

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Ensuring that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability



The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

We are an international multi-stakeholder initiative developing principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels production that will be:

- **Simple, accessible** and implemented worldwide
- **Generic** to all crops
- **Adaptable** to new information
- **Efficient and cheap** to measure
- **In line with WTO rules**
(use ISEAL code)



How is the RSB organized?

- Founding **Steering Board** composed of international stakeholders from WWF, UNEP, Swiss and Dutch governments, Shell, BP, Toyota, TERI India, Mali Folkecenter, Petrobras, UNICA, and others.
- **New governance structure** and open membership starting in 2009, with ‘chambers’ divided along the following lines: trade unions, small and large farmers, producers, financial institutions, petroleum and transportation industry, food security NGOs, indigenous people’s groups, conservation NGOs, etc. Two members (one North, one South) from each chamber elected to a new Executive Standards Board.
- One **Secretariat** based at EPFL. Part-time staff in South Africa, full-time Americas Coordinator in the US.
- **Working Groups** by subject (GHG, ENV, SOC, etc.) open to any interested participant; they help develop content to present to the Board.

Stakeholder-driven

- Innovative **transparent standard-setting** using **BioenergyWiki.net**, to share background information and comments with other participants.
- 270 participants from international organisations, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions from 38 countries helped draft 'Version Zero' through Working Groups and **regional stakeholder meetings** held in Brazil, South Africa, China, and India.
- 800 participants already in Version Zero feedback process.



Version Zero - RSB Standard

	Direct	Indirect
National Law (especially land, labor, water rights)	✓	
Community Consultation (especially to determine land rights, social & environmental impact, idle land, resolve grievances)	✓	
Social – biofuels should benefit rural communities and workers	✓	
should not contribute to food insecurity	✓	✓
GHG - significantly better over lifecycle than fossil fuel	✓	✓
Environmental – conserve and protect soil, water, air	✓	
conserve and protect high conservation values	✓	✓
Technology – (esp. biotech) should be used responsibly and transparently, contribute to income or sustainability	✓	
Economic Efficiency - economically viable, continuous improvement	✓	

Meta-standard concept



- Many certifications already exist or are under development for biofuel crops (palm, sugar, soy).
- Most standards were created for the food industry, so they focus on on-farm sustainable agriculture, and not climate change or ‘macro’ effects (e.g. land use change and food security).

- To minimize verification burden, aim is to recognize other certifications as covering most elements of the RSB meta-standard, then add on information about GHG emissions and macro effects.

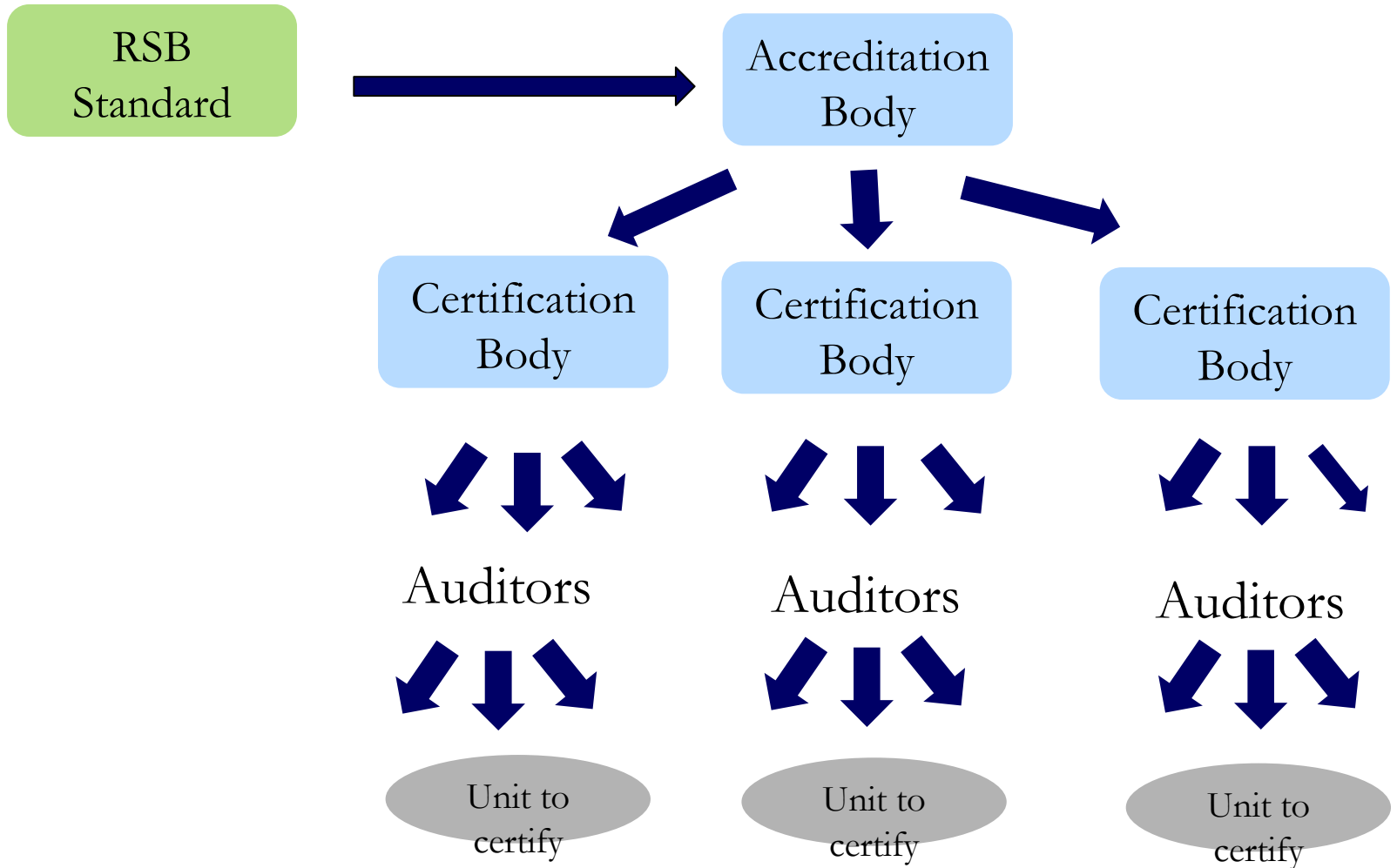
UK Meta-standard: Illustration

Environmental/ social principle	SAN/ RA	RSPO	LEAF	EUREP -GAP	SAI	FSC
Conservation of Carbon	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow
Conservation of Biodiversity	Qualifying standard				Red	Blue
Soil conservation					Red	
Sustainable water use					Red	
Workers rights					Green	
Land rights					Red	

Benchmarking

- **What elements to consider for setting the equivalence ?**
 - Content of standard
 - Quality of development process of standard (ISEAL, ISO, ...)
 - Quality of implementation of standard (Verification, auditor training, ..)
 - Impact of standard
- **Set-up of a transparent process to benchmark**
Including with independent committee of experts

Certification – generic RSB std.



Setting the Scene: Biofuel supply chain

Physical Chain



Sustainability
criteria

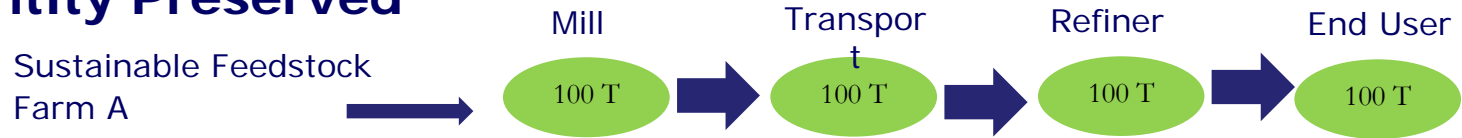


Ownership of product usually different to physical flow

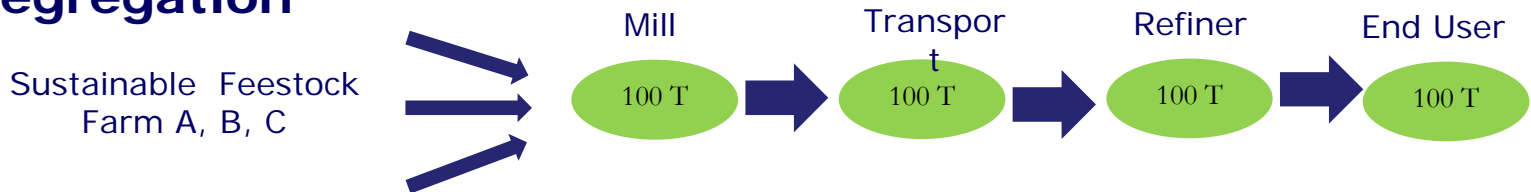


CoC General options

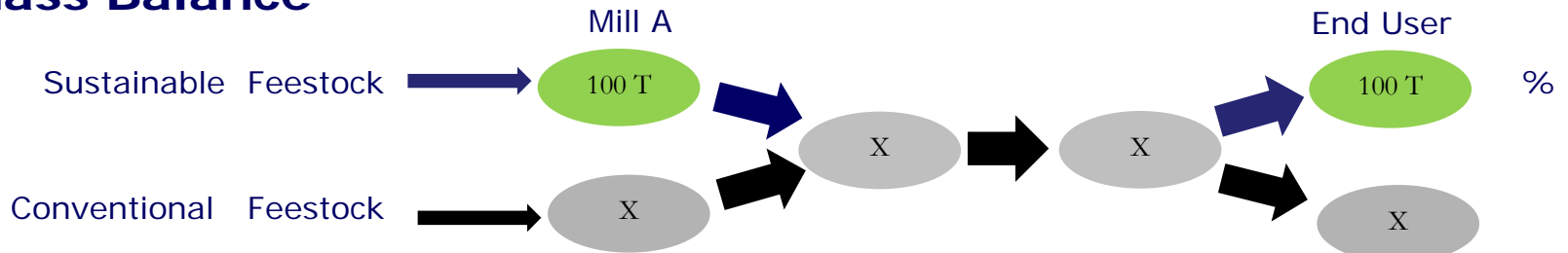
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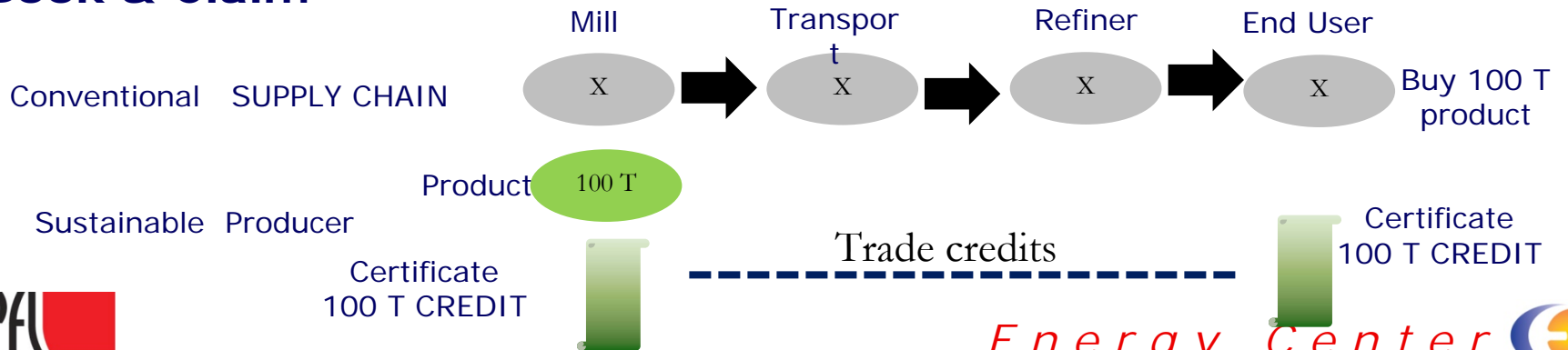
Segregation



Mass Balance



Book & Claim



Timeline

- 'Version Zero' published August, 2008
- Global stakeholder feedback gathered through spring of 2008, via regional meetings in Mozambique, Latin America (in partnership with IADB), USA, Europe, Kuala Lumpur, Mali, and Nairobi
- Transition to new governance structures and approve Version One by June 2009
- Encourage/foster crop-specific better practice definitions (e.g. jatropha)
- Develop generic indicators, benchmark against existing standards
- Collaborate with other partners to measure & mitigate indirect effects
- Coordinate pilot testing of draft standards in real supply chains in 2009



Contact




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