



# Information sheet

**REDcert²**

REDcert is the leading certification scheme for sustainable biomass, biofuels and bioliquids in Germany today and has considerably expanded its activities in Europe. The system guarantees that the legal requirements for sustainability for energy-related use of biomass are implemented and can be applied to all phases of the production process.

REDcert has experienced increasing demand from collectors, processors and the food and beverage industry for sustainable certification, e.g. for the agricultural raw materials malt barley, sugar beets and oil seeds. In response, REDcert decided to tackle the challenges posed by the market in the interests of its system participants and provide a **practical and efficient certification system for sustainable biomass from farmed crops for the food industry**.

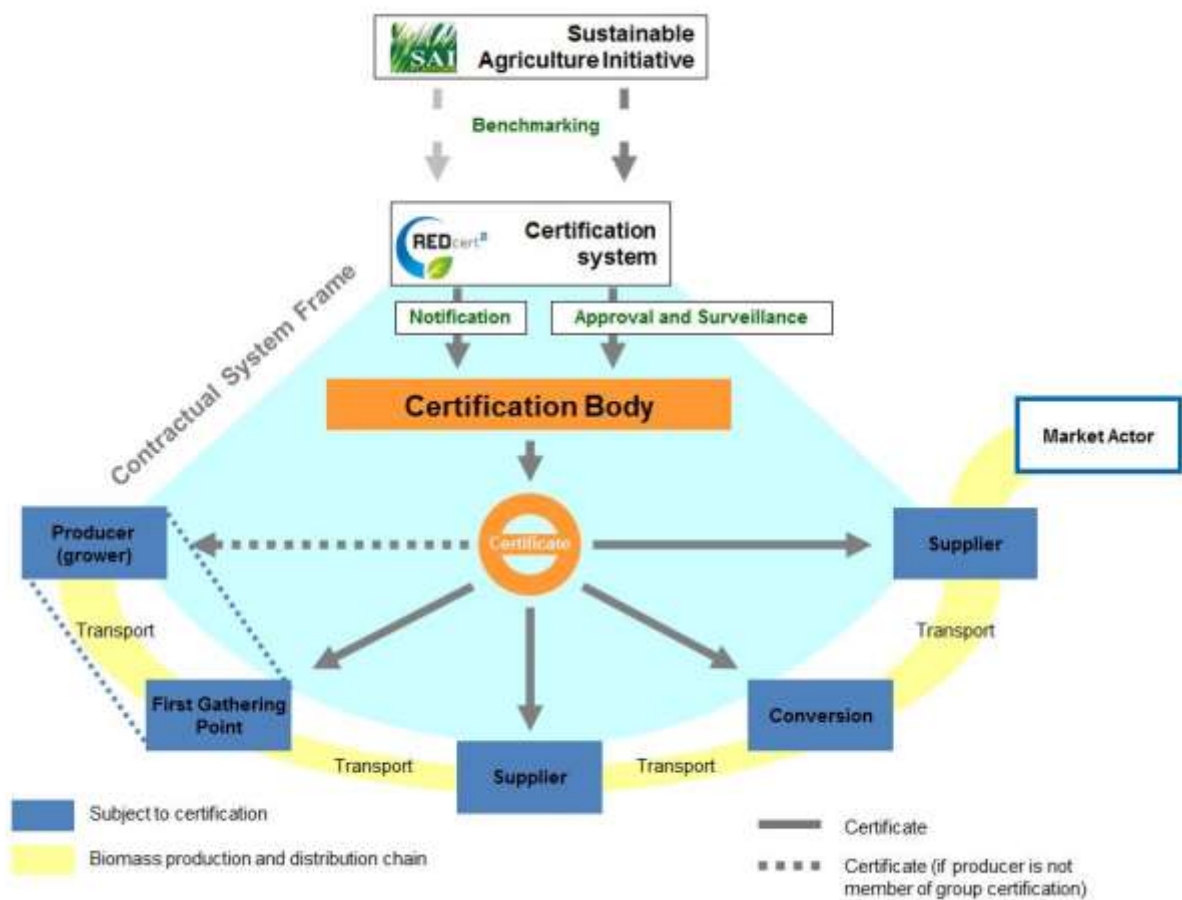
REDcert is seeing a growing trend: globally operating food manufacturers want a guaranteed sustainable and reliable supply of agricultural raw materials over the long run. Within this context, leading food companies around the world came together to form a platform – the **Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI)** with the aim of developing and providing criteria for sustainable applications in agriculture (you can find more information at: [www.saiplatform.org](http://www.saiplatform.org)). These SAI criteria take up the familiar pillars – environmental, economic and social sustainability – in a global context as "minimum requirements". In developed regions of this world such as here in Germany, many criteria are already regulated by adequate laws or are self-evident in good practices or an appropriate social culture.

To develop a certification system, REDcert first performed a successful benchmark analysis of the well-known REDcert-EU system. The certification framework successfully used until now for biofuels is also used for SAI certification. To be able to incorporate all SAI criteria, the criteria not yet embedded in the REDcert-EU system were consolidated in a document entitled "*System principles for biomass production for the food industry*". This is a supplementary yet independent certification system called *REDcert<sup>2</sup>*.

The inspections for this system are based on a checklist which has been supplemented accordingly, therefore keeping the workload in the agriculture phase at a manageable level because most of the existing questions are covered by the REDcert-EU checklist or are relevant to cross compliance and thus do not require an additional inspection. This eliminates additional bureaucratic hurdles and prevents duplicate certifications.

The REDcert<sup>2</sup> is a certification scheme for sustainable biomass production for the food industry. It can also be expanded to include processing (conversion) and supply/trade.

The diagram below provides an overview of the structure and function of the REDcert2 system:



To meet the growing requirements of the market, the prerequisite was created for achieving a "higher level" by including additional SAI criteria in the REDcert2 system.

This are a total of 18 additional questions based on the REDcert EU criteria that, however, also pertain to areas regulated by law – outside of the scope of the CC regulations. These are grouped into the following categories:

1. Sustainable economic development of the farm
2. Transparent business planning to optimise long-term profitability
3. Operations management/identification of operation risks

4. Operational diversification and specialisation
5. Communication with buyers with awareness of price and quality
6. Advice, training and further education
7. Adapted selection of varieties
8. Quality and origin of plant and/or propagating material
9. Documentation of crop and seed
10. Selective and systematic use of plant protection products
11. Prevention of resistance for plant protection
12. Measures for field hygiene
13. Prevention of soil compaction
14. Use of available water resources
15. Proof of appropriate water use
16. By-product and harvest residue treatment and separate collection of waste of all kinds
17. Measures for energy efficiency
18. Active participation in social life

To improve understanding, we would like to point out again that these criteria are derived from the globally applicable requirements of the **Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI)**. In Germany or Europe, these are usually considered self-evident but in other regions of the world they have much more relevance and need to be checked carefully. Nevertheless, these criteria are also essential here if the goal is comparable and fully-fledged certification.

To evaluate a criterion, an inspector examines certain documentation at the on-site inspection, e.g. plot map, delivery slips/invoices, etc. In some cases, the inspector may not actually use all of the documents of the farmer, first gathering point, etc. being inspected as a basis for evaluating a criterion.

Because verification of criteria 1-3 deals with some sensitive data, a confidentiality agreement is signed either as an addendum to the contract between the certification body and the first gathering point or as a form that the inspector takes to the on-site inspection.

Even though the focus of the REDcert<sup>2</sup> system is the phase of agricultural production as it includes additional criteria from the SAI requirements, the agricultural trader (first gathering point) is also required to be certified if he accepts biomass produced in accordance with REDcert<sup>2</sup> criteria for resale or further processing. The phase of agricultural trade is checked for compliance with the requirements of the REDcert<sup>2</sup> system using a checklist for "interfaces" which has been slightly changed from the REDcert-EU system. A REDcert<sup>2</sup> certificate is issued after successful inspection.

Because the REDcert<sup>2</sup> system is based on the REDcert-EU system, the certification process is also the same. For the inspection of farmers, if they are members of a producer group, additional criteria are inspected as described above depending on the SAI requirements level. Because the structure of the REDcert<sup>2</sup> checklist is modular for the producer level, the workload for inspections is minimised because they are largely consistent with SAI criteria. The workload for inspections at producer level is almost identical to the requirements of the REDcert-EU system and its checklist.

