

Sustainable Rice Platform Standard

An enabler for Africa's Rice Transformation



rikolto

Rice in Africa and the choice of SRP

The **demand** for rice is projected to rise by 135% by 2050.

The continent is only ~60% self-sufficient, relying heavily on **imports**

Expansion of rice cultivation + excessive and inappropriate use of inputs = **high financial and environmental cost**

- Biodiversity loss
- Disruption of hydrological systems
- GHG emissions
- Low profitability



We must choose today to **increase farm productivity** while protecting our **environment and communities.**



Rice in Africa and the choice of SRP



Our recipe to support profitability and resilience of farmers

- Increase rice yields
- Sustainable resource management
- More competitive value chains
- An enabling environment
- Promotion of more nutritious diets



The SRP standard offers science-based best practices for rice production that improve productivity while protecting the environment and communities' well-being.



Sustainability = People + Planet + Profit

Effective farm management =
timely farm activities to
minimize runoff

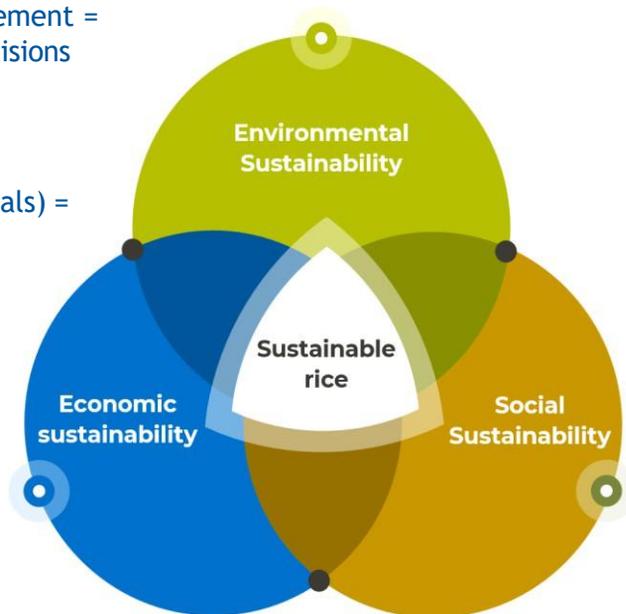
Responsible use of resources =
cleaner and safer environment

Effective farm management =
better investment decisions
and **higher profits**

Resource efficiency
(nutrient, agrochemicals) =
reduced costs

Effective farm management =
safer working conditions

Careful use of agrochemicals =
safer work conditions and
food quality



A closer look at the SRP Standard

SRP Standard is the world's first voluntary sustainability standard for rice. Creating a shared vocabulary for sustainable rice cultivation.



- 41 basic on-farm requirements, organised under 8 themes.
- Not a pass-fail standard - it allows progressive compliance to encourage and reward progress.
- Practical guidelines to adopt proven climate-smart, sustainable best agricultural practices.
- Continuous revision: version 3.0 soon available

A closer look at the SRP Performance Indicators

SRP Performance Indicators (PIs) provide **measurable outcomes**. A set of outcomes can be defined for cross-country benchmarking and learning.

Productivity	Resource efficiency	Climate impact	Health and Safety	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Profit• Labor productivity• Yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water productivity & quality• Nutrient efficiency: P• Nutrient efficiency: N	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity• Greenhouse gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worker health & safety• Child labor & youth engagement• Women's empowerment

A closer look at SRP Assurance

SRP Assurance responds to emerging **growing demand for sustainable rice**

- Consumers demand for **responsibly produced rice** especially when produced in sensitive ecosystems (e.g. wetlands)
- Mandatory **national quality standards** focus primarily on grain characteristics and food safety, not on how rice is produced.

SRP Assurance scheme

- Verifies environmental and social practices at farm level
- Complements mandatory standards for responsible production
- Opens access to premium international markets when fully implemented

A closer look at the SRP benefits in lowland rice systems

15-20%



Chemical use reduction



50%

GHG emission
reduction



10%

Farm income
increase



20%

Water use
reduction



SRP Standard and Performance Indicators apply to all farm sizes, geographies, and irrigation systems, with further learning opportunities in upland and highland contexts where experience is still limited.

Bringing it Together for CARD

- Common sustainability language across countries and actors
- Evidence-based pathway to ‘productivity + sustainability’
- Policy harmonization and alignment with buyer requirements
- Guide extension packages and training curricula
- Benchmarking and peer-learning
- Market linkages



Rikolto, a nimble network organisation



A sustainable **income for farmers**
& nutritious, affordable **food for all**

With over 50 years of experience, Rikolto works alongside farmer organisations and food system actors across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. We foster **inclusive business** relationships in the **rice, cocoa and coffee** sectors, as well as in **urban** food environments and supply chains. Our holistic **food systems approach** connects producers, companies, authorities and civil society to drive collective action and ensure sustainable impact.

Since 2015 we have been a proud **member of the Sustainable Rice Platform to advance sustainable rice practices at production, market and policy levels.**



Sustainable Rice for all

9 countries

44,675 rice farmers

70 farmers cooperatives

35,092 mt of rice sold

86 companies

In partnership and with the support of many actors



SRP



CarbonFarm



Belgium
partner in development



Vlaanderen
verbeelding werkt

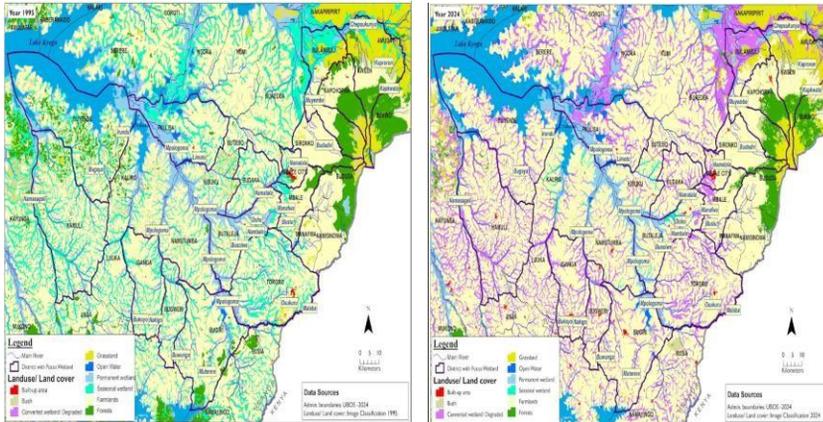


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ACT TODAY
FOR A BETTER FUTURE



SRP standard to safeguard Uganda's wetlands

Mpologoma wetland cover trends in Eastern Uganda: 1995 - 2024



The Ugandan government's policies call for the conservation of wetlands, and the SRP is one means of achieving this.

In Eastern Uganda alone, 66% of wetland cover has been lost (MWE, 2025) due to the erosion caused by unsustainable agricultural expansion and rapid urbanisation



SRP standard to safeguard Uganda's wetlands

In 2019, smallholder farmers in eastern Uganda adopted the SRP standard.



Harvesting results

	2023	2024
Grain yield	+ 32.7%	+ 45.1%
Profitability	+ 44.8%	NA
Methane emissions	- 33.1%	- 46.9%
Biodiversity	+ 15.9%	+ 22.7%

Rikolto:

- Trained farmers and cooperatives on SRP good practices
- Strengthened internal management systems of farmers groups and cooperatives
- Supported data collection and coaching



A shared roadmap for CARD members

Build on one common sustainability language

- Agree on a locally adapted core SRP indicator set across CARD countries
- Use it to develop extension packages, training curricula, and benchmarking

Build (more) evidence

Launch demonstration pilots → publish learning briefs

Harmonize for scaling

- Map SRP with national rice strategies & EAC/REC frameworks
- Align with buyer requirements and market incentives
- Regional working group for SRP adaptation, shared dashboards, and knowledge exchange

Join forces to drive demand

- Convene buyers, cooperatives & consumer organisations
- Position SRP-aligned rice as a trusted, competitive product



What we can bring

Bridging global standards and local realities

- Translate SRP requirements into practices adapted to local farming systems and national priorities
- Strengthen producer organisations and Internal Management Systems (IMS) for data management, group compliance, and continuous learning
- Accompany farmer groups through the SRP quality assurance journey

Driving community-led adoption

- Train and coach lead farmers, cooperatives, and extension teams to implement SRP good practices
- Embed locally owned approaches so adoption continues beyond project support

Enabling system transformation

- Convene research, private sector, and government for coordinated scaling
- Generate evidence to inform national policies and regional alignment
- Feed lessons into national and regional multistakeholder platforms





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