

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). A verification based on these principles with a positive result will lead to the source being accepted as input under the GGL scheme requirements. Requirements for verification against this standard are described in Principle 4 of the GGL chain of custody standard (GGLS1).

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 Biomass is not sourced from land that was converted from a wetland to an alternative, dryer ecosystem after 1 January 2008.
Principle 9	Raw materials shall not be obtained from peatland ³ .
Criteria:	9.1 The raw material is not produced on land that was peatland on 1 January 2008, unless it can be demonstrated that the production and harvesting of the raw material does not result in water depletion of a formerly undrained soil.
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.
Criteria	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.
Indicator	11.1.1 The first GGL participant receiving the material shall demonstrate that the original supply unit has a policy or a plan for maintaining (and where possible improving) soil quality, based on local best practices. If relevant, this plan shall include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. key objectives of soil management;2. measures to prevent erosion;3. maintenance of the soil nutrient balance (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium);4. maintenance of soil organic matter and soil fertility, structure and salinity. <p>11.1.2 The GGL participant shall hold relevant information (e.g. reports from the PO, audit reports, monitoring data) to demonstrate that the plan or policy has been implemented.</p>