

Green Gold Label Program

Introduction & scope

The GGLS2 is based on the United Nations sustainable development program Agenda 21 and the sustainability criteria from the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC). This standard is to be used for approval of the agricultural source when no other certification system is available. An audit based on these principles with a positive result will lead to a the source being accepted as input under the GGL scheme requirements . For these materials, falling under the scope of GGLS2 (Agricultural Sources), each year an audit with a positive result will have to be carried out.

Glossary

See GGL Glossary

Principles

- Principle 1 The agriculture management system is part of an integrated long term planning program (either individually or organized in a group), aimed at development and sustainability.
- Criteria:
- 1.1 A long term commitment to adhere to the principles and criteria for sustainable agriculture, expressed in a written and up to date agriculture management plan or other management documents.
 - 1.2 Policy reviews are carried out periodically.
 - 1.3 A policy is implemented to influence tenure and property rights of local small holders positively, with respect to the minimum size of land-holding.
 - 1.4 The management plan is dealing with the policy on improvement of production, harvesting, storage, processing, distribution and marketing of products on local, national and regional level.
 - 1.5 Storage and distribution problems, affecting food availability are identified and dealt with in the management plan.
- Principle 2 The agriculture management system is based on land-resource planning.
- Criteria:
- 2.1 Collection and continuous monitoring of utilization of natural resources and living conditions are used for the land resource planning (either individually or on a regional basis). Data about: climate, water and soil, land use, vegetation cover and distribution, animal species, utilization of wild plants, production systems and yields, costs and prices and, social and cultural considerations affecting agriculture and adjacent land use are collected on a regular basis
 - 2.2 Participation in the initiation and maintenance of district and village agricultural land resource planning assisted by management and conservation groups.
- Principle 3 The agriculture management is aimed at land conservation and rehabilitation.
- Criteria:
- 3.1 Land degradation is surveyed on a regular basis.
 - 3.2 Land and conservation areas at risk are identified and the policy and management measures are formulated.
 - 3.3 The general planning, management and utilization of land resources and the preservation of soil fertility are defined and executed.

- Principle 4 The agriculture management is aimed at the insurance of freshwater supply and quality for sustainable food production and sustainable rural development.
- Criteria:
- 4.1 Efficiency and productivity of agricultural water use for better utilization of limited water resources has to increase.
 - 4.2 Monitoring of the irrigation performance.
 - 4.3 Proper dispose of sewage and waste from the farm and human settlements and of manure produces by intensive life stock breeding.
 - 4.4 Water quality has to be monitored on biological, physical and chemical quality.
 - 4.5 Measures have to be taken to minimize soil run-of and sedimentation.
 - 4.6 Irrigation has to be planned in a long term program.
 - 4.7 Long term strategies and implementation program have to be developed on water use under scarce conditions.
 - 4.8 Waste water re-use has to be part of the agriculture management system.
- Principle 5 The agricultural management system has implemented integrated pest management and control.
- Criteria:
- 5.1 The management system is based on an integrated system of pest control.
 - 5.2 The use of banned pesticides is prohibited.
 - 5.3 The use of restricted pesticides is controlled and a administration is kept up to date. Stock is kept in a separate and locked storage.
 - 5.4 Biological control agents and organic pesticides, as well as traditional knowledge and skills regarding alternatively non-chemical pest control have to be identified and implemented in the agricultural management system.
- Principle 6 The agricultural management system has implemented sustainable plant nutrition to increase food production.
- Criteria:
- 6.1 The management plan is based on an integrated plant nutrition approach.
 - 6.2 The availability of fertilizer and other plant nutrient resources are optimized.
- Principle 7 Raw materials shall not be obtained from land with high biodiversity value¹.
- Criteria:
- 7.1 The raw material is not produced on land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008, whether or not the land still have that status:
 - Primary forest and other wooded land, namely forest and other wooded land containing native tree species without clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed;
 - Areas with the purposes of nature conservation which are designated by law or by the relevant competent authority. In addition, also areas that have been recognized by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organizations or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, subject to their recognition in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 18(4) **[Directive 2009/28/EC]** for the protection of rare threatened or endangered ecosystems or species. Cultivation of biomass on above mentioned areas is permitted under the condition that evidence is provided that the production did not interfere with those nature protection purposes;
 - Areas with highly bio diverse grasslands which divided in Natural grasslands and Non-Natural grasslands²:

¹ Evidence of compliance with the land-related criteria could take many forms, including aerial photographs, satellite images, maps, land register entries/databases and site surveys. Evidence can be "positive" or "negative". For example, compliance with the criterion on "primary forest" could be shown by:

- An aerial photograph of the land, showing it to be planted (positive), or
- A map of all the primary forests in the region, showing the land to fall outside them (negative)

² All further EC Communications regarding the definition of highly bio diverse grasslands will be binding for this scheme and will be communicated to all participants.

- Natural grassland is grassland that would remain grassland in the absence of human intervention and which maintains the natural species composition and ecological characteristics and processes.
- Non-natural grassland is grassland that would cease to be grassland in the absence of human intervention and which is species-rich and not degraded, unless evidence is provided that the harvesting of the raw materials is necessary to preserve its grassland status.

Principle 8 Raw materials shall not be obtained from land with high carbon stock.

Criteria: 8.1 The raw material is not produced from land with high carbon stock, that is to say land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has this status³⁴:

- Wetlands, namely land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently Or for a significant part of the year;
- Continuously forested areas, namely land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than five meters and a canopy cover of more than 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ;
- Land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than five meters and a canopy cover of between 10% and 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, unless evidence is provided that the carbon stock of the area before and after conversion is such that, when the methodology laid down in part C of Annex V of the RED is applied, the conditions laid down in subsection 2 of Article 17 of the RED would be fulfilled.

Principle 9 Raw materials shall not be obtained from peatland³.

Criteria: 9.1 The raw material is not produced on land that was peatland in January 2008, an exception is possible if evidence is provided that⁵:

- The soil was completely drained in 2008, or
- There has not been draining of the soil since January 2008.

Principle 10 Agricultural raw materials cultivated in the Community shall be obtained in accordance with the European “Cross Compliance” regulations.

Criteria: 10.1 Agricultural raw materials cultivated in the Community must be obtained in accordance with the requirements and standards under the provisions referred to under the heading “Environment” in part A of Annex III to Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and in point 9 of Annex III to that Regulation, and in accordance with the minimum requirements for good agricultural and environmental condition defined pursuant to Article 5(1) of that Regulation.

Principle 11 Soil quality shall be maintained and where possible improved.

11.1 Best practices are applied for the maintenance or improvement of the soil and soil quality in relation to production or the management objectives as these have been included in a management plan.

³ Evidence of compliance with the land-related criteria could take many forms, including aerial photographs, satellite images, maps, land register entries/databases and site surveys. Evidence can be “positive” or “negative”. For example, compliance with the criterion on “primary forest” could be shown by:

- An aerial photograph of the land, showing it to be planted (positive), or
- A map of all the primary forests in the region, showing the land to fall outside them (negative)

⁴ The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if, at the time the raw material was obtained, the land had the same status as it had in January 2008.

⁵ This means that for peatland that was partially drained in January 2008 a subsequent deeper drainage, affecting soil that was not already fully drained, would constitute a breach of the criterion.