



OECD-FAO Guidance for
Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains

Helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals





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This brochure illustrates links between the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains (OECD-FAO Guidance) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims to help businesses contribute to achieving the SDGs by implementing the recommendations of the OECD-FAO Guidance.

The OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) developed the **OECD-FAO Guidance** to help businesses observe standards for responsible business conduct (RBC) along the agricultural value chain and implement due diligence to identify, prevent and address risks in their supply chains. It was developed through a two-year multi-stakeholder process and has received widespread government endorsement, including by the G7 Agriculture Ministers.

The recommendations of the OECD-FAO Guidance are relevant to all businesses in the agricultural value chain, including domestic and foreign, private and public, small, medium and large-scale enterprises.

The Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the universal blueprint to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The Goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another¹. The SDGs call for robust involvement of businesses in global development efforts.



Among all the SDGs, the OECD-FAO Guidance is particularly linked to:

- SDG 1** No Poverty
- SDG 2** Zero Hunger
- SDG 3** Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 5** Gender Equality
- SDG 8** Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 12** Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 14** Life below Water
- SDG 15** Life on Land
- SDG 17** Partnerships for the Goals

Due diligence and why it matters to achieving the SDGs

Due diligence is a process through which businesses can identify, prevent and account for how they address the actual and potential adverse impacts of their activities as an integral part of business decision-making and risk management. The OECD-FAO Guidance recommends that businesses implement due diligence to know and show that they are addressing the most significant environmental and social risks associated with their agricultural supply chains and that they are considering the whole range of their impact on the SDGs.

1. United Nations Development Programme, "Sustainable Development Goals", www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html. Please refer to the OECD-FAO Guidance (www.doi.org/10.1787/9789264251052-en) for the entire set of recommendations.

By implementing due diligence:

- **Businesses can proactively identify and address the impacts to workers, the community and the environment and ensure that actions and inactions are not undermining the SDGs.**
- **Businesses can systematically manage risks and demonstrate their contribution to the SDG in a measurable way.**

Due diligence, when implemented effectively, can benefit businesses by lowering operational, reputational and financial risks. It promotes a proactive approach to risk management rather than simply reacting to problems when discovered. Due diligence can also help businesses improve productivity and create opportunities to become an investment, brand and employer of choice. Through due diligence, businesses can make a greater contribution to the SDGs, going beyond their own operations to business relations across the whole value chain.

The risk-based due diligence framework recommended by the OECD-FAO Guidance helps businesses (i) establish strong company management systems; (ii) identify, assess and prioritise risks in the supply chain; (iii) design and implement a strategy to respond to identified risks; (iv) verify supply chain due diligence; and (v) report on supply chain due diligence. While all businesses should conduct due diligence, the implementation can be tailored to meet their circumstances.

Report on supply chain due diligence

Reporting publicly includes reporting on risks found. This builds trust and credibility in business commitments to RBC and to achieving the SDGs.

Establish strong company management systems

Businesses can refer to the SDGs in company policies and highlight how due diligence helps identify and address risks so that the SDGs are not undermined. Strong management systems help mainstream responsibilities for due diligence and SDG actions across divisions, with accountability at the board level.

Verify supply chain due diligence

Verification enables businesses to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of their due diligence, and in turn measuring achievements in relation to the SDGs.



Identify, assess and prioritise risk in the supply chain

By analysing their operations and business relationships, businesses can map the most severe risks and how these impact the SDGs. By identifying what and where the risks are, businesses can know which SDGs they have the most impact on. The risk assessment process helps prioritize action – where risks are the most severe.

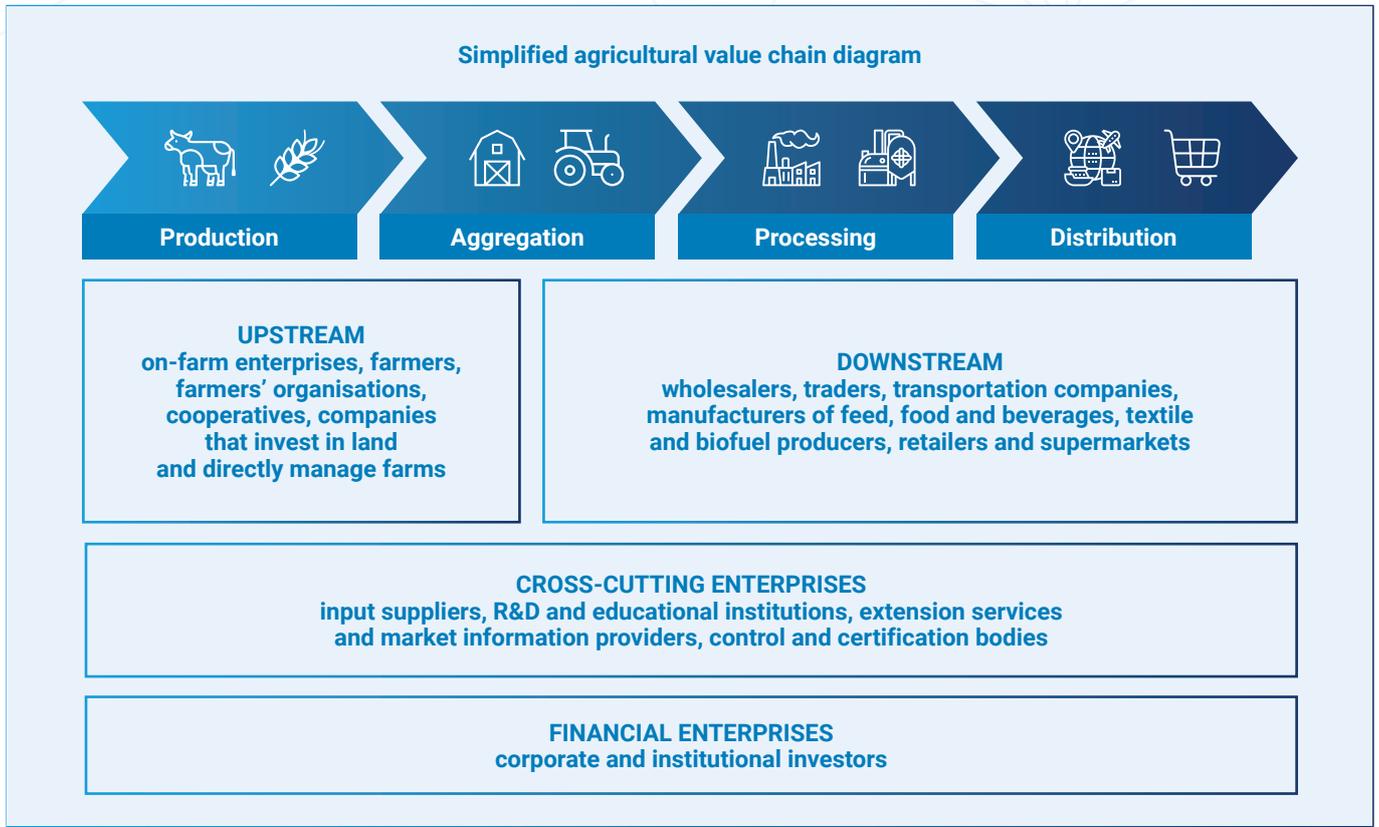
Design and implement a strategy to respond to identified risks

Designing and implementing a strategy enables businesses to move from words to actions. Proactive measures to prevent adverse impacts, including working on root causes, maximises businesses’ contribution to the SDGs. Due diligence facilitates progress towards achieving the SDGs in a systematic way.

Incorporate:

- **Meaningful stakeholder engagement.**
- **A gender perspective into due diligence.**

Types of businesses and risks along the agricultural value chain



FREQUENTLY IDENTIFIED RISKS

The links between the SDGs and the OECD-FAO Guidance

The OECD-FAO Guidance includes a *model enterprise policy for responsible agricultural supply chains*, a *five-step framework for risk-based due diligence along agricultural supply chains*, and *two annexes – measures for risk mitigation and prevention along agricultural supply chains and engagement with indigenous people*. While the Constitution of the FAO includes fisheries and forestry in the definition of agriculture, the OECD-FAO Guidance focuses mostly on crops and livestock. Find out how the different sections of the OECD-FAO Guidance² link to 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets³.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

Section 2: Model enterprise policy for responsible agricultural supply chains

[Model enterprise policy statement: [p.25](#)]

Recognising the risks of significant adverse impacts arising along agricultural supply chains, and recognising our responsibility to respect human rights and our capacity to contribute to sustainable development, and in particular poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, and gender equality, we commit to adopt, implement, widely disseminate and incorporate in contracts and agreements with business partners the model enterprise policy for responsible agricultural supply chains.



2.1 Cross-cutting RBC standards

[Recommended policy: [p.26 Benefit sharing](#)]

- Ensure that our operations contribute to sustainable and inclusive rural development, including, as appropriate, through promoting fair and equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits with affected communities on mutually agreed terms.



Target 1.4

- Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic and financial services, ownership and control over land and property, natural resources, technology.

[Recommended policy: [p.26 Gender](#)]

- Help eliminate discrimination against women.
- Enhance women's meaningful participation in decisionmaking and leadership roles.
- Ensure women's professional development and advancement.
- Facilitate women's equal access and control over natural resources, inputs, productive tools, advisory and financial services, training, markets and information.



Target 2.5

- Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

2. Please refer to the OECD-FAO Guidance (<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264251052-en>) for the entire set of recommendations.

3. For the full scope of 17 SDGs with 169 associated targets, please visit the SDGs Knowledge Platform website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

The OECD-FAO Guidance

2.1 Cross-cutting RBC standards

[Recommended policy: [p.26 Benefit sharing](#)]

[Recommended policy: [p.26 Gender](#)]

The SDGs and associated targets



Target 5.1

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Target 5.5

- Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making.

Target 5.a

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and property, financial services, and natural resources.

Target 5.b

- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.



Target 15.6

- Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources.

2.2 Human rights

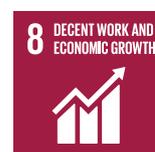
[Recommended policy: [p.26](#)]

- Avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts and address such impacts when they occur.
- Seek ways to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to our operations, products or services by a business relationship, even if we did not contribute to those impacts.
- Carry out human rights due diligence as appropriate to the size, nature and context of our operations and the severity of the risks of adverse human rights impacts.
- Ensure that all persons’ human rights are respected, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.



Target 1.4

- Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic and financial services, ownership and control over land and property, natural resources, technology.



Target 8.7

- Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

2.3 Labour rights

[Recommended policy: [p.27](#)]

- Respect international core labour standards in our operations, namely the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, including for migrant workers, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
- Ensure occupational health and safety.
- Ensure decent wages, benefits and working conditions.
- Promote the security of employment and co-operate in government schemes to provide some form of income protection to workers whose employment has been terminated.
- Seek to prevent abuses of migrant workers.
- Adopt approaches, measures, and processes to enhance women's meaningful participation in decision-making and leadership roles.
- Strive to increase employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly.
- Ensure that relevant training is provided for all levels of employees, to meet the needs of the enterprise and the development policies of the host country, including by increasing the productivity of the youth and/or their access to decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Ensure maternity protection at work.



Target 3.1

- Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births.

Target 3.9

- Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.



Target 4.3

- Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education.

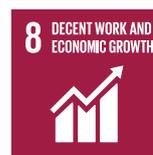
Target 4.4

- Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.



Target 5.5

- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making.



Target 8.3

- Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation.

Target 8.5

- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men and equal pay for work of equal value.

Target 8.7

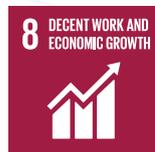
- Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

2.3 Labour rights

[Recommended policy: [p.27](#)]



Target 8.8

- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers.

2.4 Health and safety

[Recommended policy: [p.27](#)]

- Adopt appropriate practices to prevent threats to human life, health, and welfare in our operations, as well as threats deriving from the consumption, use or disposal of our goods and services, including by adhering to good practices in food safety.
- Contribute to the protection of the health and safety of affected communities during the life-cycle of our operations.



Target 3.9

- Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.



Target 6.3

- Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials.



Target 11.6

- Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.



Target 12.4

- Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life.



Target 14.1

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution cycle.

2.5 Food security and nutrition

[Recommended policy: [p.28](#)]

- Ensure that our operations contribute to food security and nutrition.
- Give attention to enhancing the availability, accessibility, stability and utilisation of safe, nutritious and diverse foods.



Target 2.1

- End hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

2.5 Food security and nutrition

[Recommended policy: [p.28](#)]



Target 2.2

- End all forms of malnutrition and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

Target 2.3

- Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers.

Target 2.4

- Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices.

Target 2.5

- Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species.

Target 2.a

- Increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries.

2.6 Tenure rights over and access to natural resources

[Recommended policy: [p.28](#)]

- Respect legitimate tenure right holders and their rights over natural resources, including public, private, communal, collective, indigenous and customary rights, potentially affected by our activities. Natural resources include land, fisheries, forests, and water.



Target 1.4

- Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic and financial services, ownership and control over land and property, natural resources, technology.



Target 2.3

- Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, including through secure and equal access to land.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

2.6 Tenure rights over and access to natural resources

[Recommended policy: [p.28](#)]



Target 5.a

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and property, financial services, and natural resources.



Target 14.b

- Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

2.8 Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources

[Recommended policy: [pp.28-29](#)]

- Establish and maintain, in co-ordination with responsible government agencies and third parties as appropriate, an environmental and social management system appropriate to the nature and scale of our operations and commensurate with the level of potential environmental and social risks and impacts.
- Prevent, minimise and remedy pollution and negative impacts on air, land, soil, water, forests and biodiversity.
- Avoid or reduce the generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, substitute or reduce the use of toxic substances, and enhance the productive use or ensure a safe disposal of waste.
- Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and increasing the efficiency of resource use and energy.
- Reduce food loss and waste and promoting recycling.
- Promote good agricultural practices, including to maintain or improve soil fertility and avoid soil erosion.
- Support and conserve biodiversity, genetic resources and ecosystem services.
- Increase the resilience of agriculture and food systems, the supporting habitats and related livelihoods to the effects of climate change through adaptation measures.



Target 2.4

- Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change and other disasters and progressively improve land and soil quality.

Target 2.5

- Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species.



Target 3.9

- Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.



Target 6.3

- Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials.

Target 6.4

- Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

2.8 Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources

[Recommended policy: [pp.28-29](#)]

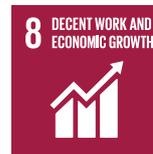


Target 6.5

- Implement integrated water resources management at all levels.

Target 6.6

- Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.



Target 8.4

- Improve global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.



Target 12.2

- Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Target 12.3

- Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains.

Target 12.4

- Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle.

Target 12.5

- Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.



Target 13.1

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.



Target 14.1

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

2.8 Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources

[Recommended policy: [pp.28-29](#)]



Target 14.2

- Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts.



Target 15.1

- Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services.

Target 15.2

- Promote the implementation of sustainable management of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation.

Target 15.3

- Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

Target 15.4

- Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

Target 15.5

- Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity.

2.9 Governance

[Recommended policy: [p.29](#)]

- Prevent and abstain from any form of corruption and fraudulent practices.
- Act consistently with the Principles contained in the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Principles of Corporate Governance.



Target 16.5

- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

2.10 Technology and innovation

[Recommended policy: [p.29](#)]

- Contribute to the development and diffusion of appropriate technologies, particularly environmentally-friendly technologies and those that generate direct and indirect employment.



Target 17.7

- Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

Section 3: Five-step framework for risk-based due diligence along agricultural supply chains

3.5 Report on supply chain due diligence

[Recommended framework: [pp.38-39](#)]

- Publicly report on the company's supply chain due diligence policies and practices.
- Beyond public and formal reporting, communication can take a variety of forms, including in-person meetings, online dialogues, and consultation with affected stakeholders. Communication needs to be appropriate to the impacts and audience in terms of its form, frequency, accessibility, and the adequacy of information provided.



Target 12.6

- Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

Annex A: Measures for risk mitigation and prevention along agricultural supply chains

A.1 Cross-cutting RBC standards

[Recommended measures: [p.53 1.4 Benefit sharing](#)]

- Strive to identify opportunities for development benefits, such as through: the creation of local forward and backward linkages and of local jobs with safe working environments; the diversification of income-generating opportunities; capacity development; local procurement; technology transfer; improvements in local infrastructure; better access to credit and markets, particularly for small and medium sized businesses; payments for environmental services; allocation of revenue; or the creation of trust funds.
- Ensure that operations are in line with the development priorities and social objectives of the host government.
- Share monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from operations involving indigenous peoples' lands, resources and knowledge, on the basis of the consultation process and ESHRIAs, in a way that does not unfairly benefit specific groups, but that fosters equitable and sustainable social development.



Target 1.4

- Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic and financial services, ownership and control over land and property, natural resources, technology.



Target 2.3

- Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.1 Cross-cutting RBC standards

[Recommended measures: [p.53 1.4 Benefit sharing](#)]



Target 2.5

- Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species.

Target 2.a

- Increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks.



Target 9.3

- Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.



Target 15.6

- Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources.



Target 17.15

- Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.2 Human rights

[Recommended measures: [pp.54-55](#)]

- Carry out human rights due diligence by assessing actual and potential human rights impacts, integrating and acting upon the findings, tracking responses, and communicating how impacts are addressed.
- Ensure that all stakeholders involved are treated fairly, particularly groups in vulnerable situations such as women, youth, and minorities, recognising their respective situations, constraints and needs.
- Recognise the vital role played by women in agriculture and take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and to help ensure their full professional development and advancement, including by facilitating equal access and control over natural resources, inputs, productive tools, advisory and financial services, training, markets and information.



Target 1.4

- Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic and financial services, ownership and control over land and property, natural resources, technology.



Target 5.1

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Target 5.5

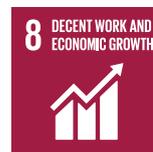
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making.

Target 5.a

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and property, financial services, and natural resources.

Target 5.b

- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.



Target 8.7

- Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.3 Labour rights

[Recommended measures: [pp.55-58](#)]

- Be guided throughout operations by the principle of equality of opportunity and treatment in employment and do not discriminate against workers with respect to employment or occupation on such grounds as race, colour, sexual orientation or gender identity, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, or other status, unless selectivity concerning worker characteristics furthers established governmental policies that specifically promote greater equality of employment opportunity or relates to the inherent requirements of a job.
- Make qualifications, skill and experience the basis for the recruitment, placement, training and advancement of staff at all levels.
- Respect the minimum age for admission to employment or work in order to secure the effective abolition of child labour.
- Refrain from employing or benefitting from forced labour, which consists of any work or service not voluntarily performed that is exacted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.
- Monitor the primary supply chain on an ongoing basis in order to identify any significant changes or new risks or incidents of child and/or forced labour, and work with primary suppliers to take corrective action and remedy them.
- Observe standards of employment and industrial relations not less favourable than those observed by comparable employers. Where comparable employers may not exist in the country in which the company operates, provide the best possible wages, benefits and conditions of work within the framework of government policies. These should be at least adequate to satisfy the basic needs of the workers and their families.
- Endeavour to provide stable employment for workers, and observe freely negotiated obligations concerning employment stability and social security.
- Refrain from discriminatory or disciplinary action against workers who make bona fide reports to management or, as appropriate to the competent public authorities on practices that contravene the law, the OECD Guidelines, or the enterprise's policies.
- Ensure that relevant training is provided to workers at all levels to meet the needs of the operations, where appropriate, in co-operation with relevant governmental authorities and employers' and workers' organisations.
- Provide appropriate training, education and mentorship programmes for youth to increase their capacity and/or access to decent work and entrepreneurship, and promote access to training by women.



Target 4.3

- Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education.

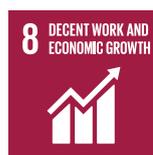
Target 4.4

- Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.



Target 5.5

- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making.



Target 8.5

- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men and equal pay for work of equal value.

Target 8.7

- Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

Target 8.8

- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers.



Target 10.2

- Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

Target 10.3

- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.3 Labour rights

[Recommended measures: [pp.55-58](#)]



Target 10.4

- Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

A.4 Health and safety

[Recommended measures: [pp.58-59](#)]

- Evaluate the risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities throughout the operations.
- Establish preventive and control measures that are consistent with good international industry practice, and commensurate with the nature and magnitude of the identified risks and impacts, trying to avoid, and, if unsuccessful, to minimise risks and impacts.
- Avoid or minimise workers, third party and community exposure to hazardous materials and substances that may be released by the operations, including by modifying, substituting, or eliminating the condition or material causing the potential hazards, and by exercising reasonable efforts to control the safety of deliveries, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.



Target 3.9

- Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.



Target 6.3

- Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.



Target 11.6

- Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.



Target 12.4

- Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle.



Target 14.1

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.5 Food security and nutrition

[Recommended measures: [pp.59-61](#)]

- To the extent possible, consider the impacts of operations on the availability and access to food, local employment, dietary preferences and stability of food supply, including by involving local governments and other relevant stakeholders.
- To the extent possible, consider contributing to improving access to food and the resilience and nutrition of local populations by: increasing the production of safe, nutritious and diverse foods and promoting the nutritional value of food and agricultural products; facilitating access to inputs, technology, and markets; generating employment in downstream activities; or setting up community storage facilities to reduce postharvest losses and price volatility.



Target 2.1

- End hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Target 2.2

- End all forms of malnutrition and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

Target 2.3

- Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers.

Target 2.4

- Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices.

Target 2.5

- Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species.

Target 2.a

- Increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.6 Tenure rights over and access to natural resources

[Recommended measures: [pp.61-63](#)]

- Identify rights holders – who consist not only of holders of officially recognised tenure rights, but also of public, private, communal, collective, indigenous and customary tenure rights that may not have been officially registered and titled, including women's tenure rights – and other relevant stakeholders, including through local and open consultations.
- Consider feasible alternative investments if proposed investments lead to the physical and/or economic displacement of local communities, recognising that states should expropriate only where rights to land, fisheries or forests are required for a public purpose and that they should clearly define the concept of public purpose in law.



Target 1.4

- Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic and financial services, ownership and control over land and property, natural resources, technology.



Target 2.3

- Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, including through secure and equal access to land.



Target 5.a

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and property, financial services, and natural resources.



Target 14.b

- Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.8 Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources

[Recommended measures: pp.65-66]

- Establish and maintain a system of environmental management appropriate to the characteristics of the company.
- Establish procedures to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the environmental management system.
- Address the foreseeable environmental, health, and safety-related impacts associated with the processes, goods and services of the company over their full life cycle with a view to avoiding or, when unavoidable, mitigating them.
- Where there is a risk of harm to the environment, avoid reference to the lack of full scientific evidence as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent or minimise such damage, consistent with the scientific and technical understanding of the risks, taking into account risks to human health and safety.
- Maintain contingency plans for preventing, mitigating, and controlling serious environmental and health damage from the operations, including accidents and emergencies, and, where applicable, assist and collaborate with potentially affected communities and local government agencies to respond effectively to emergency situations, including by setting up mechanisms for immediate reporting to competent authorities.
- Taking into account concerns about cost, business confidentiality, and the protection of intellectual property rights, provide the public and workers with adequate, measurable and timely information on the potential environmental, health and safety impacts of the activities of the company, and engage in adequate and timely communication and consultation with the communities directly affected by the environmental, health and safety policies of the company and by their implementation.
- Seek to avoid negative impacts on, and support the conservation of biodiversity, genetic resources and ecosystem services, and when avoidance of such impacts is not possible, implement measures to minimise impacts and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services through an adaptive management approach.
- Select the most appropriate production system, in collaboration with the government if appropriate, to enhance resource use efficiency while preserving the future availability of current resources.



Target 2.4

- Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change and other disasters and progressively improve land and soil quality.

Target 2.5

- Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species.



Target 3.9

- Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.



Target 6.3

- Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials.

Target 6.4

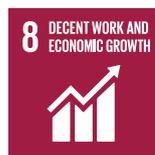
- Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater.

Target 6.5

- Implement integrated water resources management at all levels.

Target 6.6

- Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.



Target 8.4

- Improve global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.8 Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources

[Recommended measures: [pp.65-66](#)]



Target 12.2

- Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Target 12.3

- Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains.

Target 12.4

- Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle.

Target 12.5

- Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.



Target 13.1

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.



Target 14.1

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

Target 14.2

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.



Target 15.1

- Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services.

Target 15.2

- Promote the implementation of sustainable management of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation.

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The SDGs and associated targets

A.8 Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources

[Recommended measures: [pp.65-66](#)]



Target 15.3

- Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

Target 15.4

- Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

Target 15.5

- Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity.

A.9 Governance

[Recommended measures: [pp.67-68](#)]

- Avoid directly or indirectly (via a third party) offering, promising, giving, or demanding a bribe or other undue advantage to public officials, the workers of business partners or to their relatives or business associates, to obtain or retain business or any other improper advantage.
- Develop and adopt adequate internal controls, ethics and compliance programmes or measures for preventing and detecting bribery.
- Prohibit or discourage, in internal company controls, ethics and compliance programmes or measures, the use of small facilitation payments, and if and when such payments are made, accurately record these in books and financial records.
- Use objectively assessed values, transparent and decentralised processes and services, and a right to appeal, to prevent corruption with regard to tenure rights, in particular the customary tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Collaborate in the efforts by governments to implement the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (OECD Anti-Bribery Convention).



Target 16.5

- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

The OECD-FAO Guidance

The SDGs and associated targets

A.10 Technology and innovation

[Recommended measures: [p.69](#)]

- Endeavour to ensure that activities are compatible with the science and technology policies and plans of host countries and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of local and national innovative capacity.
- Adopt, where practicable in the course of the operations, practices that permit the transfer and rapid diffusion of locally-adapted and innovative technologies, knowhow and practices, with due regard to the protection of intellectual property rights.
- When appropriate, perform science and technology development work in developing countries that aim to address local market needs, employ local personnel and encourage their training, taking into account commercial needs.



Target 17.7

- Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

The Scope of the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains

The OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains (<https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7970en>) considers following existing standards that are relevant for responsible business conduct along agricultural supply chains.

- The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (OECD Guidelines).
- The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights [Implementing the UN ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework] (UN Guiding Principles).
- The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS-RAI Principles).
- The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security of the Committee on World Food Security (VGGT).
- The Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources developed by FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank (PRAI).
- The International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (ILO MNE Declaration).
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines.
- The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (Aarhus Convention).
- The International Finance Corporation’s Performance Standards.
- The Principles of the UN Global Compact.

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For more information

<http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/rbc-agriculture-supply-chains.htm>
<http://www.fao.org/economic/est/issues/investment/guidance>

