



IISD's State of Sustainability Initiatives

IISD's State of Sustainability Initiatives (SSI) has been working to advance sustainable and inclusive value chains since 2008. We provide credible and solution-oriented research, dialogue, and strategic advice to decision-makers about voluntary sustainability standards (VSSs), such as Fairtrade International, Rainforest Alliance, and Trustea, and associated initiatives.

What we aim for

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

We encourage producers and value chain actors to adopt practices that mitigate risks and have positive social and environmental impacts through VSSs and related measures while measuring and disclosing their claims reliably.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

We promote the consumption of more sustainable products by companies, governments, and end-consumers globally.

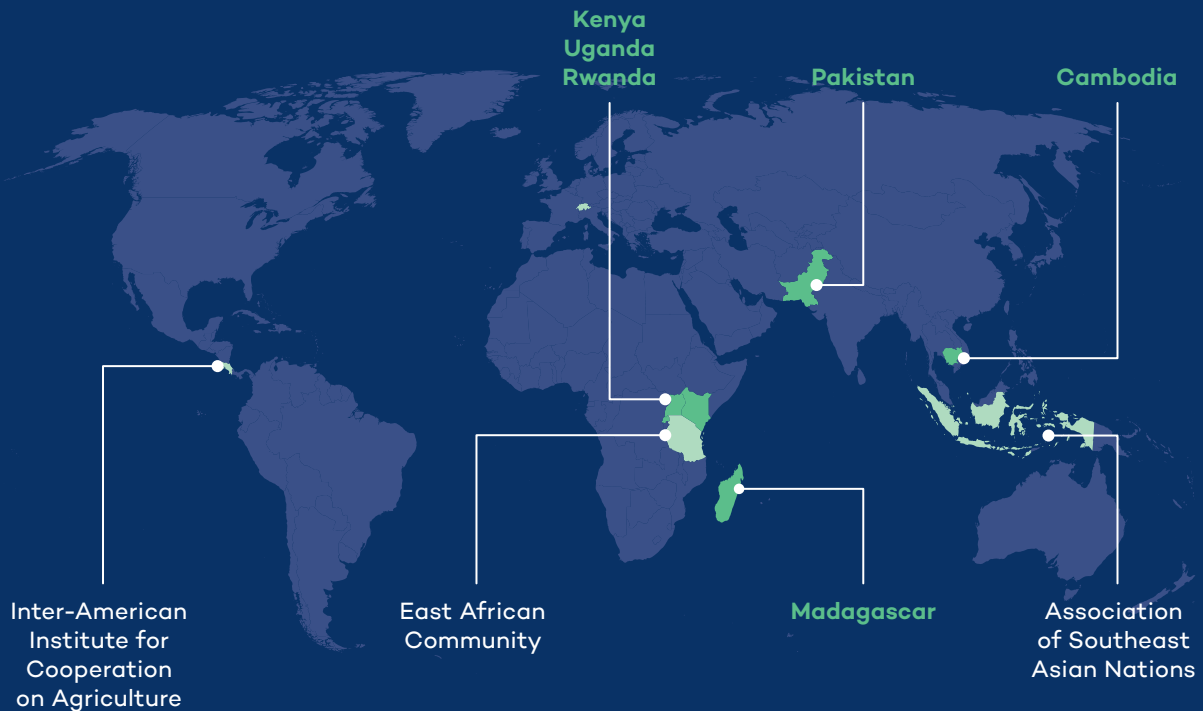
SUSTAINABLE TRADE

We boost market access and promote fair remuneration and greater say for small-scale farmers and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through VSSs and associated measures.

Who we work with

We work with VSSs and value chain actors, producer and consumer groups, policy officials from governments in producing and consuming countries, regional blocs, intergovernmental organizations, and multilateral entities.

Some of the countries and regions we work with include:



How we do it

Our underlying strategy has three main components:

1. Improving the design and practices of VSSs.
2. Increasing synergies between VSSs and policy action at the national, regional, and multilateral levels.
3. Enhancing the transparency and accountability of value chain actors' sourcing practices and the terms and conditions they establish with small-scale farmers and MSMEs.



Women rice farmers associated with the Sustainable Rice Platform in the Butaleja District, Uganda. Photo: Nasawali Phame/IISD.

Our approach



We conduct research

We produce an online library of [publications](#), including our two flagship report series:

- [SSI Reviews](#): Examining how VSSs can contribute to key sustainability topics
- [Sustainable Commodities Marketplace](#): Outlining sustainable production and consumption trends and market developments for various commodities.



We provide capacity building and technical assistance

We train and [advise](#) governments on strategies and policies to support national and regional development goals and help them benefit from VSSs.

We consult with standard-setting bodies to improve their work and increase uptake.

We engage with and advise industry actors on how to use VSSs as needed for socio-economic and environmental purposes.



We convene and facilitate dialogues

We participate in and host regional and national [workshops](#) to facilitate dialogues among different actors on issues at stake.

We conduct online webinars to share our research findings and encourage global conversations that spur action.

Why work with us

Evidence-based, impartial analysis



Clear, actionable recommendations



Ability to convene multiple actors



An influential voice in the field



For more information, visit iisd.org/ssi