

Implementation of sustainability certification: Introduction to the RSB



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August 12, 2012 9:17 pm
Drought stokes debate over biofuel
By Javier Blas, Commodities Editor
When Barack Obama arrives in corn-growing Iowa for a three-day tour on Monday, he will be confronting a fierce debate over whether the grain is worth growing as food or fuel.
The 2007-08 food crisis highlighted the impact of diverting crops such as corn to ethanol.

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ECONOMICS BLOG
BY THE GUARDIAN TEAM AND THE WORLD'S LEADING ECONOMISTS
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If we want food to remain cheap we need to stop putting it in our cars
Yes the global community is facing a food crisis but biofuel production rather than rising demand for meat based protein is to blame, and the solutions are relatively straightforward

BBC NEWS BUSINESS
Home UK Africa Asia Europe Latin America Mid-East US & Canada Business Health Sci/Environment
17 July 2012 Last updated at 23:00 GMT
Nestle blames biofuels for high food prices
By James Melik
Reporter, Business Daily, BBC World Service

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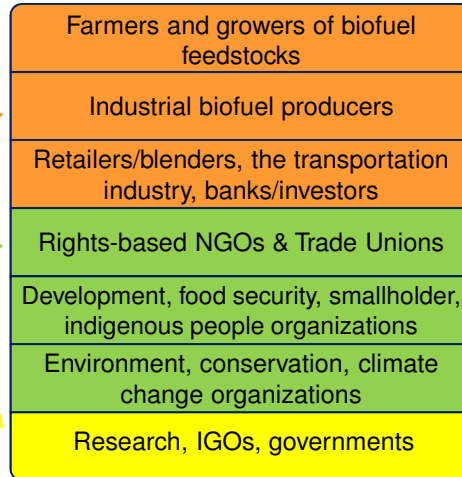
Benefits of Sustainability Certification

- ❖ **Verifiable claim** of sustainability
- ❖ **Distinction** of sustainable and unsustainable pathways
- ❖ **Reduced risks**, e.g. reputational, social and environmental
- ❖ **Improved internal management** and organizational performance
- ❖ **Legitimacy**: Inclusion of concerned stakeholders

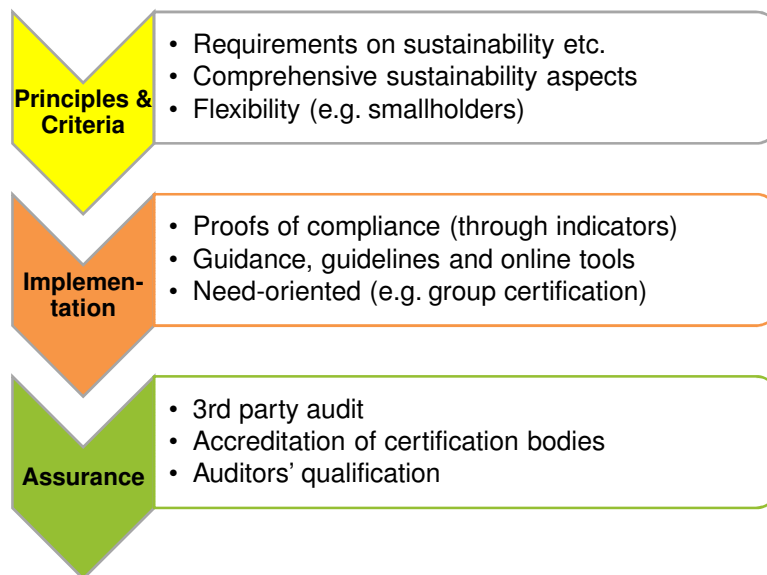


The RSB Governance

- ❖ Global multi-stakeholder organization
- ❖ 7 chambers:
 - Private Sector
 - Civil Society
 - Governments and Researchers
- ❖ Consensus based structure:
All members have the same weight and voice



Structure of the RSB Standard



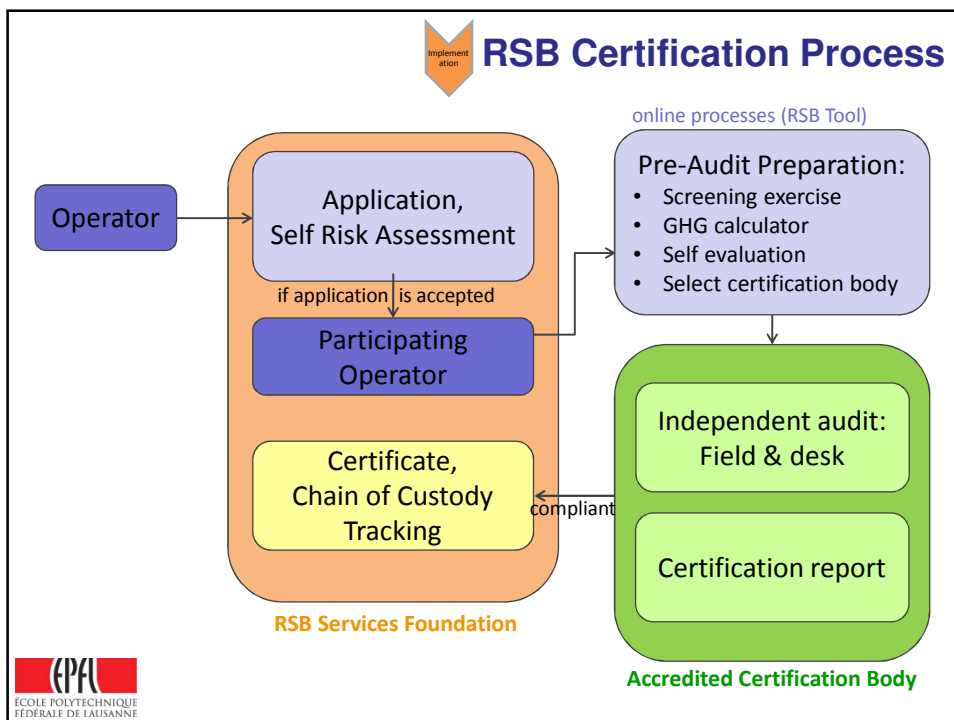
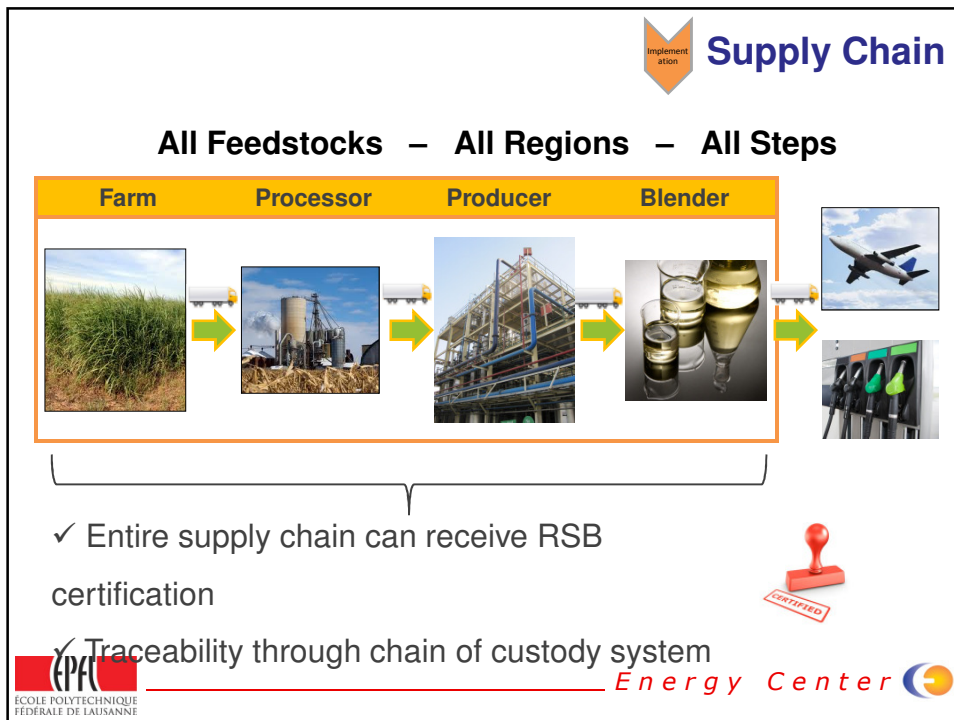
Requirements	RSB	RSPO	RTRS	Bon-sucro	2BSvs	NTA 8080	RED cert	ISCC
CB has procedures on defining roles audit team	=	=	=	=	X	O	=	X
Language skills	=	=	=	=	X	=	X	X
Educational requirements	=	=	=	=	X	O	O	=
Supervised period of practical auditing	=	=	=	=	X	X	X	=
ISO 19011 accredited	=	X	=	=	O	=	=	=
ISO 65 accredited	=	=	=	=	O	=	=	=

Source: Selecting a biomass certification system – a benchmark on level of assurance, costs and benefits
 SQ. Consult BV | NL Agency. March 2012


RSB Principles & Criteria


People	Environment	Performance
Socially responsible business practices	Climate change mitigation: GHG threshold	Improved efficiency and productivity
Fair wages & safe working conditions	Biodiversity & Conservation	Good practices for long term viability
Land rights, food security & rural development	Water, Soil & Air	Continuous improvement





Online RSB Tool

- ❖ Application
- ❖ Self Risk Assessment
- ❖ Pre-Audit Tools:
 - Screening exercise
 - Self Evaluation
 - GHG calculator

Same criterion... different implementation

Example: No forced labor on farms

Options for Verification (examples)

a) Country has ratified ILO convention No. 29 on forced labor (but: 175 countries have)

OR

b) Field tests: Independent auditors conduct surveys and staff interviews to verify non-existence of forced labor



RSB Criterion on Forced Labor

RSB Criterion 4.b: No slave labor or forced labor shall occur.

RSB Indicators (summarized):

4.b.i.1. The operator provides evidence that the operation does not engage in or support the use of forced or otherwise involuntary labor.

4.b.i.2. Workers confirm that they are not required to lodge their identity documents and that no part of their salary is retained to force them to work.

4.b.i.3. Spouses and children of workers are not obliged to work in the operation.

4.b.i.4. Workers confirm that they are allowed to leave their employment after due notice according to their contractual agreements.

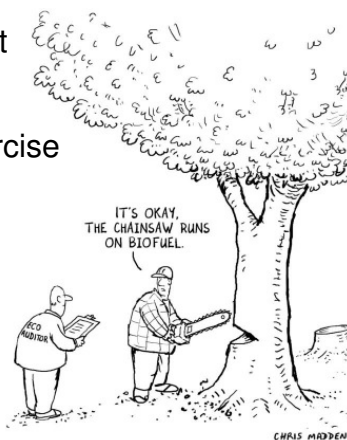
4.b.i.5. Workers confirm that they are allowed to leave company premises freely at the end of their work shifts.



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In a Nutshell

- ❖ **Credible & Legitimate**
Transparent and multi-stakeholder approach; ISEAL member
- ❖ **Robust**
Comprehensive; indep. 3rd party audit
- ❖ **Flexible & Need-oriented**
Risk based approach; screening exercise
- ❖ **User-friendly online tools**
- ❖ **Global standard + European Union**



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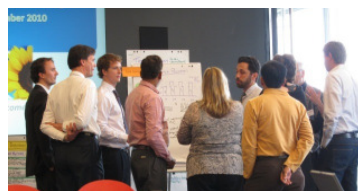
Backup



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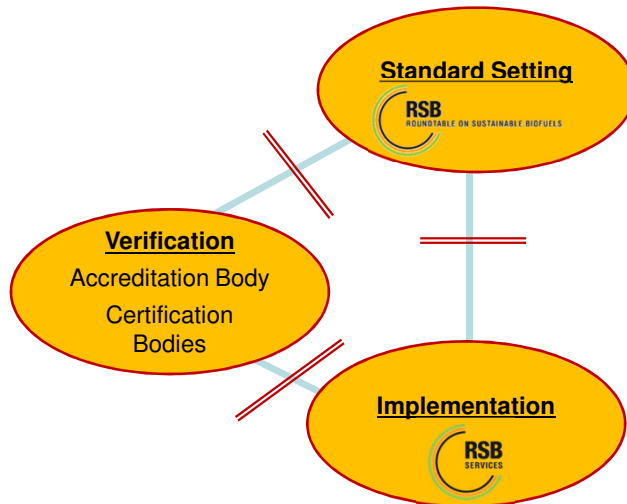
Unique Features of the RSB

- ❖ Feedstock and technology neutral
- ❖ Truly global standard
- ❖ ISEAL Alliance member
- ❖ Strong support from various communities:
 - NGOs
 - Private sector, e.g. aviation
 - International Organizations, e.g. UN agencies
- ❖ Robust assurance and implementation



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RSB Certification Systems Central Elements



Separating these central functions

- Avoids conflicts of interest
- Ensures consistent and credible, implementation of the RSB certification systems

RSB GHG Calculator

- ❖ Online GHG calculator (LCA-based)
- ❖ Freely available
- ❖ Uses **actual data** (no default values)
- ❖ One **module** for each **step** in the supply chain
- ❖ **Methodologies:** RSB and EU RED

The screenshot shows the 'Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels Tool' interface. The main content area is titled 'Cultivation Module 2/10 - Land Use Change'. It includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Home', 'RSB Application', 'Principles and Criteria', 'Risk Assessment', 'Greenhouse Gas Calculation (GHG)', 'Acknowledgements', and 'Feedback'. The main form has tabs for 'General Information', 'Land Use Change', 'LIFE Validation', 'Mechanical Work', 'Harvest', 'Fertilizer', 'Crop Protection', 'Pesticides', 'Default Pathway', 'Validation Calculations', and 'Results'. The 'Land Use Change - Former Land Use' section contains fields for 'Land use at reference date (Number 1)', 'Land use at reference date: Forest Land', 'Managed?' (Yes/No), 'Average:' (Please enter the proportion in %), 'Vegetation:' (Maturity: 0-10 years, How old is the forest?), and 'Canopy Cover:' (Please choose the canopy cover). There is also a field for 'Fires used for clearing?'.

RSB and Indirect Impacts

- First discussions on «leakage effect» in 2007
- Steering Board acknowledged the importance of the issue
- Indirect Impacts Expert Group since 2009
- EPFL (RSB Secretariat) worked on the «Low Indirect Impacts Biofuels» methodology, in partnership with WWF and Ecofys since 2010
- Public consultation and RSB Members consultation in 2012. Several options proposed, incl. iLUC factors, LIIB, ...
 - *Clear trend towards addressing indirect impacts through a low-risk approach (LIIB) implemented in optional module.*
 - *However, no consensus for the moment... To be continued.*



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