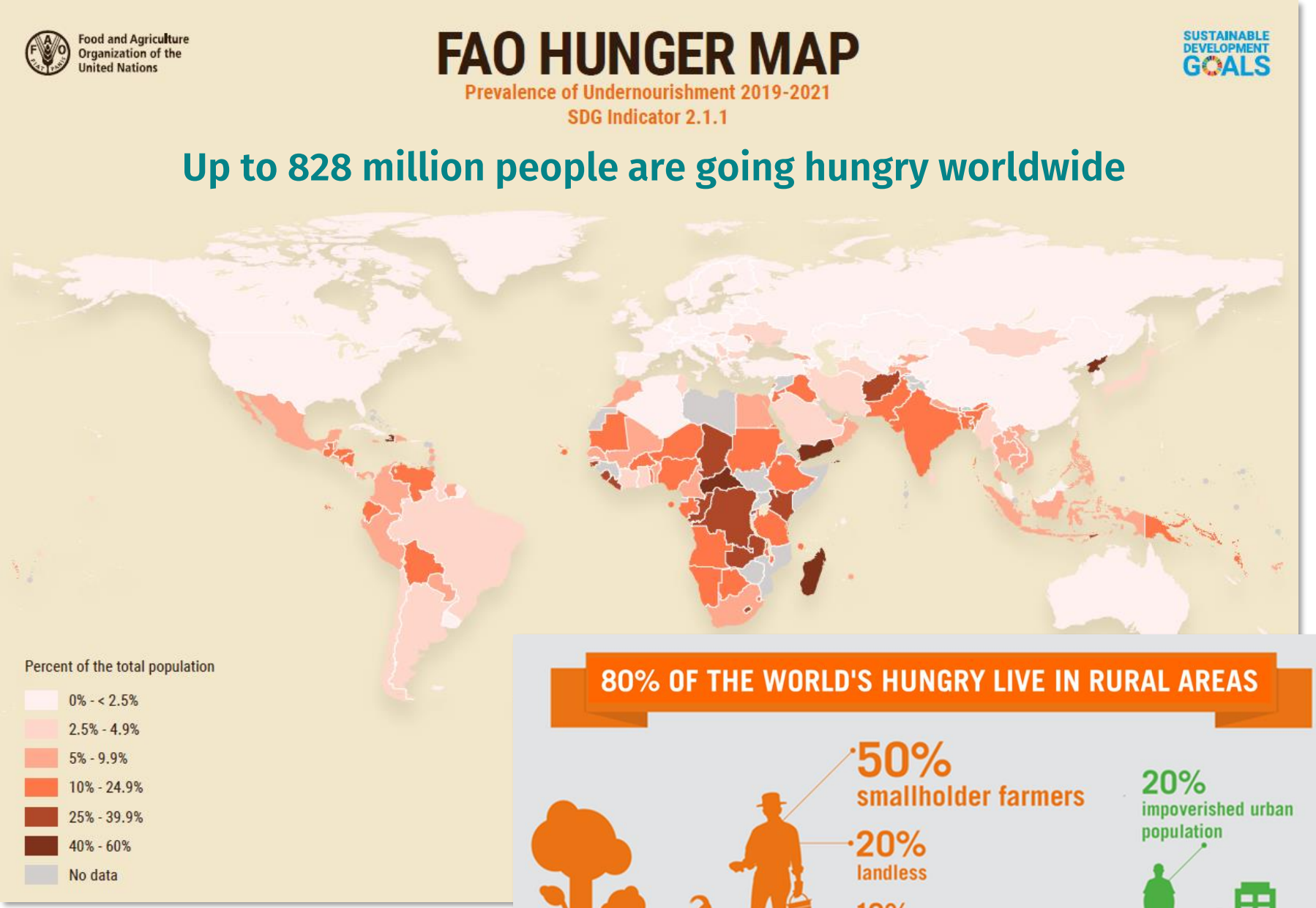
15.03.2023

Hunger and Agricultural Export Production

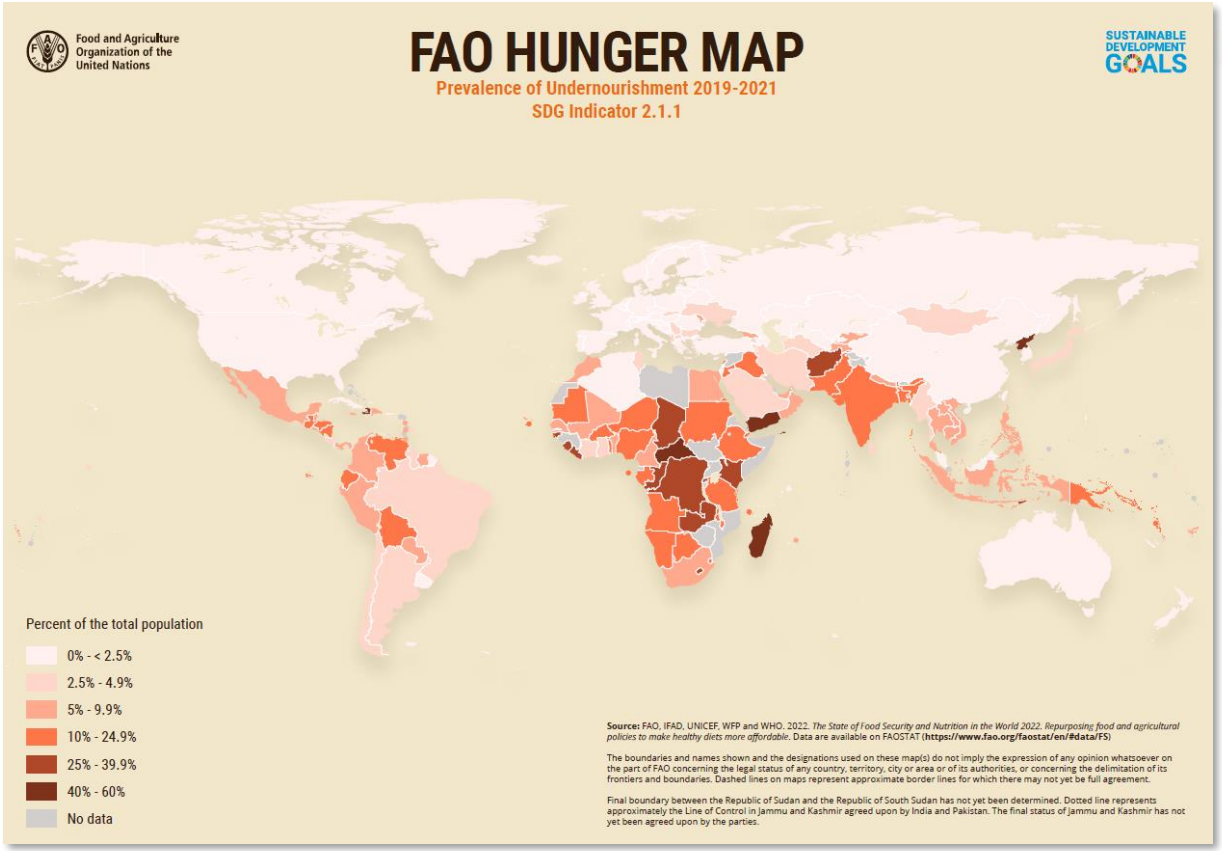


What is hunger?

- **Acute hunger** (famine) designates undernourishment over a definable period. It is the most extreme form of hunger and arises frequently in connection with crises like droughts due wars and disasters.
- **Chronic hunger** designates a state of long-term undernourishment. The body absorbs less food than it needs. Although the media mostly report on acute hunger crises, globally, chronic hunger is by far the most widespread. It usually arises in connection with poverty. Chronically hungry people do not have sufficient money for healthy nutrition, clean water or health care.
- **Hidden hunger** is a form of chronic hunger. Due to an unbalanced diet, important nutrients are lacking. At first glance, the consequences are not necessarily very visible, but over the long-term these nutrient deficiencies lead to serious diseases. In particular, children are unable to develop correctly, neither mentally nor physically.

Source: https://www.welthungerhilfe.org/hunger

The Coffee Belt – Main Coffee Exporting Countries



Samper, L., Giovannucci, D. and Marques Vieira, L. (2017). The powerful role of intangibles in the coffee value chain. Economic research paper No.39. WIPO.

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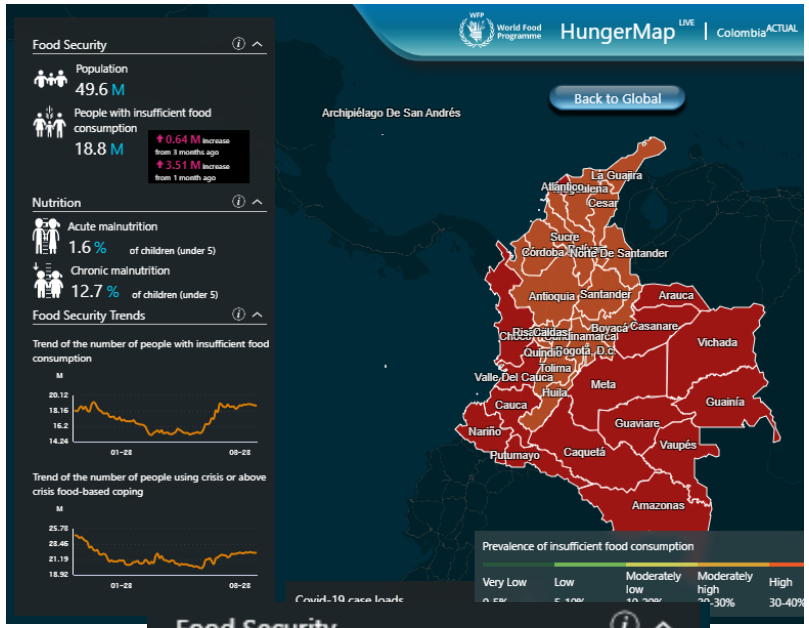
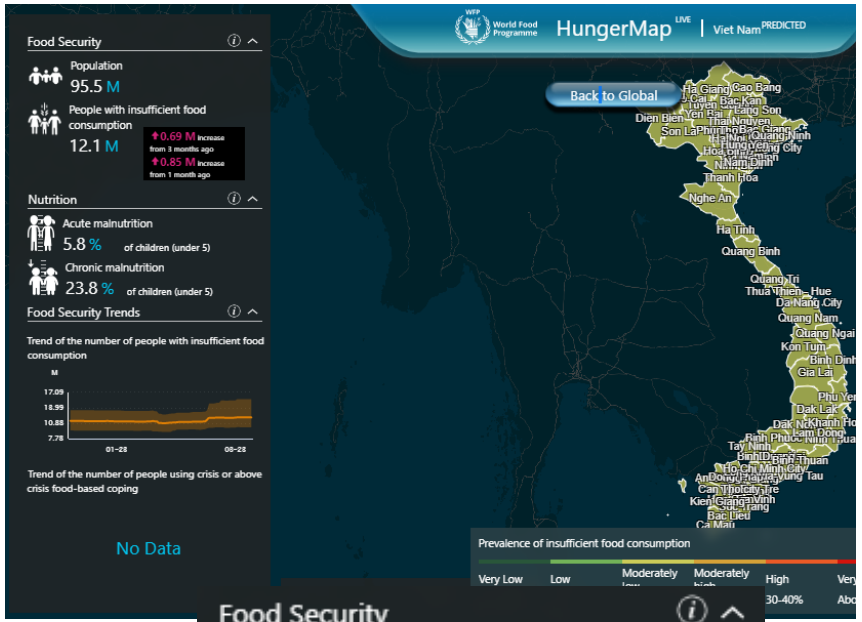
Food Security Trends in the most common coffee producing countries

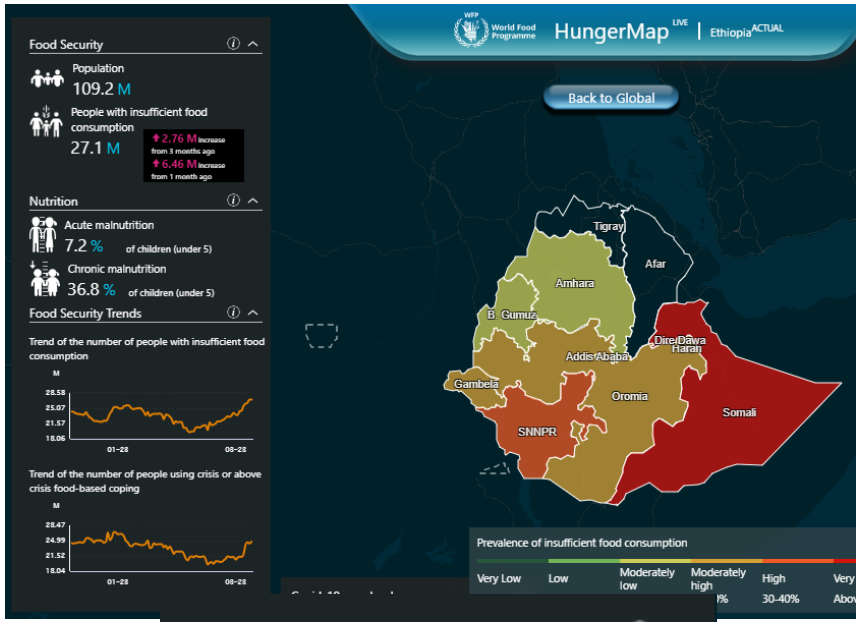
Colombia



Indonesia



Ethiopia



HungerMap LIVE (wfp.org)

What is Food Security?

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. (FAO, 2004).

Why do Coffer Farmers go hungry?

- Most of the producers are smallholders /smallholder cooperatives
    - major cash income from coffee
- Harvest Season from Oktober – March
    - across Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Mexico, 67% experienced between three and eight thin months of extreme food scarcity each year (CIAT)
- Risk of yield loss due to climatic changes
- Rising Food Prices in the last years due to major shocks on supply chains (Covid 19/Russian War)
- volatile prices for green coffee

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...the right to a life in dignity is not fulfilled.

... farmers cannot invest in sustainability and technology.

... supply is at risk due to

- lower resilience and flexibility.
- farm closure.
- trade bans.
- violent conflicts.

… families rely on their children for income generation.

As long as there is hunger in agri-value chains…

... there will be ecological damage and deforestation

... we do not make full use of the human capital hindering economic growth.

... we will not meet the SDGs and Paris Agreement.

... development and humanitarian aid is necessary.

The Food Security Standard (FSS)

- A product of Welthungerhilfe e.V. and Meo Carbon Solutions GmbH to realize the right to food in global agri-value chains.
- Designed as Add-On for existing sustainability certification or as stand-alone customizable FOSSEM (Food Security Sensitive Management) solution

FSS → The Right to adequate Food is respected by producers of agricultural commodities within their field of responsibility

- Farmers and workers are food secure
- Food security in area of influence does not deteriorate.

FOSSEM → Continuous improvement to Human Rights & food security efforts

With support from
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
FNR
by decision of the German Bundestag

THE FIVE PILLARS AND 17 PRINCIPLES OF THE FSS

STABILITY

1. Apply good governance and respect the rule of law

2. Respect national food security and development strategies

3. Mitigate natural and human-made disaster risks

ACCESS

4. Ensure market access and contribute to local development

5. Safeguard long-term farm profitability and fair business conduct

6. Respect labour rights and ensure good working conditions

7. Provide training and capacity building

8. Offer social safety nets

AVAILABILITY

9. Respect land rights

10. Respect water rights and ensure that water quality and availability are maintained or improved

11. Implement sustainable agricultural practices

UTILIZATION

12. Provide a setting for the safe utilization of food

13. Guarantee good nutrition

CROSS CUTTING ELEMENTS

14. Provide complaint and grievance mechanisms

15. Respect women's rights and ensure gender equity

16. Raise awareness for nutrition and support child education

17. Assess and monitor local food security

UN GUIDELINES ON THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD

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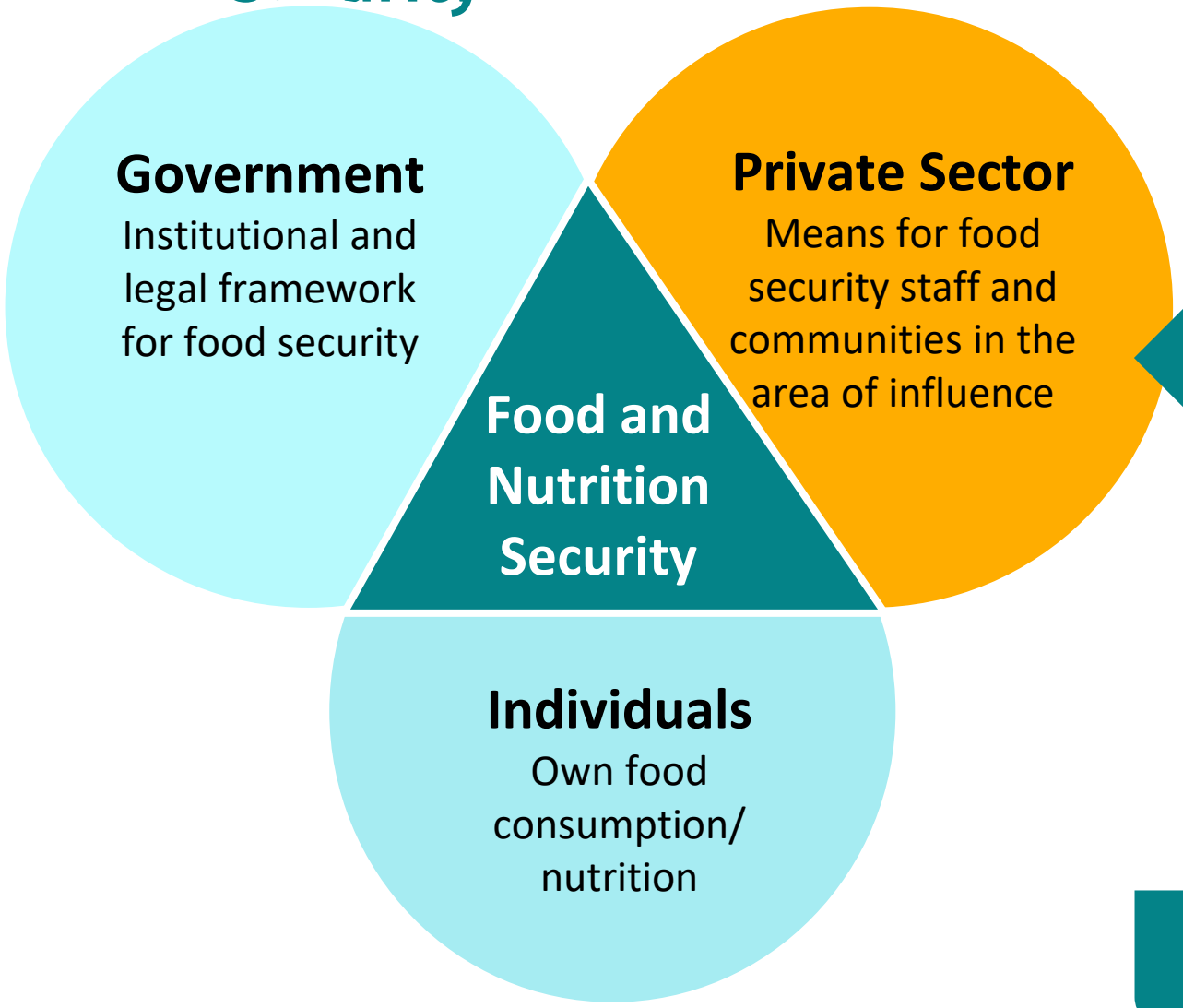
FSS is Rooted in the Right to Food...

Shared Responsibility for Food Security



FSS focusses on factors influenced by private sector at local level

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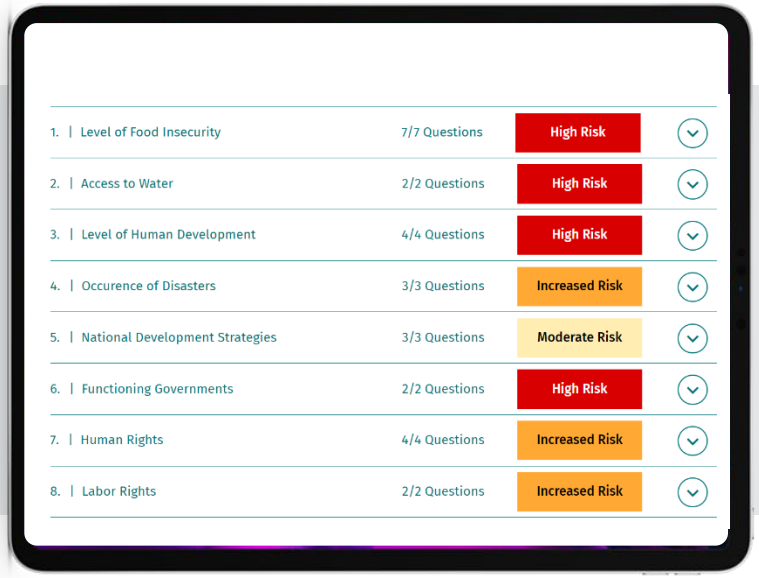
FSS Toolbox

National Food Security Assessment (NaFSA-Tool)

→ Abstract risk assessment

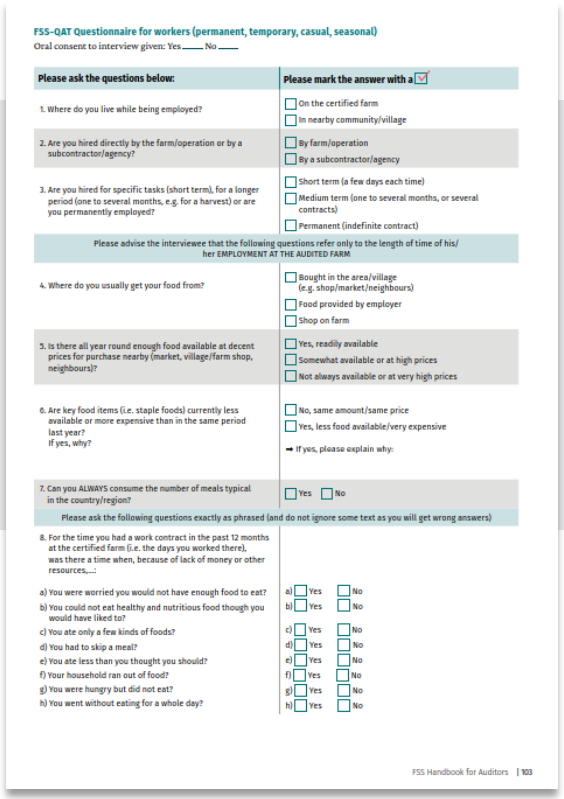
Identifies potential human rights risks by country, with a special focus on the right to food through publicly available data



Quick Assessment Tool (FSS-QAT)

→ Concrete risk assessment & monitoring

Provides a structured interview questionnaire for smallholder farmers, workers and stakeholders



FSS-QAT Questionnaire for workers (permanent, temporary, casual, seasonal)

Oral consent to interview given: Yes ____ No ____

Please ask the questions below:	Please mark the answer with a ☑
1. Where do you live while being employed?	☐ On the certified farm ☐ In nearby community/village
2. Are you hired directly by the farm/operation or by a subcontractor/agency?	☐ By farm/operation ☐ By a subcontractor/agency
3. Are you hired for specific tasks (short term), for a longer period (one to several months, e.g. for a harvest) or are you permanently employed?	☐ Short term (a few days each time) ☐ Medium term (one to several months, or several contracts) ☐ Permanent (indefinite contract)
Please advise the interviewee that the following questions refer only to the length of time of his/her EMPLOYMENT AT THE AUDITED FARM	
4. Where do you usually get your food from?	☐ Bought in the area/village (e.g. shop/market/neighbours) ☐ Food provided by employer ☐ Shop on farm
5. Is there all year round enough food available at decent prices for purchase nearby (market, village/farm shop, neighbours)?	☐ Yes, readily available ☐ Somewhat available or at high prices ☐ Not always available or at very high prices
6. Are key food items (i.e. staple foods) currently less available or more expensive than in the same period last year? If yes, why?	☐ No, same amount/same price ☐ Yes, less food available/very expensive ➡ If yes, please explain why:
7. Can you ALWAYS consume the number of meals typical in the country/region?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Please ask the following questions exactly as phrased (and do not ignore some text as you will get wrong answers)	
8. For the time you had a work contract in the past 12 months at the certified farm (i.e. the days you worked there), was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources,...:	
a) You were worried you would not have enough food to eat?	a) ☐ Yes ☐ No
b) You could not eat healthy and nutritious food though you would have liked to?	b) ☐ Yes ☐ No
c) You ate only a few kinds of foods?	c) ☐ Yes ☐ No
d) You had to skip a meal?	d) ☐ Yes ☐ No
e) You ate less than you thought you should?	e) ☐ Yes ☐ No
f) Your household ran out of food?	f) ☐ Yes ☐ No
g) You were hungry but did not eat?	g) ☐ Yes ☐ No
h) You went without eating for a whole day?	h) ☐ Yes ☐ No

FSS Handbook for Auditors | 103

FSS Audit Procedure Tool – Audit Checklists

→ Complete HR risk assessment at production level

Offers a complete audit checklist —including criteria, indicators and guidance for verification

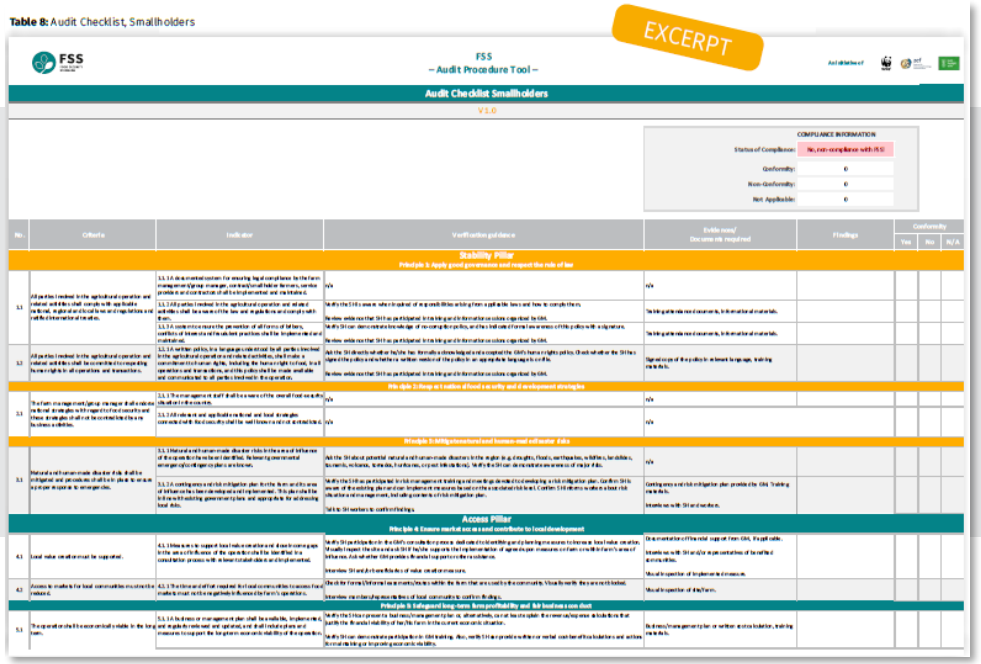


Table 8: Audit Checklist, Smallholders

EXCERPT

FSS – Audit Procedure Tool –

Audit Checklist Smallholders

V 1.0

COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

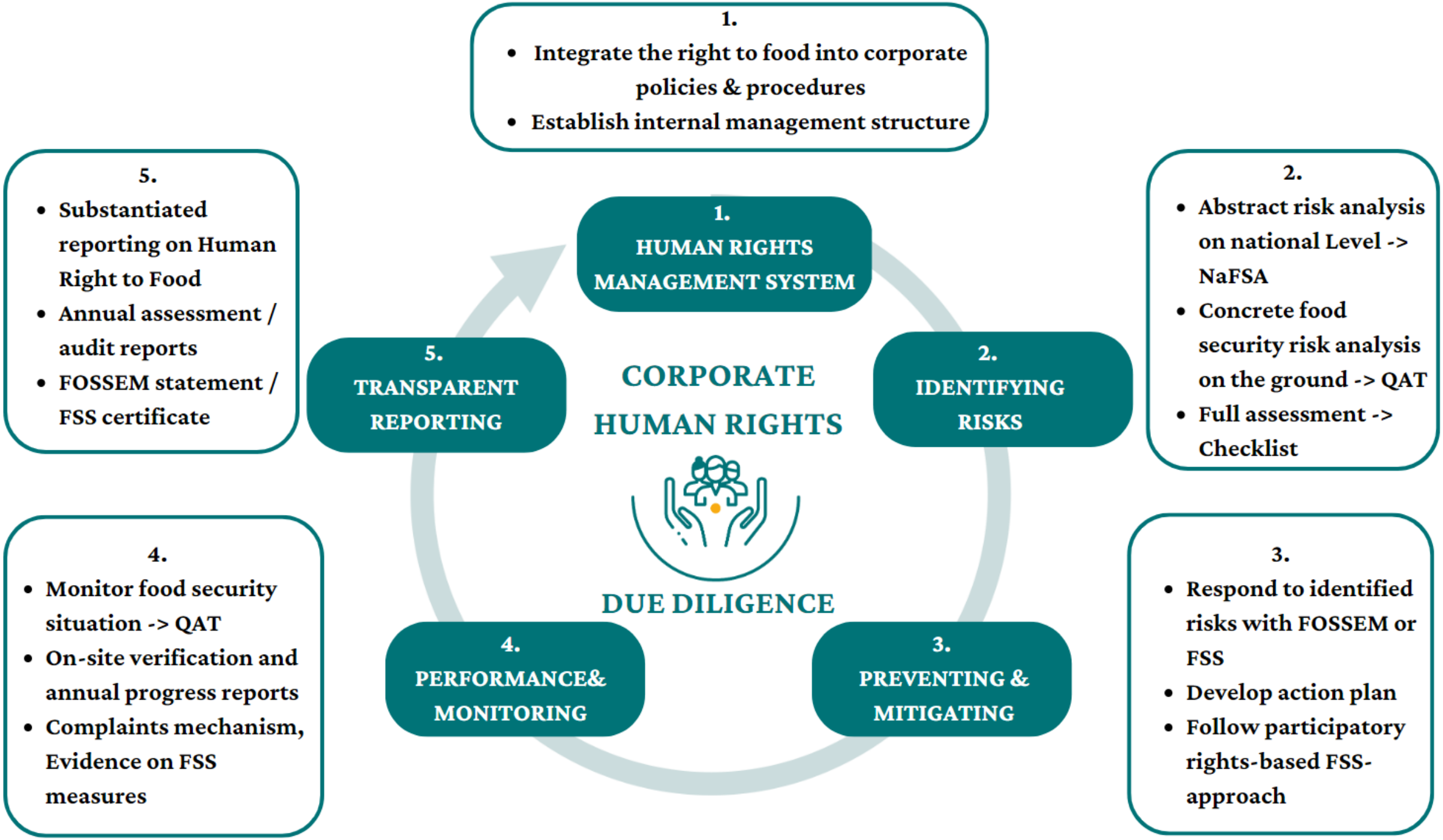
Status of Compliance: No, non-compliance with FSS

Conformity: 0

Non-Conformity: 0

Not Applicable: 0

No.	Criteria	Indicator	Verification guidance	Evidence/ Documents required	Findings	Conformity Yes	No	N/A
Stability Pillar								
Principle 1: Apply good governance and respect the rule of law								
1.1	All parties involved in the agricultural operation and related activities shall comply with applicable national, regional and local laws and regulations and public international treaties.	1.1.1 A documented system for ensuring legal compliance by the farm management/group manager, contract/smallholder farmers, service providers and contractors shall be implemented and maintained.	n/a	n/a				
		1.1.2 All parties involved in the agricultural operation and related activities shall be aware of the law and regulations and comply with them.	Verify the SHs aware when required of responsibilities arising from applicable laws and how to comply them.	Training materials need documents, informational materials.				
		1.1.3 A system to ensure the prevention of all forms of bribery, conflicts of interests and incorrect practices shall be implemented and maintained.	Verify SH can demonstrate knowledge of recognition policy, and the indicator of formal awareness of this policy with assignature.	Training materials need documents, informational materials.				
1.2	All parties involved in the agricultural operation and related activities shall be committed to respecting human rights in all operations and transactions.	1.1.1 A written policy, in a language understood by all parties involved in the agricultural operation and related activities, shall make a commitment to human rights, including the human rights to food, in all operations and transactions, and this policy shall be made available and communicated to all parties involved in the operation.	Verify SH can demonstrate knowledge of recognition policy, and the indicator of formal awareness of this policy with assignature.	Signed copy of the policy in relevant language, training materials.				
Principle 2: Respect nation of food security and development strategies								
2.1	The farm management/group manager shall evaluate national strategies with respect to food security and these strategies shall not be contradicted by any business activities.	1.1.1 The management staff shall be aware of the overall food security situation in the country.	n/a	n/a				
		1.1.2 All relevant and applicable national and local strategies connected with food security shall be well known and not contradicted.	n/a	n/a				
Principle 3: Mitigate natural and human-mad estimator risks								
3.1	Natural and human-made disaster risks shall be mitigated and procedures shall be in place to ensure a proper response to emergencies.	1.1.1 Natural and human-made disaster risks in the area of influence of the operation have been identified. Relevant governmental emergency/contingency plans are known.	Ask the SH about potential natural and human-made disasters in the region (e.g. draughts, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, tsunamis, volcanoes, tornadoes, hurricanes, crypto bibliotheca). Verify the SH can demonstrate awareness of major risks.	n/a				
		1.1.2 A contingency and risk mitigation plan for the farm and its area of influence has been developed and implemented. This plan shall be in line with existing government plans and appropriate for addressing local risks.	Verify the SH as participated in risk management training and meetings devoted to developing a risk mitigation plan. Confirm SH is aware of the existing plan and can implement measures based on the associated risk level. Confirm SH returns to a local risk situation and management, including contents of risk mitigation plan.	Contingency and risk mitigation plan provided by GM. Training materials.				
			Tell to SH workers to confirm findings.	Interviews with SH and workers.				
Access Pillar								
Principle 4: Ensure market access and contribute to local development								
4.1	Local value creation must be supported.	4.1.1 Measures to support local value creation and close to coverage in the area of influence of the operation shall be identified in a consultation process with relevant stakeholders and implemented.	Verify SH participation in the GM's consultation process and contribution/ownership/ownership measures to increase local value creation. Visually inspect the site and ask SH if he/she supports the implementation of agreed upon measures or farm consultation/farm's area of influence. Ask whether GM provides financial support or other assistance.	Documentation of financial support from GM. Payroll cable.				
			Interview SH and/or beneficiaries of value creation measures.	Interviews with SH and/or representatives of benefited communities.				
4.2	Access to markets for local communities must not be reduced.	4.1.1 The time and effort required for local communities to access food markets must not be negatively influence the farm's operations.	Check for farms/informal assessments/reports within the farm that are used by the community. Visually verify the same not blocked.	Visual inspection of the farm.				
			Interview members/representatives of local community to confirm findings.					
Principle 5: Safeguard long-term farm profitability and fair business conduct								
5.1	The operation shall be economically viable in the long term.	5.1.1 A business or management plan shall be available, implemented, and regularly reviewed and updated, and shall include plans and measures to support the long-term economic viability of the operation.	Verify the SH has present a business/management plan or, alternatively, can at least explain the revenue/expense calculations that justify the financial viability of her/his farm in the current economic situation.	Business/management plan or written or stated solution, training materials.				
			Verify SH can demonstrate participation in GM training. Also, verify SH as provided with or verbal contribution/solutions and actions for maintaining or improving economic viability.					


1.
Integrate the right to food into corporate policies & procedures
Establish internal management structure
1.
HUMAN RIGHTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
2.
IDENTIFYING RISKS
2.
Abstract risk analysis on national Level -> NaFSA
Concrete food security risk analysis on the ground -> QAT
Full assessment -> Checklist
3.
PREVENTING & MITIGATING
3.
Respond to identified risks with FOSSEM or FSS
Develop action plan
Follow participatory rights-based FSS-approach
4.
PERFORMANCE& MONITORING
4.
Monitor food security situation -> QAT
On-site verification and annual progress reports
Complaints mechanism, Evidence on FSS measures
5.
TRANSPARENT REPORTING
5.
Substantiated reporting on Human Right to Food
Annual assessment / audit reports
FOSSEM statement / FSS certificate
CORPORATE HUMAN RIGHTS
DUE DILIGENCE

Benefits implementing the FSS into sustainability management practices

- Implementers can break down farmer’s right to food into different actionable indicators
- Make risks visible to tackle them (FSS risk assessment)
- enables companies to identify gaps towards food security and develop a reasonable work plan to close gaps
- Develop preventive and mitigative measures depending on the identified problem (utilization of food, acess to water…)
- Can be used for sustainability reporting (SDG´s/GRI etc.)
- Food security is the basis that Local development can be promoted

The FSS in the 4C Framework

4C audit checklist for:
Business Partner Producers (BP Producers)
with Food Security Standard (FSS) Add-on applied*

All Major and Minor check-points need to be checked. All Major check-points must be complied with in order to obtain the 4C certificate

Principle	Criteria	Check-Point (All check-points in this BP Producer checklist refer only to the operations and procedures within the scope of the BP Producer and not within the ME or other BPs)	Verification Guidance General evidence gathering: Document checks, on-site inspection, interviews with workers to cross check information and with relevant stakeholders if considered necessary	Conformity Yes No NA (not applicable)	Compliance Level 1	2	3+
1. Economic Dimension							
		P 15 - No "multiple claiming" of certified coffee occurs, e.g. selling/delivering one batch of certified coffee multiple times	**Full compliance required at the Annual Update 1 (AU1), one year after the compliance level 1 audit. Needs to be included into the Improvement Plan (IP):** Verify that not more coffee has been sold/delivered as certified as has actually been produced, e.g. one batch of coffee which is certified under 4C and another certification scheme cannot be sold/delivered once under 4C and once under the other scheme		Minor	Major	Major
2. Social Dimension							
	2.1.1 Practices of forced eviction do not exist	P 16 - There is no indication of forced evictions against persons, families and/or groups from their homes and communities without mutually agreed compensation since 2006	Practices of forced eviction to acquire land for coffee production, processing and handling from 2008 onwards are prohibited. In case of legal forced evictions, negative effects of relocation are mitigated. Evidence of compensation paid is available, including information on recipients of compensation, amount of compensation (e.g. housing, land, money), etc. as mutually agreed upon. Negative impacts on communities are avoided. Check whether there is any kind of evidence of an existing conflict regarding land. Check documents of land title, land rights **Specific to FSS:** All relevant information shall be available in appropriate forms and languages understood by everyone affected. This includes impact assessments, proposed benefit sharing and associated legal arrangements		Major	Major	Major
		P 17 - New land acquisitions have been carried out with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of affected people	Check documentation proofing that free, prior and informed consent of affected people with legal land use right including those who claim traditional land use right, especially indigenous people, was given **Specific to FSS:** Check that women are appropriately included (proportionally represented) and their voices are equally heard and respected in all stakeholder consultation processes, including FPIC		Major	Major	Major
		P FSS 9.1.4 eq - The use of the land by pastoralists, indigenous people, artisanal fishers and other comparable users must be allowed. This shall exclude any illegal hunting, illegal fishing or illegal collection of products	Collect information from leaders/elderly and other members of the local community about traditional and customary land use rights. Check whether the BP Producer is totally or partially located within areas used by pastoralists, indigenous people, artisanal fishers, and other comparable users. Ask locals if they are permitted to use the land for these traditional purposes without restriction by the BP Producer		Major	Major	Major

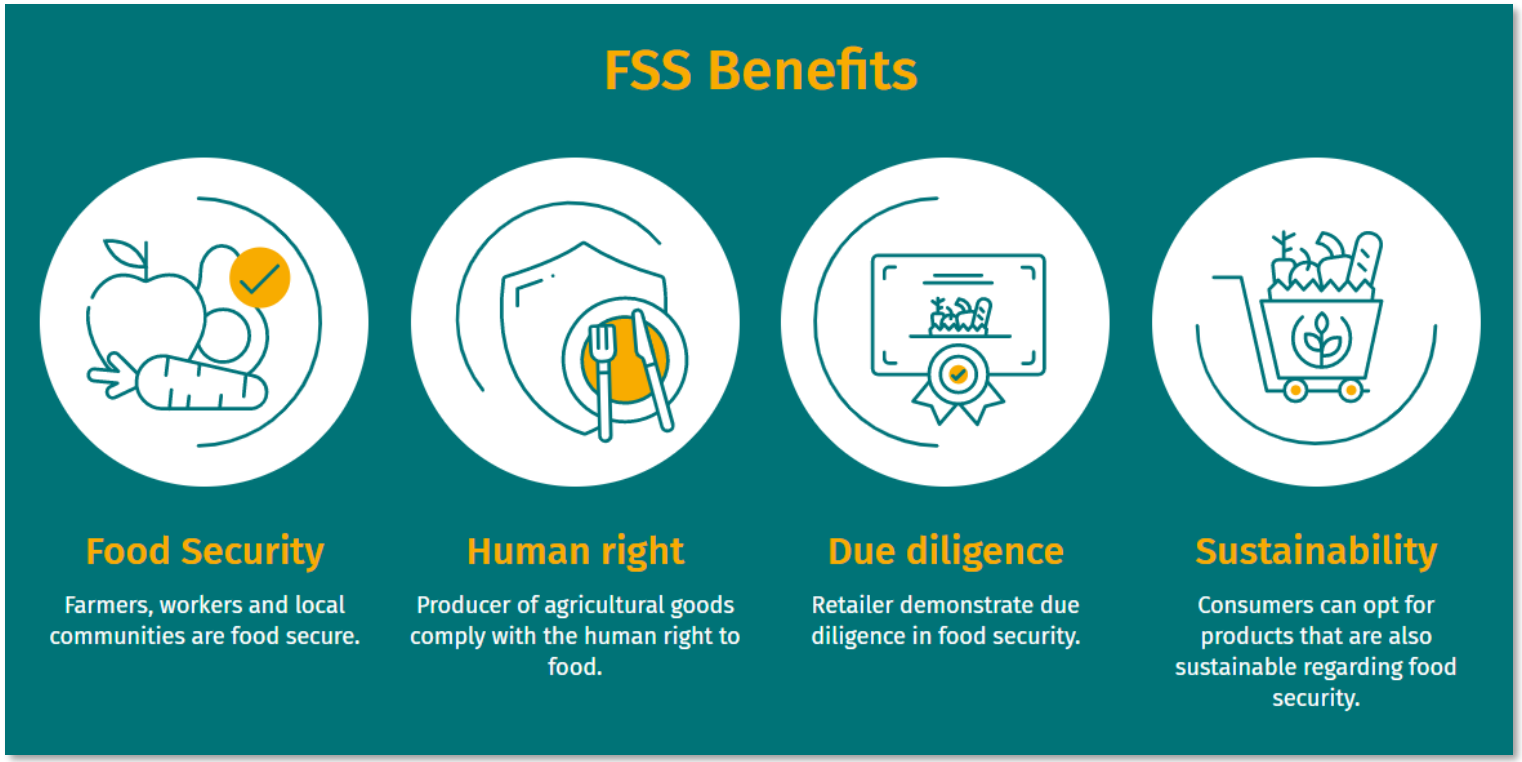
ME | BP Producer | BP Service Provider | Audit Result Page

Full integration of the FSS Criteria in 4C checklist

Full integration of the FSS procedures and tools in 4C Audit procedures

- To be checked during the same audit

The Food Security Standard ...



- is an Add-On Standard and designed to be integrated in any existing sustainability standard in the **agricultural sector**.
- is applicable to all agricultural products, farm sizes and business types.
- useful **toolbox** for risk analysis, risk assessment and management guidance, monitoring.
- addresses Human Rights **holistically** in line with German Supply Chain Act & UNGP.
- offers a stand-alone **customizable** solution (FOSSEM).

Let’s go for it!

FSS

CONTACT DETAILS:

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www.foodsecuritystandard.org

WELT HUNGER HILFE

meo CARBON SOLUTIONS

With support from

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by decision of the German Bundestag