



BUILDING RESPONSIBLE
GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS
FOR SUSTAINABLE
TROPICAL FRUITS

Capacity development workshop #1: Why and how should tropical fruit companies carry out due diligence to reduce sustainability risk and increase resilience to shocks

Wednesday, 28 September 2022, 07:00-08:30 Accra time – 09:00-10:30 Rome – 15:00-16:30 Kuala Lumpur on Zoom

A time zone converter like [this](#) can be used to calculate your local time.

Register at https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsc-Gopj4uE9DKF6qwXhj_fpmB_gBF_TWI

Background

Tropical fruit value chains can contribute to sustainable development in many ways, including by creating jobs and export revenues. Tropical fruits are also part of a healthy diet for millions of people. At the same time, the tropical fruit sector faces risks that can lead to negative social and environmental impacts if not correctly addressed. The sector is also highly exposed to external shocks such as climate change, increasing input prices, pandemics and economic downturns. Moreover, emerging and new regulations set out obligations for companies to undertake due diligence for actual or potential negative impacts along their entire value chains

To support companies' efforts to make tropical fruit value chains more sustainable, FAO leads the **Responsible Fruit Project** that specifically focuses on pineapples and avocados, which are among the most produced and traded tropical fruits after bananas.

FAO recommends that companies carry out risk-based due diligence to manage sustainability risks. Due diligence is the process through which companies can identify, assess, mitigate, prevent, and account for how they address negative impacts of their activities and those of their suppliers and business partners. All companies face different risks and the measures to address a particular risk should correspond to the severity and likelihood of negative impacts arising from that risk. Due diligence helps companies gain access to export markets, strengthen their image as a responsible company and reduce costs related to litigation, conflicts, and damaged reputation. Risk management also help them become more resilient to external shocks.

Due diligence in the context of responsible business conduct	
What is it?	A process
Who is responsible?	that companies should conduct to
What must be done?	identify, prevent, or mitigate and report on how
What is the focus?	actual and potential negative impacts are addressed
Where is it applied?	in their own operations, supply chains and other business relationships (Source: OECD)

Workshop

At this workshop, FAO experts will introduce the concept of due diligence, and explain how due diligence can help agribusinesses reduce sustainability risks and increase resilience to shocks and thereby improve their long-term economic performance.



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Practical examples on how companies have carried out due diligence will be presented. FAO will also introduce a gap analysis guide that enable companies to compare the standards and policies they are using with international expectations on due diligence. Responses from the project's baseline survey and bilateral discussions with companies indicate that many of them rely on voluntary sustainability standards for managing risks. Voluntary standards can support but not replace companies' own due diligence. The gap analysis will help companies identify strengths and weaknesses of their standards and policies and prioritize areas for improvement of their sustainability risk-management processes.

Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and share their own experiences of how they address risks along their value chains, whether through their own risk management systems or with the help of third parties such as certification schemes.

At the end of this workshop, companies will have a better understanding of how and why they may carry out due diligence to reduce risks and increase resilience to shocks.

Objectives

The objectives of this workshop are to:

- Enhance participant understanding of the concept of risk-based due diligence
- Provide compelling arguments on why companies should care about due diligence
- Introduce practical tools and approaches that can help the design and implementation of due diligence, including the gap analysis guide

Participation

This workshop is organized with the support of International Tropical Fruits Network – TFNet. The event is open to private sector companies, producer associations and trade organizations working in avocado or pineapple value chains. Other stakeholders, such staff at government ministries and agencies that support the tropical fruits sector as well as academics, may also take part. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and share their experiences.

Languages

English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

Registration

You need to register in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting. Registration link: https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsc-Gopj4uE9DKF6qwXhj_fpmB_gBF_TWI



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Tentative agenda

Section title	Speaker/Facilitator
Housekeeping and welcome	FAO
What is due diligence and why should companies in the tropical fruit sector care about it? This session will introduce the concept of due diligence; and explain how due diligence can help companies reduce sustainability risk and increase resilience and thereby their long-term economic performance. (15 min)	Pascal Liu, Team Leader, Responsible Global Value Chains, FAO
Q&A and discussion	Moderated by Dr Marlo Rankin, Senior researcher, FAO
How can companies compare their standards and policies with international expectations on due diligence? This session will introduce the gap analysis guide; discuss the difference between certification standards and due diligence; and explain how companies can use the guide to identify strengths and weaknesses and prioritize areas for improvement of their sustainability risk-management. (15 min)	Jesper Karlsson, Project officer, FAO
Q&A and discussion	Moderated by Dr Marlo Rankin, Senior researcher, FAO
Closing comments	TFNet and FAO

For more information about the project, please contact: Responsible-Fruits@fao.org

<http://www.fao.org/economic/est/issues/investment/building-responsible-value-chains-for-tropical-fruits/>

For more information about TFNet: <https://www.itfnet.org/>