WBA Food and Agriculture Benchmark
Update on methodology development
This document provides an update on a key step in WBA’s benchmark journey: methodology development

This visual shows the process of developing WBA benchmarks.

The scoping report for the Food and Agriculture Benchmark was presented at the 2019 EAT Forum in Stockholm.

In that report, we published the initial 300+ key companies that are seen to be critical to accelerating change in the global food system and that we aim to include in this benchmark.

Feedback on the scoping report is ongoing and being processed.

The publication of the scoping report also marked the start of the methodology development process.
Companies will be evaluated across three dimensions: environment, nutrition and social inclusion

The Food and Agriculture Benchmark will assess all companies on the same indicators in the three dimensions that underlie food system transformation. With this progress update we would like to share first steps of developing the Food and Agriculture Benchmark methodology.
The methodology development is designed as a process of landscaping, dialogue and expert review.

Three dimensions of food system transformation guide the methodology development:

**Landscaping**
First draft builds upon science-based targets, existing standards and accountability frameworks.

**Dialogue**
Stakeholder consultations, including industry and investor feedback, inform the second draft.

**Review**
The methodology is finalized after approval by multi-stakeholder Expert Review Committee.
The methodology development is designed as a process of landscaping, dialogue and expert review.

WBA conducted a detailed mapping exercise of various instruments addressing the three dimensions of food system transformation - sustainable production, healthy diets and nutrition as well as social inclusion. Relevant business platforms with programs across the dimensions were also identified for further expertise and engagement throughout the methodology development process.

Overview of key issues of food system transformation in each dimension

Review of agenda’s and targets
- SDGs
- EAT Lancet report
- IPCC
- SBTn
- WRI
- WBCSD
- FOLU
- FSDs
- Plating up progress

Mapping of existing instruments
- Benchmarks (20)
- Other accountability mechanisms (29)
  - Principles and standards
  - Corporate reporting frameworks & guidelines
  - Rating agencies
  - Certification standards

Identification of relevant business platforms
- Business platforms (29)
  - Including their initiatives (32)
    - Pilot projects
    - Company commitments
    - Partnerships
    - Working Groups
    - Lobbying & championing

Overview of which topic is addressed by which instrument and how

Overview of relevant stakeholders for our methodology process
### Indicative list of topics for indicators put forward to be included in the Food and Agriculture Benchmark

Elements in each dimension result from a first landscaping of current agendas, targets and existing benchmarks and accountability mechanisms. Final selection is subject to further research, stakeholder consultation and expert review.

#### Nutrition
- Shift towards healthier diets
  - Food accessibility and affordability
  - Eradicate hunger and malnutrition
  - Prevent obesity and NCDs
  - Diversify food supply
  - Reduce animal based protein, promote plant based protein
  - Increase intake fruit, vegetables
  - Reformulation of products (fats, added sugars, salt)
  - Healthy alternatives
  - Responsible marketing

#### Environment
- Intensify production sustainably
  - GHG emissions
  - Sustainable intensification
  - Land use / deforestation
  - Soil health / desertification
  - Water use (quantity and quality)
  - Nitrogen and Phosphorus use
  - Prevent biodiversity loss
  - Promote agrobiodiversity
  - Reduce food loss and waste
  - Reduce footprint on oceans
  - Animal welfare
  - Plastics and packaging
  - Pesticides

#### Social
- Rural prosperity, social inclusion
  - Human rights
    - (Eradicate child labour, forced labour, gender equality)
  - Labour rights
    - (living wage, freedom of association, health and safety)
  - Communities
    - (land rights, water use)
  - Farmers
    - (fair price, value chain position, climate adaptation)
  - Product use and misuse
    - (Impact of business and products)
Assessment of existing instruments shows an uneven coverage of relevant topics

The assessment focused on social topics specific to the food and agricultural sector. Coverage of social topics applicable to all sectors such as human rights, worker rights and gender equality thus appears lower in this assessment than their actual coverage.
Current instruments provide sufficient guidance on many relevant topics, however some gaps were observed.

Indicative assessment by WBA to understand the amount of work that is already out there and the depth and breath in which topics are covered by existing instruments. Overall there is a greater focus on environmental and production-side issues than on nutrition and dietary shifts.

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Nutrition</strong></th>
<th><strong>Coverage</strong></th>
<th><strong>Environment</strong></th>
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Get involved

In order to achieve this ambitious timeline, we welcome your input and feedback. Please reach out if you would like to support WBA’s work and become involved in developing the Food and Agriculture Benchmark or you would like to stay informed about our progress to date, ambitions and next steps.

**Contacts**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
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Annex:
Reviewed instruments & business platforms
WBA will include other relevant assessments as they are brought to our attention. We will continue to look into sources that are vital to our work and filling the gaps.

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<td>Agrobiodiversity Index</td>
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<td>Business Benchmark for Farm Animal Welfare</td>
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<td>Ceres - Feeding ourselves thirsty</td>
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<td>Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (CHRB)</td>
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<td>FAIRR Alternative Protein - Appetite for disruption</td>
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<td>Farm Animal Investment Risk &amp; Return (FAIRR)</td>
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<td>Feedback 2018 Food Waste Scorecard</td>
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<td>Forest 500</td>
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<td>Know the Chain</td>
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<td>Oxfam Behind the Barcodes</td>
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<td>Oxfam’s Behind the Brands (until 2016)</td>
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<td>Seafood Stewardship Index (SSI)</td>
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<td>Sustainability Policy Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT)</td>
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<td>TPI - Transition Pathway Initiative</td>
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<td>WWF Soy Scorecard 2016</td>
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Other accountability mechanisms*

- B-Lab + UNGC SDG Platform (launch 2020)
- Bonsucro Production Standard 2016
- BSR - Sustainable Sourcing of Agricultural Raw Materials a Practitioner’s Guide
- CDP - Climate Change
- CDP - Forests
- CDP - Water Security
- Ceres - Engage the Chain
- FAO - VGGT
- FAO – Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems
- FAO – Sustainability Assessment for Food and Agriculture Systems (SAFA) Guidelines
- FAO – Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the context of national food security
- FLW Protocol
- Future Fit Foundation
- Interlaken Group - Respecting Land and Forest Rights A Guide for Companies
- Interlaken Group – VGGT Corporate-level Guidance
- ITC’s Standards Map
- OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains
- ProTerra Standard Social Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability
- Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard
- RobecoSAM
- RSPO - Principles and Criteria for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil 2018
- SASB - Sustainability Accounting Standard - Agricultural Products
- The ETI Base Code
- The IFOAM NORMS for Organic Production and Processing
- The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB)
- UNCTAD - Guidance on core indicators for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- UNCTAD - The Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (PRAI)
- UNGC - Food and Agriculture Business Principles
- UNGC – The CEO Water Mandate

* Voluntary reporting mechanisms / Corporate reporting frameworks / Principles and standards & guidelines / Rating agencies / Certification standards
WBA will include other business platforms and relevant projects as they are brought to our attention.

- **Alliance to end plastic waste**
- **BSR - The Restaurant Roundtable for Sustainability**
- **Business call to action**
- **CDP - Supply Chain Members**
- **Ceres**
- **Champions 12.3**
- **Consumers Good Forum - Collaboration for Healthier Lives**
- **Consumers Good Forum - Deforestation**
- **Consumers Good Forum - Food Waste**
- **Consumers Good Forum - Palm Oil (Human Rights)**
- **Consumers Good Forum - Priority Industry Principles**
- **Consumers Good Forum - Refrigeration**
- **Farming for generations (Danone)**
- **Donau Soja**
- **Food Industry Asia**
- **Forest Stewardship Council Members Network**
- **Forum for the Future - Edible Fats & Oils**
- **Forum for the Future - Protein 2040**
- **GAIN Business Platform for Nutrition Research**
- **Global Agri-business Alliance**
- **Global Alliance for the Future of Food - Beacons of Hope**
- **International Agri-Food Network - Private Sector Mechanism**
- **SAI Platform - Crops Working Group**
- **SAI Platform - Dairy Working Group**
- **SAI Platform - European Roundtable for Beef Sustainability**
- **SAI Platform - Horizon Committee**
- **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network (SBN)**
- **Sin Desperdicio**
- **Supply Change**
- **Sustainable Brands Member Network**
- **TCFD**
Business platforms continued

The Sustainability Consortium - Agriculture Metrics Taskforce
The Sustainability Consortium - Animal Welfare Toolkit
The Sustainability Consortium - Sustainable Coffee Challenge
The Sustainable Trade Initiative
UNGC - Zero Hunger Challenge
UNGC - Our Only Future
UNGC - Food & Agriculture Business Principles
UNGC - Principles for Sustainable Soil Management
WBCSD - Climate Smart Agriculture
WBCSD - FReSH (in partnership with the EAT forum)
WBCSD - Soft Commodities Forum
WEF - Grow Africa
WEF - Grow Asia
WEF - Shaping the Future of Food Initiative:
WEF - New Vision for Agriculture
WEF - Tropical Forest Alliance

We mean Business Coalition - Commit to climate smart agriculture (see WBSCD)
We mean Business Coalition - Remove commodity-driven deforestation from all supply chains by 2020
Wrap - The Courtauld Commitment 2025