



Australian Grain Industry – Code of Practice Technical Guideline Document

No. 22

Sustainability Program Principles & Guidelines

**Compiled on behalf of the Australian Grain Industry by:
Grain Trade Australia**

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No. 22 Sustainability Program Principles and Guidelines

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Disclaimer

Information provided in this Technical Guideline Document (TGD) is provided as guidance information to assist industry participants with 'principles and guidelines' in approaching sustainability policies and actions.

GTA will work with its members and grain industry sectors to provide guidance on member and customer requirements for sustainability.

This TGD should not be the sole basis for any decision on the development of sustainability policies and actions. Grain Trade Australia does not represent or warrant the TGD is free from errors or deletions that may have a material impact on readers commercial activity. As a result, GTA will accept no liability for any losses, consequential or otherwise, which may be incurred by any party as a result of reliance on this TGD.

<p>I. Purpose</p>	<p>The purpose of this document is to provide GTA members with ‘principles and guidelines’ in approaching sustainability policies and actions.</p> <p>GTA will work with its members and grain industry sectors to provide guidance on member and customer requirements for sustainability.</p>
<p>II. Scope</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) GTA’s key task is to facilitate and promote trade across the Australian grain value chain. GTA generally adopts a market focussed approach on its policy principles and guidelines, and advocacy. 2) GTA’s general policy and its practical approach is to develop strategic direction, policy principles, and guidelines for use by members and industry in general. 3) GTA’s mandate is to, encourage, promote and inform policy positions and not to enforce particular policies on its members (other than the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice). This is a market orientated approach, allowing for members to respond according to their particular business position and commercial circumstances. 4) GTA recognises that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sustainability is an important issue for industry and GTA members. b) Sustainable industries and businesses understand the interdependent relationships between: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Economic objectives ii. Environmental factors iii. Social factors and responsibilities.
<p>III. Objectives</p>	<p>Objectives of a sustainability program may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Management and delivery of grain according to commercial customer, regulatory requirements and community expectations while seeking to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Minimise any negative impact on the environment, o Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, o Minimise the use of artificial inputs, and o Enhance the communities we operate in and people we work with. 2) A culture of health and safety that focuses on safety of all people involved in the grain supply chain. 3) An efficient global grain trade that improves global food security¹ 4) Effective communication to stakeholders of the sustainability credentials (including plans, actions, and status) of a supply chain, product, business, and industry. 5) Behavioural improvements of stakeholders, including suppliers, service providers, employees, regulators, and consumers.

¹ As defined by FAO: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/faoitally/documents/pdf/pdf_Food_Security_Cocept_Note.pdf
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<p>IV. Principles</p>	<p>In <i>principle</i>, a sustainability program developed and implemented by GTA members should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Comply with legislation, regulations, and Codes of Practice 2) Acknowledge and recognise the importance of sustainability to its: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ business, ○ industry, and ○ customers and stakeholders. 3) Be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ market driven and customer focussed, ○ voluntary and incentive and reward based, ○ socially responsible, ○ relevant to the sectors and stakeholders, ○ risk based and data driven, ○ measurable against any specific deliverables, and ○ a potential point of competitive differentiation. 4) Encourage a risk-based assessment approach that avoids creation of additional Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) that act as technical trade barriers. 5) Encourage and allow access to technology and innovation to achieve sustainability objectives. 6) Assess social and environmental impacts of the business and its operating processes and procedures. 7) Recognise and consider incorporation of other grain and non-grain industry initiatives (e.g., Codes, TGDs, policies) and business practices. 8) Aligned with (where appropriate): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ market requirements, ○ Codes of Practice, and ○ recognised global standards and protocols. 9) Encourage all customers, service providers, employees, and other stakeholders to operate responsibly in a socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable manner. 10) Able to be readily implemented and understood by all relevant stakeholders in each member company. 11) Be continually reviewed and updated for compliance with modern practices, regulations, customer requirements and community expectations.
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<p>V. Guidelines</p>	<p>Some guidelines, a GTA member sustainability program may consider include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A Sustainability program, its objectives and (any) proposed measures should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ science based, ○ technically feasible, ○ data driven, ○ economically sustainable to facilitate viability and competitiveness across the food and feed supply chain. 2) Where measures and targets are proposed they should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ coherent, ○ consistent/aligned across jurisdictions, ○ useful, measurable, relevant, and ○ realistic and achievable. 3) To avoid unnecessary repetition and duplication (and therefore cost and confusion) a sustainability program should seek to draw on existing frameworks, Codes, and guidance documents, including the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice (and associated Technical Guideline Documents), and the Growers Guide to Growing Grain. 4) Adherence to these documents and Codes will serve to ensure GTA members create customer, consumer and stakeholder confidence in the Australian grain supply chain and deliver a quality assured safe food product to our customers. 5) Focus areas for plans, activity and actions may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health & Safety, ○ environment, ○ people, and ○ Food & Feed Quality assurance and safety.
<p>VI. Desired Outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Effective communication to stakeholders and awareness of sustainability credentials. 2) Stronger confidence and trust in the Australian grain supply chain and products it delivers from stakeholders (end-use customers, regulators, consumers). 3) Contributes to global food and feed security. 4) Foster more sustainable logistical practices, pathways, consumption patterns and sustainable behaviours. 5) Reliable, competitive, efficient, and sustainable Australian grain supply chain.

END.