



# RAF Project

Towards a **R**esponsible  
**A**griculture and **F**ood Sector

*Presentation webinar – Nov. 2024*





# What this webinar is about

- What we have done to promote a responsible agriculture and food sector
- What we plan for the coming two years



*Write your questions in the chat box,  
or ask them directly after the presentation.*

# Who we are



A joint venture between two of the global leaders in **social and environmental performance management** for the **inclusive finance** sector

## Developing standards



## Offering tools and resources





# After RIF...

Responsible Inclusive Finance



For Financial Service Providers

# comes RAF!

Responsible Agriculture & Food Sector



For Agribusinesses / agri-SMEs



# Why promote a responsible agriculture and food sector?



*600 million smallholder farmers worldwide,  
Producing 30-34% of food supply*



*Highly vulnerable to climate change*

*And affected by agribusinesses' bad practices  
(overdependency, overindebtedness...)*

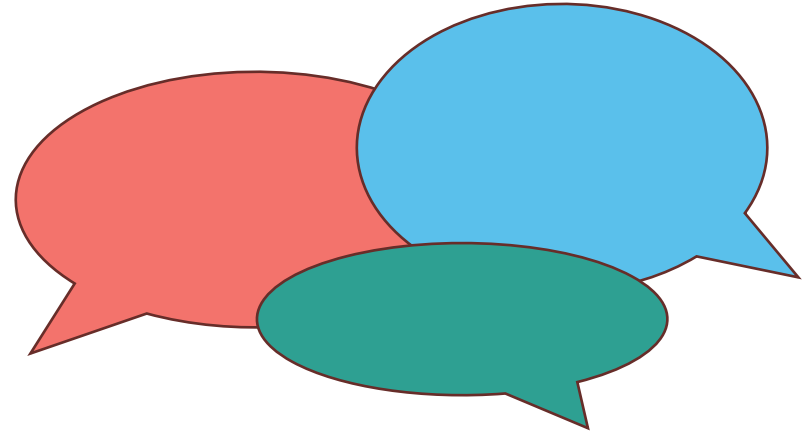


# Why promote a responsible agriculture and food sector?

## International standards remain high-level



*Lack of common language*





# Our objective

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Promote a more responsible agriculture and food sector for tomorrow, by equipping stakeholders with management tools and audit resources that integrate **responsible business conduct** and **client protection** standards.



# Our achievements so far

We have worked throughout 2022-24 on developing two tools:





# 1/ Focus on the...

# RAI Tool for Agribusinesses

*Assessing Responsible  
Investment in Agriculture*



**CERISE+SPTF**



**IISD**

International Institute for  
Sustainable Development



# 1/ RAI Tool

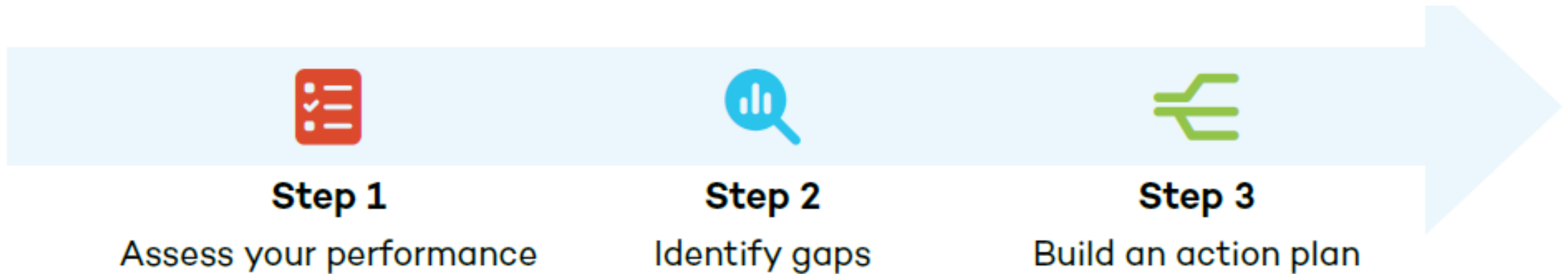
## A management tool for **agribusinesses**

	Who can be assessed
For agribusinesses involved in	Agricultural and food product: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ production</li><li>✓ processing</li><li>✓ trading</li></ul>
And	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Directly working with smallholder farmers</li><li>✓ Impacting local communities</li></ul>



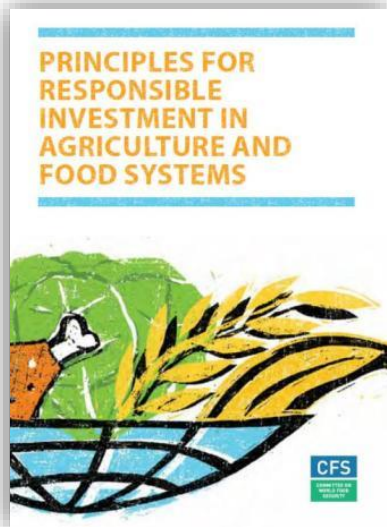
# 1/ RAI Tool

## A management tool for agribusinesses



# 1/ RAI Tool - How the tool was built

A management tool translating high-level, international standards on social and environmental responsibility, into concrete, actionable, management practices for agribusinesses.





# 1/ RAI Tool – Who can use the tool?



Agribusinesses



Financial investors



Industry associations



Technical assistance providers



Other stakeholders (regulators, public agencies, etc.)

# 1/ RAI Tool – Responsible practices covered

- Responsible practices are assessed over 7 key dimensions:





# 1/ RAI Tool - Responsible practices covered

- Responsible practices are assessed over 7 key dimensions, themselves detailed into standards, essential practices, and indicators.



# 1/ RAI Tool - Scoping

The RAI Tool allows for filtering in and out indicators based on the profile of an agribusiness.

SCOPING QUESTIONS				
Answers provided to the following questions will automatically adjust the selection of indicators in the Practices form, keeping only the indicators relevant to the profile of the agribusiness.			<input type="button" value="APPLY FILTERS"/>	<input type="button" value="RESET FILTERS"/>
Reporting details	Data	Validation or explanation of response, comments and clarifications	Explanation/Note	
<b>ANIMAL WELFARE</b>				
Is the agribusiness involved in one of the following sectors: <b>LIVESTOCK, FISHERY, AQUACULTURE</b> ?	----		If YES, indicators related to <b>ANIMAL WELFARE</b> will apply.	
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>				
Is the agribusiness involved in <b>FOOD</b> -related production, processing or trading?	----		If YES, indicators related to <b>FOOD SAFETY</b> will apply.	
<b>MARKET PREFERENCES</b>				
Is the ultimate destination of the agricultural product the <b>LOCAL MARKET</b> ?	----		"Local" refers to national market. If YES, indicators related to <b>LOCAL MARKET PREFERENCES</b> will apply.	
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>				
Is the agribusiness involved in <b>NON-FOOD</b> -related production, processing, or trading; or is the ultimate destination of the agricultural product the <b>REGIONAL</b> or <b>INTERNATIONAL MARKET</b> ?	----		SELECT "YES" IF ANY OF THESE SITUATIONS APPLY "Regional" refers to nearby countries (e.g. West African region) If YES, indicators related to <b>FOOD SECURITY</b> will apply.	

# 1/ RAI Tool - Dashboards





# 1/ RAI Tool – Field tests and resources

- Existing resources:  
Excel tool + Guidance  
+ Template Report



- RAI case studies



# 1/ RAI Tool – Feedback from the field





## 2/ Focus on the...

# Agri CP Tool

*Client Protection Standards  
for the Agricultural Sector*



**CERISE+SPTF**



**Farmfit  
Fund**  
Investing in the future of food



**idh  
invest**





## 2/ Agri CP Tool – Purpose

A diagram consisting of several overlapping circles in various colors (blue, green, orange, purple, red) that form a larger, irregular shape. In the center of this shape, the words "CLIENT PROTECTION" are written in bold, black, uppercase letters. Surrounding the text are four circular inset images: a man and a woman looking at a smartphone, a woman wearing a headset, a woman in a red shirt, and a man in a blue shirt holding a clipboard.

### CLIENT PROTECTION


Avoid bad practices from agribusinesses that cause harm to smallholder farmers

**“Client” = “smallholder farmers”**

Be they clients or suppliers of agribusinesses

- Focus on agribusinesses that work with smallholder farmers

## 2/ Agri CP Tool – Structure

- 
- » **Standard 1** THE PROVIDER'S PRODUCTS, SERVICES, AND CHANNELS BENEFIT CLIENTS.
  - » **Standard 2** THE PROVIDER DOES NOT OVERINDEBT CLIENTS.
  - » **Standard 3** THE PROVIDER GIVES CLIENTS CLEAR AND TIMELY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT CLIENT DECISION MAKING.
  - » **Standard 4** THE PROVIDER SETS PRICES RESPONSIBLY.
  - » **Standard 5** THE PROVIDER ENFORCES FAIR AND RESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF CLIENTS.
  - » **Standard 6** THE PROVIDER SECURES CLIENT DATA AND INFORMS CLIENTS ABOUT THEIR DATA RIGHTS.
  - » **Standard 7** THE PROVIDER RECEIVES AND RESOLVES CLIENT COMPLAINTS.
  - » **Standard 8** THE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARE COMMITTED TO CLIENT PROTECTION, AND HR SYSTEMS SUPPORT ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

**Aligned** with the 8 client protection standards used in the financial inclusion sector

**Adapted** to the specificities of the agriculture sector

Standard	1	The organization's products, services, and channels benefit smallholder farmers.
Standard	2	The organization does not overindebt smallholder farmers.
Standard	3	The organization gives smallholder farmers clear and timely information to support farmers' decision making.
Standard	4	The organization sets prices responsibly.
Standard	5	The organization enforces fair and respectful treatment of smallholder farmers.
Standard	6	The organization secures smallholder farmer data and informs them about their data rights.
Standard	7	The organization receives and resolves complaints related to its own operations, employees, agents, products and services from the following stakeholders: smallholder farmers / local communities / other affected stakeholders.
Standard	8	The governance and management are committed to smallholder farmer protection, and HR systems support its implementation

## 2/ Agri CP Tool – Scoping

The Agri CP Tool allows for filtering in and out indicators based on the types of services provided to / types of interactions with smallholders farmers:

### Integrating standards on...

Financial services

Data collection

Crop procurement

Input supply

Other services



### ... to prevent issues of ...

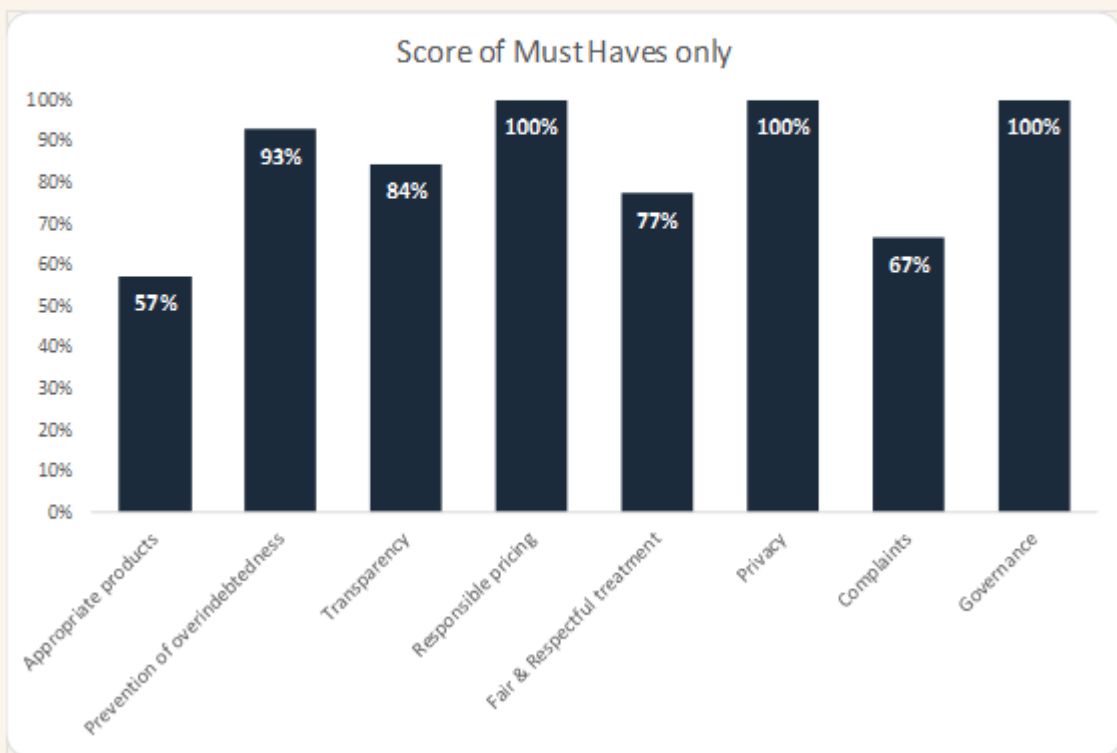
- Aggressive sales
- Transparency on T&Cs and pricing
- Fair and respectful treatment
- Privacy of client data
- Overdependence on service providers



## 2/ Agri CP Tool – Dashboard

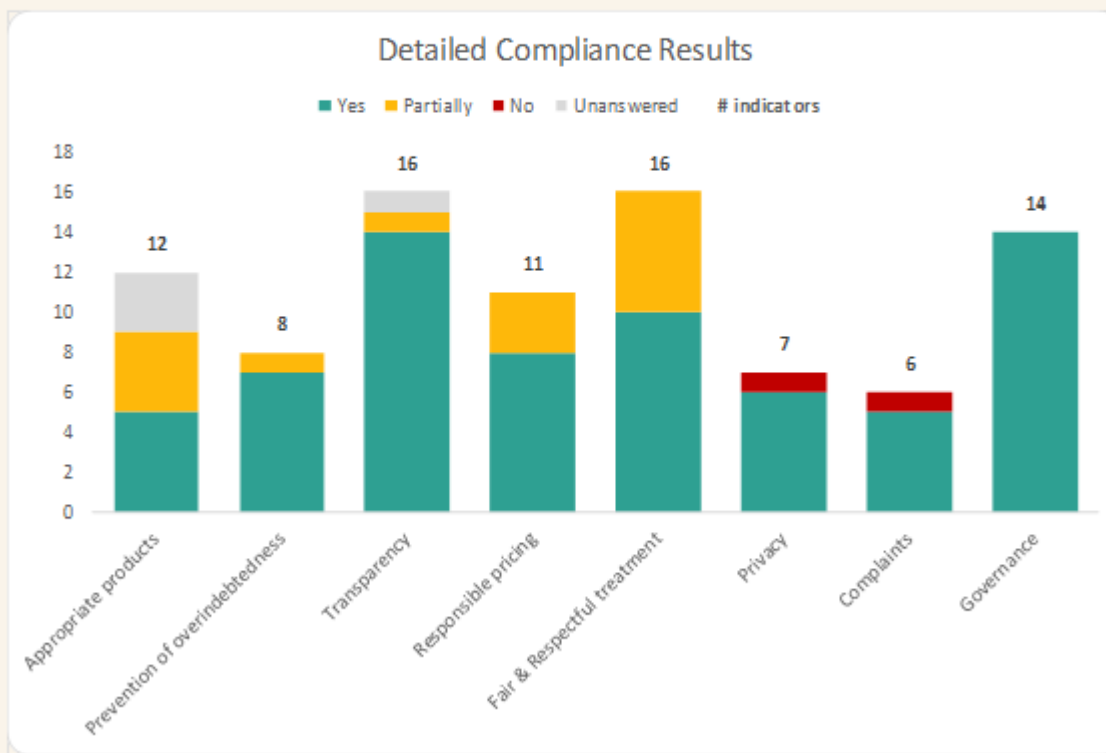
### Results in Percentage

Must Haves only



### Results in Number of Indicators

Compliance per Standard



## 2/ Agri CP Tool – Field testing



# Where we stand today



## A clear interest from stakeholders (agribusinesses + investors)

*Survey conducted with SNUPP partners (investors):  
75% see an interest to use the RAI Tool as a  
reference tool to assess agribusinesses in the sector.*



## Still at an early stage...

- Need to fine-tune the added-value and positioning of these tools,
- Confront them with real-life situations,
- Adjust them based on the sector needs,
- Align on a common language,
- Create a supportive environment to promote their use and support improvement of practices.





# What comes now

A two-year project to equip stakeholders with management tools and audit resources that integrate **responsible business conduct** and **client protection** standards.

Photo credit: Maxence Soulet

## RAF Project

*Towards a Responsible  
Agriculture and Food Sector*



# The RAF Project in a nutshell



## 1/ POSITIONNING AND TESTING OF EXISTING TOOLS

- Tool and standards mapping
- Industry meetings
- Working group creation
- Field tests of existing tools (1-2 per tool)
- Positioning analysis

## 2/ DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF RAF TOOLS

- Development of a suite of RAF tools (RAF Full, RAF CP, RAF “ALINUS”), involving Working Group members
- Training of 6-8 auditors
- Field tests of RAF tools with at least 8 agribusinesses
- Feedback analysis

## 3/ STABILIZATION AND PROMOTION OF RAF TOOLS

- Fine-tuning of RAF tools
- Translation into FR and ES
- Official launch of the RAF tools + audit guide + case studies



# Possible future perspectives



## 2027-2028

- *TA facility for self-assessments and implementation*
- *Digital version of RAF tools on SPI Online*
- *Resource Center material*
- *Training and e-learning course*
- *Data management*



# We need you!

- ✓ You have **resources or contacts** to share?
- ✓ You want to **join our RAF Working Group** to come?
- ✓ You would like to **test our tools**, or you know of agribusinesses that could be interested in doing so?
- ✓ You would like to be trained to **become a RAF auditor** for our pilot field tests?
- ✓ You would like to **financially support** this initiative?



## Contact us!

<https://form.jotform.com/242943287444363>





**Questions / feedback**

# Find our tools and resources



<https://en.spi-online.org/news/view/assessment-tool-agribusinesses>



<https://en.spi-online.org/news/view/idh-agri-cp-tool-narrative>



<https://en.spi-online.org/news/view/raf-project>



Interested in supporting or joining this initiative?

Contact us:

<https://form.jotform.com/242943287444363>

