

Procedure for the development of Small-scale Producer Indicators 01.01.2015_v1.1

The Fairtrade Standards for Small-scale Producer Organisations and Contract Production extend the scope of the definition of small-scale producers for certain labour intensive products to potentially include a larger number of beneficiaries. The extended definition is based on product-specific land size indicators. This procedure explains the steps for developing, reviewing and deciding upon those indicators.

This procedure is independent from Fairtrade International [Standard Operating Procedure](#) (SOP) for standard setting. The indicators that define small-scale producers will be developed following this procedure exclusively. However, the criteria that define small-scale producers are part of the standard and any review of those criteria will follow Fairtrade International SOP for standard setting.

1. Development of new indicators

Indicators defining the land size below which members are considered small-scale producers are developed for all highly labour intensive products (fruits, vegetables, tea and sugar). The development of new indicators will consist of research, decision, publication and reporting phases.

1.1 Research

The indicators will be established by S&P cross-checking information from the following sources (research to be documented in a concise but complete way for future reference):

- a) Evidence showing why the extended definition is necessary in the particular context. This may be for historical, technical, economic, social or agronomic reasons.
- b) Evidence showing that small-scale producers exist in the particular product and country, or that otherwise a hired labour set up, as understood in Fairtrade's Hired Labour Standard, better fits the reality of the product/region.
- c) Research on the respective official national/regional definition of Small-scale Producers, if available.
- d) Evidence of or opinion from experts, on the average land size applicable to the specific product and region/country. This opinion can be obtained ad hoc or using existing research results. Auditors and Producer Networks (PNs) staff/ can be considered experts when they have sufficient knowledge of the region and the product.
- e) Field experience from pre-assessments, similar situations or information from producers.
- f) Comparison with existing indicators for the same product or for the same region.
- g) Evaluation of implications in terms of competition intra and inter-regionally.

1.2 Decision

Once research is carried out and considered conclusive, S&P project manager makes a proposal for the development of a new indicator for decision. The decision is taken by the Standards Committee which may case by case specifically delegate it to the Director of S&P.

1.3 Publication

Once a decision is taken, S&P informs those who requested it of the results, updates the public table of indicators if necessary, and informs the certification body. New indicators take effect immediately.

1.4 Reporting

Decisions taken by the Director of S&P will be reported annually to the SC.

2. Revision of existing indicators

The revision of existing indicators, or exceptions considered in the standards on this topic, will consist of request, research, stakeholder engagement, decision, publication and reporting phases.

2.1 Request

Reviews will be carried out only upon request.

A request to review indicators can be presented by any member or unit of Fairtrade International and FLOCERT. Other stakeholders can also make a request if endorsed by any other of the listed parties.

All requests must include the rationale of why a review is necessary.

S&P will evaluate if the review is justified and when the request can fit into their workplan and inform the requestor.

2.2 Research

S&P will carry out a research following the same points as for the development of a new indicator, and additionally:

- a) Analysis of the impact on already certified organisations, in terms of membership and sales (current and potential).
- b) A comparison of costs/negative effects and benefits of the change.

2.3 Stakeholder engagement

When an analysis shows that a requested change will have no negative consequences for certified organisations, PNs and the directly affected organisations will be informed of the upcoming change and given a period of time to raise any concern.

When the analysis shows that the change can have negative consequences for certified organisations, S&P will enter into a dialogue with PNs and directly affected organisations to define a possible transition and an action plan to minimize and manage these consequences.

Market-facing staff of Fairtrade will also be involved in both cases to verify that market disruption is minimized.

2.4 Decision

Once research and stakeholder engagement is carried out and considered conclusive, S&P project manager makes a proposal for decision regarding the reviewed values of the indicator and the transition phase and an action plan for managing any negative repercussions of the change. The decision is taken by the Standards Committee which can case by case specifically delegate it to the Director of S&P.

2.5 Publication

Once a decision is taken, S&P informs the requestor of the review and all affected parties of the results, updates the public table of indicators if necessary, and informs the certification body. New indicators take effect as per the transition period decided by the S&P Director.

2.6 Reporting

Decisions taken by the Director of S&P will be reported annually to the SC.

Change history

Version number	Date of publication	Changes
01.01.2015_v1.0	15.01.2015	First version. Responsibility for the SPO indicators taken over by Fairtrade International.
01.01.2015_v1.1	30.01.2020	Procedure adapted to the new SPO definition.