



## **Minutes 116 - EB Physical Meeting**

**Date:** May 18, 2015

**Place:** Hotel Bloom, Brussels, Belgium

**Attendees:**

**Producers:** Alejandro O'Donnell (Aapresid); Gisela Introvini (Fapcen); Juliana Lopes (Amaggi)

**Industry, Trade & Finance:** Belinda Howell (Retailers' Soy Group); Olaf Brugman (Rabobank); Terence Baines (Unilever); Cornel Boere (Agrifirm)

**Civil Society:** Gert Van Der Bijl (Solidaridad); Oswaldo Carvalho (Earth Innovation Institute); Sandra Mulder (WWF);

**Proxies:** Ashis Mondal (ASA) is given to Gert Van Der Bijl (Solidaridad)

**Observer:** Tomas Sulpis (Adeco Agro), Nienke Sleurink (IDH), Pablo Casabianca (Syngenta); Michelle Morton (Shell); Ulises Martinez (Fundacion Vida Silvestre)

**Secretariat:** Agustín Mascotena; Verónica Chorkulak; Jimena Frojan

**The agenda is presented. Olaf Brugman opens the meeting, presents the agenda and asks for further subjects to be included.**

### **1. Last calls minutes approval & Action list review**

Minutes #114 are reviewed: "physical meeting" is removed from title

Activity list #114 is reviewed:

Green miles: Ms. Belinda Howell accepted the invitation

Confirmation of CGF: done

Call for more sponsors: Rabobank and control union were approached

Journalist for Brazil: in process

No comments are made and minutes #114 are approved

Minutes #115 are reviewed. There are no comments to the minutes

Activity list #115 is reviewed

Agreement with Bayer: in process

Feedback on collaboration: in process

Pro-terra: done by Ms. Belinda Howell and Mr. Lieven Callawaert

Full proposal of community: delayed

No comments are made and minutes #115 are approved

### **2. RT10.**

An update of the agenda and speakers is presented:

Ahold and Unilever will present together as CGF

Bayer: Secretariat to check if they will present if the agreement is not signed **(A1)**

It is clarified that all translations will be simultaneous

The objectives of the sessions are mentioned:

To show impact with producers, to show signals with industry and to show positive and negative impacts on expansion and to feed discussions on 4.4 with last session

Breakout sessions:

Session 1: Common understanding in sustainability

Session 2: Landscape and jurisdictional approaches

Session 3: Non-gm programs and assurance



Day 2: what's next

Not in the program: Mr. Agustin Mascotena will present the maps

For all sessions, there will be time for Q&A

Comments:

The breakout sessions will be recorded.

There are videos to introduce each session (impact video, founding fathers and past) and an extra one developed with chainpoint to show the platform

It is remarked that the high variety of views achieves the objective to open the floor

There is an update on RT10 announcements:

Bel commitment will be presented

CGF support: check with S&P if they have a text to launch.

Distribute the commitments in advance to EB members

Syngenta representative comments on ADM announcement and it is clarified that 15 producers will be certified but it is not clear from the announcement since it hasn't been formally released

Mc Donalds and his work in the sustainability area

Bayer will target supplying countries/producers

Syngenta representative raises a question on why to sign an agreement if Bayer is member

It is answered that agreement is not binding, is PR to call attention. They are supporting certification, same as Sustentia. It is clarified that Valore, Bayer's program, is not only for soybean.

There's a comment on WRI agreement: RTRS will share its own maps, and WRI has better technical support

Danube, proterra and RTRS: It is decided that it is not the time to communicate. Mr. Olaf Brugman clarifies that there options for further collaboration with these schemes, but there's no fixed position. It is agreed that nothing can be communicated as it is very sensitive.

Launch of maps will be covered by Agustin's presentation.

Launch of P&C review: communication will be reinforced during the event **(A2)**

Comments:

There is a concern about protests. It is noted that there is a procedure in case there are protests and that in the last 5 years, there hasn't been physical protests, only online.

There is a question about the number of participants and press participation. There are 155 registered and a total of 170 is estimated. High quality presence is remarked.

In terms of financial aspect, it is stated that the deficit will be similar to other RTs

There will be 2 or 3 journalists present.

There is a question about attendance on EU commission, which was contacted, but it wasn't a successful contact.

### 3. GA9

It is noted that quorum is sufficient

A brief of the agenda is presented: financial audit, EB elections (Agustin rounds up all applicants) Mr. Callu Merite will represent FEFAC as well, confirmed by Mr. Cornel Boere, KPIs and P&C review, open floor for members.



Mr. Olaf Brugman asks if it can be expected to have any EB members speak up. Mr. Gert Van der Bijl says it is undecided.

Ms. Belinda Howell shares that in RSPO they add this to any other businesses.

#### 4. P&C review

It is stated that there is confusion of expectations and that there is a need to reinforce the scope of the review.

Many comments received are about the system itself and also very specific for National Interpretations, that will be reviewed after P&C is approved.

It is suggested to make clear where all the comments that are out of scope should be sent.

EB should make a decision for P&C review group members.

There is a concern about the participation of the TFBrazil in the WG.

Ms. Juliana Lopes suggests Task forces to discuss. Ms. Sandra Mulder agrees and adds that TF shouldn't reach an agreement internally but it will be good that they discuss.

It is informed that a facilitator has been contacted. It is requested to share any other suggestions with the secretariat.

There are comments about the balance of the Industry applicants, in terms of industry type representation and geographical representation (South America).

There is a question about TF Europe participation: They have been informed as members.

There is a motion for an extension on deciding on WG members

Ms. Belinda Howell states that she is willing to participate and asks not to assume that there is lack of interest

It is stressed that missing the engagement from the industry will have high costs later on.

It is remarked that the procedure requires the group to be representative and the EB agrees that these applications are not.

Due to not balanced representations there is a motion to extend the period of the call.

Formal voting on the following:

Extend the call for applicants in a public and transparent way, postpone the selection of candidates and connect the feedback to Task forces to provide inputs and include all countries:

Voting result: All in favor of extending the period for 3 weeks.

The EB will approve the candidates electronically.

A communication of the extension will be sent and a closing date will be scheduled. **(A3)**

Coffee break

#### 5. Mapping

Maps are ready to be launched as the technological tool is available. This will be announced on the 20th.

Mr. Agustin Mascotena presents a guide and clarifies that native forests and HCV are presented separated and that the maps show the RTRS criteria.

Mr. Agustin Mascotena shows the tool and the implications of falling in each area

It is clarified that the auditor role will be the same as today



HCVA network situation/discussions is explained. HCVA assessment is very extensive and costly, so HCVAN came with recommendations for RTRS: to have different approaches for different scales, to work only with identification (not recommendations) and to create a network of identifiers. One and a half year is needed to create critical mass of assessors.

There is a question about how the system works in practice.

An example is given if you fall in yellow category: it shows that the area was opened before 2009. It is still under discussion how to demonstrate this. Options are satellite images, documents, tillage invoices. Also, before opening, having an identifier.

Another question is raised, about producers with deforestation between 2009 and 2015. It is answered that this is a point for P&C review and that, until this is reviewed, there are certain situations that won't be able to access certification.

There is another question on HCVA's values being degraded with time (Areas that were HCVA's at the time the map was developed that in maybe 10 years have their values degraded)

It is answered that at this point, we have what we have, it may be not perfect but it adds greatly to transparency and it is quite amazing that is relevant for more than soy.

There is a question on how it is going to be updated.

It is answered that, as the concept is cut-off date, the red ones and purple won't change.

It is also noted that not all HCVA can be identified, since some are mappable but not all.

It is requested to share with WRI, as they will be the reference for maps as ITC is with benchmarks. **(A4)**

Comments about the new opportunities to combine RTRS data to other data platforms.

There is agreement of approval of communication document "guides for responsible expansion" **(A5)**

Ms. Belinda Howell asks Ms. Juliana Lopes if the TF Brazil is ok with this document. Ms.

Juliana Lopes says that they are and adds that the discussion will be focused on 4.4

Thanks are given to all participants and sponsors.

Guidance and launch at RT10 is approved.

## 6. USSEC guest

Mr. Jim Sutton, USSEC representative, joins the table.

Mr. Olaf Brugman introduces RTRS work, specially on collaboration with other schemes.

Mr. Jim Sutton congratulates RTRS for the worldwide recognition it has and adds that he has no preconceived ideas on how to work together, but consumers are more and more interested on how food is produced, which is important work to do collectively.

Mr. Sutton addresses there are different tools in different parts of the world and states that USSAP is based in US laws and works on improving the soils, funded by the US government.

It summarizes the system as strong legislation, annually certification of conservation plans (sample), with high compliance rate.

He explains that 3 years ago the farmers weren't required to do any communication about their sustainability practices.

He adds that a benchmark with RTRS is available in the website

He explains Field to market criteria was selected to create a continual improvement system.



USSEC work in China: operation for us soy farmers (30 years), 10 years before they became importers. Sustainability is becoming a bigger issue. US has sell certified soybean to China already, specially for refined oil. It is a small portion of the market, but because of the number of people, it represents a lot.

There is a question about the relation between USSAP as Field to Market. Ussec has been member of F2M since the beginning. They have a wide range of members and they agree on what they want to measure. Encourage farmers to use the tool, they work as complimentary organizations.

There is a comment about Unilever- Field to Market: Unilever uses F2M for US, as convergence of issues for multiple-crops.

USSEC is involved in F2M because it is multi-crop and sustainability is across all crops. Benchmark of RTRS and other schemes: USSEC has been working on this through the university of Arkansas and they are eager to see the benchmark of European industry. USSEC is open to benchmarking

Ms. Belinda Howell states that UK retailers looked at minimum requirements for retailers and published those last year, but they refer to Mapping project instead of benchmark. Adds that ITC is independent and a good tool, and RSG used this system to map their minimum requirements. She commands ITC as a useful tool.

The approach that many retailers want is to ensure that they rely on multistakeholder, transparent schemes.

USSAP looks at outputs, is performance-oriented and can come together with other approaches and that needs to happen.

Ms. Sandra Mulder states that WWF had lots of discussions specially on conversion of natural habitat and asks if this is included in SSAP?

Mr Sutton states that there is a lot of questions about those studies, accuracy of the technology (satellite images) is being discussed. Methodology is being questioned. US has strong laws on what lands can come into farming and which cannot. In overall, the amount of land used for farming has lowered down.

The discussion is open for further debate.

Thanks are given.

## **7. RTRS status**

Mr. Agustin Mascotena presents the achievements and ongoing activities an : of the year. Same presentation that will be presented to members during the GA.

Mr. Mascotena states that there is ongoing work being done with different industry sectors: Input companies (already discussed), dairy, where Mr. Lieven Callaewart is working, financial sector with BEI and other banks.

It is also mentioned that there are two results on the model's analysis: a pilot for multi-crop has taken place and community certification is at first stage



It is stated that Arla confirmed 3 thousand credits and that trends of hectares and volumes % of increasing based on re-certifications

There is potential for collaboration with 3F regarding landscape approach in mato grosso

Comments and questions:

It is discussed that Iseal may not be the way.

**Alliance with Proterra and Danube:**

This possibility is discussed by the EB in a preliminary stage.

**8. Multi-crop**

Due to time concerns and Mr. John Landers, who initiated the proposal, not being present it is agreed that the item will be discussed on the following meeting.

**9. Any other business.**

Mr. Gert Van der Bijl speaks about the Soy fast track fund programme, where IDH and Solidaridad worked together. He remarks that it is important for the EB to realize the work these organizations have done.

It is now up to the market and the producers on how this can follow.

Possibility to circulate this one pager (document received at the EB from IDH) as a communication piece. Agreed.

Mr. Agustin Mascotena acknowledges Mr. Cornel Boere work in the RTRS EB RTRS.

----- MEETING CLOSED -----

Activity	Responsible Party	Deadline
Bayer: Secretariat to check if they will present if the agreement is not signed (A1)	Secretariat	Before RT10
Launch of P&C review: communication will be reinforced during the event (A2)	Secretariat	RT10
A communication of the extension will be send and a closing date will be scheduled. (A3)	Secretariat	-
It is requested to share with WRI, as they will be the reference for maps as ITC is with benchmarks. (A4)	Secretariat	-
There is agreement of approval of communication document "guides for responsible expansion" (A5)	Secretariat	-