



Scheme principles for biomass production in the food industry

Version: RC² 03

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1 Introduction

To ensure a consistent and secure supply of agricultural raw materials in line with the principles of sustainable agriculture, the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI) was launched by a number of global food manufacturers. The Farm Sustainability Assessment (SPA) is a set of standardised criteria for assessing and reporting on sustainable farming practices. These criteria are already largely covered by the existing EU certification scheme REDcert. In addition, further sustainability standards have been set for food made from biomass, as requested by the food industry. These apply to companies throughout the production, processing and supply/trade chain. Any company producing and supplying biomass for food production must commit to meeting the requirements of the REDcert² scheme as recognised by the SAI.

The REDcert² scheme requirements have been benchmarked by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform and are considered equivalent to the FSA criteria.

This document describes the additional requirements - based on the proven REDcert-EU scheme - for REDcert² certification for producers, sellers and processors of biomass for the food sector.

2 Certification scheme and definition of terms

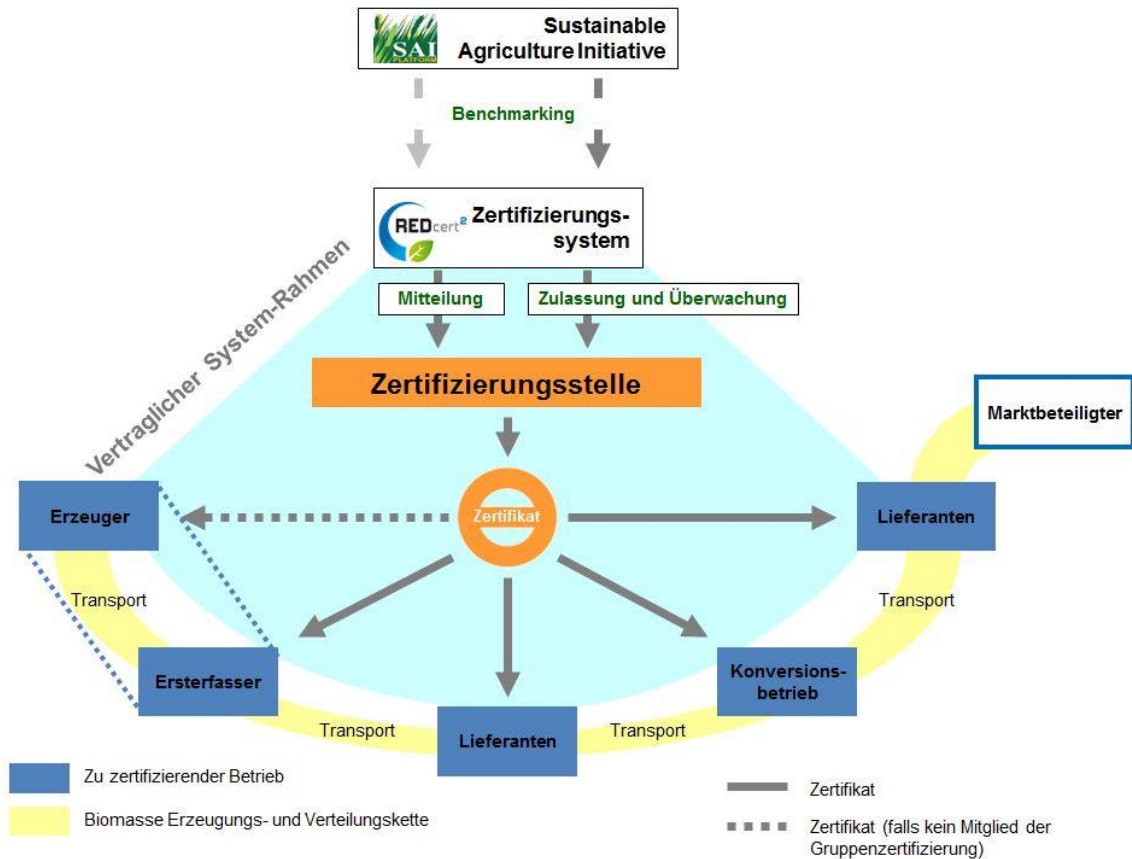
REDcert² scheme

REDcert² is a certification scheme for sustainable biomass production for the food industry. It can also be extended to include processing (conversion) and supply/trade.

Biomass

The term biomass refers exclusively to plant-based products (agricultural commodities) and the products made from them.

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



The production and supply chain for biomass for the food industry involves the following actors:

Producers

Producers own and/or use farmland on which biomass is grown and harvested as a raw material for food production. They shall provide detailed information on the type, location and size of the fields used for the production of sustainable biomass and, where applicable, the status of the farm with respect to the requirements and standards under the scope of the provisions under "Environment" in table 1 of annex III to Directive (EC) 2021/2115 from 2 December 2021 (conditionality criteria). For certification purposes, they must also provide access to all data and information related to the production and traceability of sustainable biomass.

First gathering points

First gathering points receive biomass from the producer for resale or further processing. Even if the biomass is supplied on behalf of a first gathering point directly to a storage or conversion facility, the first gathering point is subject to certification as what is known as an “interface”.

The first gathering points are responsible for determining the origin, quality and quantity of the supplied sustainable biomass. They are required to set up a mass balance system to document all consignments of sustainable biomass. First gathering points are inspected once a year (12-month period) by a certification body. As part of the annual certification, the operating sites or storage facilities maintained by the first gathering point are also subject to sample inspections (for more information, see the REDcert-EU document “Scheme principles of neutral inspections”).

The first gathering points are issued a certificate as proof that they satisfy the scheme requirements.

Interfaces

Interfaces are economic operators along the production and supply chain that require certification. A distinction is made between:

- first gathering points
- Conversion plants of all types such as oil mills, sugar factories, etc.

Suppliers

Many economic actors along the production/supply chain up to the food processing operation are involved in sales or storage of biomass or act as brokers. These economic operators are considered “suppliers” under REDcert².

Suppliers may handle sustainable biomass (storage, mixing) without converting the biomass. This definition also includes intermediate suppliers/phases that do not “physically” handle the biomass.

Conversion plants

Biomass is converted in oil mills, grain mills, malt factories, sugar factories, etc. They are required to set up a mass balance system in which all deliveries with sustainable biomass are documented before and after conversion

All companies or groups of companies (producer group) of the conversion plants mentioned here as examples are issued a certificate to prove that they fulfil the scheme requirements.

3 Scope of application

The requirements for the GHG savings potential and the respective calculation methods do not apply to the production of biomass for the food industry. This means that, unlike the use of biomass for "biofuels", every biomass consignment for the food industry does not have to be labelled for its respective GHG emissions or the respective disaggregated default value.

The table below links the key elements of the REDcert-EU scheme to the REDcert² scheme requirements:

REDcert-EU "Scope and basic scheme require- ments"; section...	REDcert²	Reference to respec- tive law
1 Introduction	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements; for more information, see the introduction to this document)	
2 REDcert's self-defined role	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	
3 Scope of application	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements; for more	

	information, see the introduction to this document)	
4 Organisational structure of REDcert	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	
5 The REDcert certification scheme	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements; the exception are the requirements for the GHG savings potential and the calculation methods (5.2))	Article 29, paragraph (3) & (4) of Directive (EC) 2018/2001
5.1 Sustainability requirements for cultivating and producing biomass	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	
5.2 Requirements for the GHG emissions saving and the calculation methods	☒ (not applicable)	
5.3 Requirements for traceability and mass balancing for the continuous proof of origin of biomass	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	
5.4 Documentation requirements	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	
5.5 Scheme function	✓ (see introduction to this document)	
5.6 Registration and certification	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	

5.7 Other certification schemes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (currently not applicable)	
6 Measures for transparency and prevention of misuse and fraud	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	
7 Costs for participating companies	✓ (see REDcert-EU scope and basic scheme requirements)	

4 Requirements for sustainable biomass production

4.1 Land with high biodiversity value (Art. 29 (3) of Directive (EC) 2018/2001)

See REDcert document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

Contrary to the specifications in the REDcert-EU system, biomass cannot be produced from raw materials obtained from areas of high biodiversity value, i.e. areas that have one of the following statuses on or after 31 December 2015, regardless of whether the areas still have this status.

4.2 Land with high above-ground or underground carbon stock (Article 29 (4) of Directive (EC) 2018/2001)

See REDcert document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

Contrary to the specifications of the REDcert-EU system, biomass cannot be produced from raw materials obtained from land with a high carbon stock, i.e. land that had one of the statuses described below on or after 31 December 2015, regardless of whether the land still has this status.

4.3 Land that was peatland in December 2015 (Art. 29 (5) of Directive (EC) 2018/2001)

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

Contrary to the specifications of the REDcert-EU system, biomass cannot be produced from raw materials obtained from areas that were peatland on or after 31 December 2015.

4.4 Requirements for sustainable biomass made from waste and residues

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

4.5 Environmentally responsible biomass production

In all EU Member States, conditionality requirements ("cross-compliance") refer to the "statutory management requirements" (SMRs), the standards for maintaining agricultural land in "good agricultural and environmental condition" (GAEC) and basic standards related to the environment, climate change and animal health. Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115 contains the rules on the conditionality regime.

Sustainable biomass farmed in the Community must be produced in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1307/2013 (direct payment scheme) under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The amount of the payments is determined by the extent to which conditionality requirements are satisfied.

Where biomass is produced without the use of direct payments, the sustainable production of this biomass must also be assessed for compliance with the SMR, GAEC and CAP requirements.

The producer may present a land use title. Alternatively, official confirmation from the local authority that he or she is legally cultivating the land can be presented. If the land has been purchased, the purchase has been legal, and it can be shown that any pre-existing property and land rights have been respected.

The details below explain the background and gives information on how to put the respective provisions into operational practice.

They thus serve as a guide for producers and auditors to assess conformity with the REDcert² scheme requirements; but do not claim to be complete.

4.5.1 Groundwater protection

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

Where fuel storage units are present, they are designed to be safe and secure and to prevent the risk of contamination of soils and groundwater in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines.

4.5.2 Fertiliser use

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

Fertilizers are preferably kept and stored in their original packaging and shall be labelled accordingly. An inventory of fertilizers purchased and used shall also be maintained.

Measures are taken to protect natural habitats in areas adjacent to protected areas. These include, for example, buffer zones or less intensive cultivation of the immediately adjacent areas.

4.5.3 Use of sludge

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

4.5.4 Handling and use of plant protection products

See REDcert-EU "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

4.5.5 Integrated pest management

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

4.5.6 Prevention of soil erosion

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

4.5.7 Preservation of organic matter and structure of soils

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

The farmer shall ensure that soil substrate used to maintain and improve soil structure is of high quality and from primarily sustainable sources. High quality soil substrate should be free of potential contaminants and pathogens and have favourable properties in terms of good moisture retention, nutrient content and high organic matter content.

4.5.8 Water protection and management

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels".

4.5.9 Social responsibility

See REDcert-EU document "Scheme principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels" and the following criteria:

The producers are active and dedicated members of their community or township and make a contribution to its development. This can occur in a variety of ways, e.g. through:

- participation in the local council through political involvement and/or church activities
- cultural and/or nature conservation activities
- membership of the local fire brigade, emergency services, etc.
- membership in and active involvement in sports club, rifle association, etc. training as agricultural expert
- etc.

Producers shall take the necessary measures to prevent illegal hunting, fishing and extraction of flora and fauna on the farm in accordance with relevant legislation and customary law. The farm shall communicate with workers, the community and, where appropriate, hunters who may use the land to ensure that all activities are in accordance with relevant legislation and customary law. The producer shall take measures to ensure that the weekly working time is limited by legal or administrative regulations, collective agreements or agreements between the employer and the employee. Overtime is worked on a voluntary basis and shall be compensated in accordance with the employment or collective agreement. In addition, the average working time for any seven-day period, including overtime, shall not exceed 48 hours.

The producer shall ensure that wages and benefits of permanent, temporary and seasonal employees are paid on a regular basis and meet the minimum level required by the relevant legislation or industry guidelines.

Where salary deductions are made, it is ensured that they are legal, clearly recorded and communicated to employees, and are never made for disciplinary purposes.

The company has a grievance mechanism that allows all employees to report complaints. The grievance system ensures that complaints submitted are investigated.. If a complaint is confirmed, action is taken to resolve it quickly.

It is ensured that injured sick employees do not perform any activities that affect their health and safety or that of other employees. In the event long-term illness of a employee, there is a regulated reintegration process for the return to work, which ensures the safety of the employee.

It is also ensured that all employees who may be vulnerable or whose immune systems may be compromised are not exposed to pesticides or hazardous substances.

If employees are provided with living quarters on the farm, they are clean, safe and provide access to adequate cooking facilities and sanitation.

The farmer takes measures to promote the personal hygiene of employees and to prevent diseases. For this purpose, regular training courses are offered and documented for all permanent employees, temporary workers and seasonal workers.

Permanent, temporary and seasonal employees are paid a living wage that is at least equal to the national minimum standard or industry standards, whichever is higher.

All employees are compensated for accidents or illnesses resulting from work-related activities, if applicable, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Where state health care is not available, all employees will be advised and assisted regarding the availability of health insurance.

4.5.10 Irrigation management

Legal expectations for irrigation management of a biomass producer are part of the conditionality requirements. The legal framework, for example, in Germany is formed by the law on water management (Wasserhaushaltsgesetz (Federal Water Act - WHG) and, at European level, by Directive 2000/60/EC to create a legal framework for EU measures in the area of water policy (Water Framework Directive). Optimised irrigation determines the frequency and duration of irrigation and ensures that the right amount of water is applied at the right time.

Producers have to create a **water use plan** that is updated at least once a year and documented in writing which aims to, among other things,

- to optimise water availability (by making drainage unnecessary, user collaboration, diversification of water resources) and water consumption
- to prevent water pollution and the emergence of wastewater
- records to prove that the farm is optimising its water use
- records to prove that water availability in the area will not be affected
- record to prove that no water is taken from ecosystems that is required for their healthy functioning
- records to prove that the irrigation method used is best suited to the crop
- records to prove maintenance of the irrigation system

- if rainwater is used, measures are also taken to optimize its use as part of irrigation management.

Agricultural practices can be used to improve soil water retention and minimize runoff of rainwater.

The producer shall take measures to collect excess rainwater where practical within local weather conditions. This can be done, for example, through systems to collect rainwater from roofs of farm buildings.

For grey water generated from agricultural activities, the potential for recycling should be considered to optimise water use within local legislation and guidelines. Recycled greywater can be used, for example, for irrigation of crops, as drinking water for livestock, for washing vehicles, machinery and equipment, as water for toilet cisterns or for wetting walkways.

4.5.11 The use of seeds and planting stock

In addition to Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002, other directives and regulations require traceability of the produced and processed biomass across all the production and delivery phases for food and animal feed.

As a result, the biomass producer has to keep records of the seeds/planting stock used, the information on variety name, dealer, production area, seeding/planting date and applied quantity of seed/planting stock per area. He should ensure that the seed/planting stock can be traced back to the location of the seed/planting propagation. This requirement is satisfied, e.g. for certified seed/planting stock. The selection of the seed/planting stock should be preceded by obtaining information on, e.g. variety resistance/tolerance to common/economically important pests and diseases, soil and crop requirements, fertiliser and water requirements, expected yield, the impacts on adjacent farmland, etc.

The farmer shall take measures to prevent the mixing or contamination of genetically modified organisms (GMO) with conventional material when GMO material is used on the farm. This will be done in accordance with relevant legislation and seed company specifications. The producer can demonstrate that appropriate buffer zones are maintained between conventional and GMO crops. Seed, produce and grafting material are stored separately in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines.

Where seedlings are produced, the grower shall designate special areas to protect them during the hardening-off period. Seedlings are more susceptible to climatic stress and

exposure to pests and diseases, so they should be planted separately from other crops to avoid possible cross-contamination.

The farmer considers the optimal seeding rate and plant distance based on the local situation and the selected crop. He has a strategy for deciding on the optimal seeding rate or plant population. This strategy may, for example, be based on the producers experience.

4.5.12 Use of plant protection agents

Plant protection agents must be used in accordance with good professional practices.

In Germany, e.g. the relevant authorities at federal state level can prescribe measures that are required to satisfy this requirement. Violating the prescribed measures can be punished with a fine. The requirement to use good professional practices for pesticides generally apply to all management approaches (e.g. conventional, integrated or ecological farming).

Good professional practices with pesticides are viewed as a set of required activities for individuals who undertake pesticide measures.

Social requirements and requirements related to consumer protection are considered as well as scientific findings in the area of hygiene, the application of pesticides and the protection of certain adjacent land areas. Special priority must also be given to documenting the use of pesticides. These required activities supplement the existing legal regulations such as, e.g. those related to the pesticide approval, the inspection of pesticide devices and a certificate of expertise. Adequate facilities are provided for persons working with pesticides, fertilizers or hazardous substances to clean themselves in case of contact. These include, for example, access to water and soap, changing facilities, emergency showers or eye-washing stations.

DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC (Plant Pesticide Framework Directive) creates the framework for the sustainable use of pesticides. Annex III of this Directive

- lists measures to prevent the spread of harmful organisms and to help determine when and whether plant protection measures should be applied and
- stipulates, among other things, that the pesticides applied should be as specific as possible for the target and should have the least side effects and kept to levels that are necessary (application of resistance prevention strategies).

According to the law to protect crops (Crop Protection Act (Pflanzenschutzgesetz - PflSchG), plant protection may only be carried out using good professional practices. This

also includes integrated plant protection which is defined as a combination of processes which keeps the application of chemical plant protection agents to the levels necessary taking into account biological, biotechnical, plant breeding, cultivation and crop measures.

4.5.13 Soil management

According to Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009, the member states have to ensure that all agricultural land is maintained in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC). Annex III lists, for example, suitable measures and appropriate machinery that can be used to maintain the soil structure as broad requirements.

These requirements can be satisfied, for example, by:

- - preventing intensive land use (livestock) / not driving over fields when weather conditions are damp or wet
- - minimising intensive land use (livestock) / driving over fields
- - using low-pressure tyres
- - preventing "the excessive use of driving corridors"

Based on Annex III, the member states must define respective minimum requirements at national and regional level. For example, in Germany, the law on the protection of harmful changes to the soil and the remediation of contaminated sites (German Federal Soil Protection and Contaminated Sites Ordinance (Bundes-Bodenschutzgesetz - BBodSchG) outlines principles related to soil management in Article 17 Good professional agricultural practices. The principles of maintaining agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition are stipulated in the regulation on compliance with basic requirements and standards under the scope of community laws for agricultural payments (Agricultural Payments Obligation Ordinance (Agrarzahlungen-Verpflichtungenverordnung - Agrar-ZahlVerpflV) as defined in Article 93 of the conditionality provisions in Regulation (EU) No. 2021/2117 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy.

4.5.14 GHG-oriented resource and energy use (energy efficiency)

According to Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (Renewable Energy Directive), controlling energy consumption in Europe as well as increasing the use of energy from renewable energy sources are, along with energy savings and improved energy efficiency, key elements in the bundle of measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and comply with the Paris agreement on climate change and other community and international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These factors also play a key role in strengthening, for example, opportunities for regional development, primarily in rural and remote areas. One of the main goals of the European Community is therefore to reduce emissions by at least 40 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. It is the responsibility of the member states to considerably improve energy efficiency in all areas.

Producers should consider integrating all clean and sustainable sources of renewable energy into the farm, where available and affordable. Examples include the use of solar panels or wind turbines, wood fuel from sustainably managed forests or crop residues and wood from pruned organic matter. The share of renewable electricity in the electricity sector of the bidding zone should be implied. The producer has a quantified overview of its energy sources and energy requirements. An energy management system is in place, including an assessment of basic energy needs.

Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013 contains the general conditions for promoting rural development in the European Community which is financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development ("EAFRD"). The climate mitigation measures should involve both limiting agriculture and forestry emissions arising from core activities such as animal husbandry and the use of fertilisers as well as preserving carbon sinks and enhancing carbon sequestration with regard to land use, land use change and the forestry sector. Reaching the goals of rural development, which contributes to the Europe 2050 strategy, is being pursued in the following areas:

- - improving water management, including fertiliser handling and pest management
- - preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- - increasing efficiency of energy use in agriculture
- - reducing greenhouse gas and ammoniac emissions stemming from agriculture
- - promoting carbon sinks and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

The EAFRD funding is carried out on the basis of the Development Programmes for Rural Regions (EPLR) which are created in Germany, e.g. specific to the region for every German federal state.

Where applicable, the producer has taken measures to prevent or reduce the air pollution caused in accordance with the relevant laws and directives. For this purpose, the activities that pose the greatest risk to the environment or human health are identified and, if necessary, measures are taken to prevent or reduce them.

4.5.15 Waste management

One of the central policies in the area of waste management is DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive). It defines key waste-related terms and establishes, among other things, the following waste hierarchy: a) prevention, b) preparation for re-use, c) recycling, d) other recovery, e.g. for energy recovery, e) disposal. The law to promote the closed-loop cycle and ensure environmentally compatible management of waste (Recycling Act (Kreislaufwirtschaftsgesetz - KrWG) transposed requirements set forth in DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC into German national law and regulations, e.g. Ordinance on the List of Waste Materials (Abfallverzeichnis-Verordnung - AVV) or the ordinance on the reuse of biowaste on soil used for agriculture, forestry or gardens (Biowaste Ordinance (Bioabfallverordnung - BioAbfV). According to Article 22 of DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC, biodegradable waste should be collected separately and reused sensibly. This waste gives rise to compost and fermentation residues that are suitable for agricultural use. Most agricultural residues, however, are not considered biodegradable waste that needs to be collected separately because it is not disposed of as waste. These kinds of residues are used, e.g. in accordance with agricultural soil use Article 17 Good professional agricultural practices in the law on the protection of harmful changes to the soil and the remediation of contaminated sites (German Federal Soil Protection and Contaminated Sites Ordinance (Bundes-Bodenschutzgesetz - BBodSchG), to improve the soil structure, to maintain and encourage the biological activity of the soil and/or maintain the humus content of the soil typical for the location. Depending on the management method (intensive / conventional or extensive / ecological / organic / alternative) including the respective type of soil cultivation (conventional / turned or not ploughed / not turned / conserved), a certain coherence in the operational cycle is achieved (prevention – reuse – marketing).

The farmer shall maintain a waste management plan to minimize waste quantities and provide a system for reuse and recycling. This waste management plan can be described verbally.

4.5.16 Company management

The support guidelines of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Community were passed for market-related expenses and direct support as well as the development of rural areas. The CAP goals are both economic as well as social in nature. Because the contractually stipulated goals cannot be fulfilled to the same extent at the same time, legislators have considerable discretionary power to implement current policy priorities. With, for example, Agenda 2000 and greening, other issues such as policies for rural areas, promotion of environmental measures and food security, conditionality and modulation for bonus payments, mandatory crop diversification - preservation of permanent grassland and land use to benefit the environment were strengthened.

The central support instrument in the implementation of the shared EU priorities for the development of rural areas is the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Agricultural producers who are subject to the conditionality requirements and apply for funding (direct payments) must comply with provisions on environmental and animal protection as well as food and animal feed safety, regulations on soil protection, water law and "minimum activity on agricultural land". In all EU member states, the conditionality compliance regulation includes:

- - statutory management requirements, take from 13 laws relevant for agricultural producers (Directives and Regulations) in the area of environmental protection, food and animal feed safety, labelling and registration of animals, animal disease control, the use of pesticides and animal protection.
- - standards for maintaining agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC): they include seven standards that aim to, among other things, reduce soil erosion, prevent the removal of landscape elements, to replant land taken out of production and protect bodies of water.
- - conditionality / greening regulations to preserve permanent grassland.

Compliance with these requirements is monitored by the relevant authorities (e.g. veterinarian agencies, nature conservation authorities) or payment offices on site by conducting random payment recipients.

A producer has to take many influencing factors into account to be able to manage operations over the long run. Changes in policies, in regulations and market requirements as well as the cost-effectiveness of the operations (capital, building, technologies, land, animals) are examples of these kinds of influencing factors.

A management plan should at least cover the areas of finances, investments, marketing, crop rotation (fertiliser, pesticide and machinery use, etc.) risk assessment (natural events, price fluctuations, changes in regulations, etc.) and work volume (accounting, application processing, further training, consulting, inspections, special activities, etc.).

An organized agricultural system is maintained through the records required for determining the tax, in which the respective arrival and departure of the operating resources and equipment is documented. This can also be considered inventory.

Within the framework of the legal requirements, regular training is offered to all employees of the company. Emergency contact details are available and easily accessible at the farm.

Non-conditionality operations provide proof of compliance with the above conditionality requirements independently as part of the REDcert² certification process.

All machines and agricultural equipment used on the farm are regularly inspected and maintained.

The grower has appropriate contracts for the purchase of his product, which take into account the specification, price, quantity and terms of payment. The contractual arrangements should be mutually beneficial and formed on the basis of realistic forecasts of the respective growing season. Alternatively, proof of membership in a cooperative or similar organization can be provided.

5 Scheme principles for mass balancing

When the terms “bioliquids/biofuels” are used in the document “Scheme principles for mass balancing”, they always also imply the term “sustainable biomass for the food industry”.

REDcert-EU “Scheme principles for mass balancing”; section...	REDcert²	Reference to respective law
1 Introduction	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for mass balancing)	
2 Scheme principles for mass balancing	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for mass balancing; see also the mass balancing period in this document)	
3 Documentation requirements	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for mass balancing)	

Contrary to the requirements set forth in the REDcert-EU scheme, economic actors are free to define a balance period after which the balance is positive (less outgoing than incoming biomass) as long as this period is no longer than 12 months.

The operational mass balance always has to show and provide proof of the property “REDcert²-certified biomass”.

6 Scheme principles for GHG calculation

REDcert-EU “Scheme principles for GHG calculation”; section...	REDcert²	Reference to respective law
1 Requirements for GHG savings potential	☒ (not applicable)	
2 Scheme principles for GHG calculation	☒ (not applicable)	

7 Scheme principles for neutral inspections

It is generally true that when the terms “bioliquids/biofuels” are used in the document “Scheme principles for neutral inspections”, they always also imply the term “sustainable biomass in the area of food production”.

The documented requirements for neutral inspections relate to both the implementation of the requirements of Directive (EC) 2018/2001 of “bioliquids/biofuels” as well as the supplementary criteria of the REDcert² scheme to the extent that they are applicable.

Inspection certificates are not issued in the REDcert² scheme. “Certificates” are only issued to verify compliance.

Economic actors along the entire production chain who want to be certified in line with the REDcert² scheme requirements must register online on the REDcert website. The company to be certified must become thoroughly familiar with the REDcert² scheme requirements prior to the inspection.

REDcert-EU “Scheme principles for neutral inspections”, section...	REDcert²	Reference to respective law
1 Inspection system	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
1.1 Types of inspections	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
1.2 Inspection process and duration	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
1.3 Inspection intervals	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
1.4 Evaluation of the inspection results	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections; the evaluation of the	

1.5 Reporting	inspection results also have to be observed here) ✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
1.6 Issuing and revoking certificates	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections; see also the following provisions in this document)	
1.7 Scope of the inspections	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
1.8 Risk management	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
2 Group certification	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
3 Requirements and responsibilities of certification bodies	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections)	
4 Requirements of REDcert XXX	✓ (see REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections; see also the following provisions in this document)	

The templates and forms provided by REDcert must be used to issue certificates. The format and/or language of them may be changed, but not the content. REDcert must be informed if the templates or forms are changed. The translated version of a certificate must indicate that it is a translation which is not legally valid.

The inspectors who conduct the inspections in accordance with the REDcert² requirements must have the necessary knowledge. In all EU member states, the conditionality regulation includes the “statutory management requirements” (SMR), the standards for maintaining arable land in “good agricultural and environmental condition” (GAEC) and the regulations for maintaining permanent grassland. The REDcert² inspectors must provide evidence of well-founded knowledge, particularly in the areas of environmental protection, food and animal feed safety and the use of plant protection products primarily for water, soil, biodiversity and landscape. The basis of this knowledge can be, e.g. agricultural/agrarian training or activities focused on plant production.

In contrast to cash based accounting where operating income and expenses are allocated by cash flow, in agricultural accounting, they are recognised in the respective period of the economic year that they belong to. The accounting obligation for farms is oriented around the revenue threshold. To be able to assess a company’s or farm’s financial statements (annual report), an inspector needs verifiable general business understanding or special knowledge about agricultural management.

The respective country-specific benchmark results of the SAI platform, which are current and published in their form, generally apply to the REDcert² performance level according to SAI.¹ The evaluation of the REDcert² scheme requirements in the checklists and the respective number of points are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Evaluation options in the REDcert² scheme

Evaluation	Explanation	Number of points
A	Complete compliance	20 points
B	Almost complete compliance	15 points
C	Scheme requirements only partially fulfilled	5 points
D	Scheme requirements are not fulfilled	0 points
N/A	Scheme requirements are not applicable (when N/A is entered for a requirement, this must be explained in the inspection report), not all criteria can be evaluated with N/A.	0 points

¹ <http://www.fsatool.com>

The publicly viewable REDcert² certificate does not list the individual results. The SAI performance level (Bronze, Silver, Gold) can be accessed in a protected area of the REDcert certificate database for registered users after it has been released by the certificate holder.

Depending on the number of points achieved or whether a criterion is evaluated as KO, the inspections are categorised in the following groups:

No non-conformities (100%)

No problems were found, the REDcert-EU requirements are fully satisfied.

⇒ Certificate can be issued:

- for interfaces
- at the agriculture process step which fulfil the SAI performance level (Bronze, Silver, Gold)

Minor non-conformities (75–99%)

The REDcert-EU scheme requirements are not fully satisfied but the non-conformities found do not put the scheme integrity at risk. The corrective measures agreed with the inspection body must be implemented by the dates specified. The inspector responsible has accepted the corrective measures and deadlines for their implementation proposed by the operation.

⇒ Certificate can be issued:

- for interfaces
- at the agriculture process step, the
 - Bronze level is reached when the scheme principles or additional requirements for non-conditionality operations and the standards for social responsibility have been completely met This applies only to those SAI-benchmarked countries whose performance level is only Bronze.
 - Silver level is reached when the scheme principles or additional requirements for non-conditionality operations and the standards for social responsibility have been completely met This applies only to those SAI-benchmarked countries whose performance level is only Silver.
 - Gold is achieved if scheme basics or additional requirements for non-conditionality farms as well as standards on social responsibility and for the basic and advanced requirements designated under SAI are fully complied with.

The prerequisite for reaching the SAI Gold or Silver level is satisfying the scheme requirements or additional requirements for non-conditionality operations as well as standards for social responsibility. If they or the *basic* requirements are not fulfilled, the SAI Gold level is not reached even if the *advanced* requirement is completely satisfied.

Major non-conformities (< 75% and/or KO evaluation/s)

Major problems were found in the fulfilment of the REDcert² scheme requirements or depending on the respective SAI level which corresponds to the SAI requirements of the Silver or Gold level. Scheme integrity is not assured.

⇒ No certificate. The problems found are tracked and sanctions introduced in accordance with the REDcert sanction system.

If major non-conformities are found, the certification body is required:

- to inform REDcert within 24 hours (i.e. send the inspection report to REDcert in electronic form)
- to agree to corrective measures with the scheme participant and

to define an appropriate timeframe or a deadline by which the operation has to verify implementation of the corrective measures – usually through another on-site inspection (follow-up inspection)

8 Sanction system

REDcert-EU "Sanction system", section...	REDcert ²	Reference to respective law
1 Introduction	✓ (see REDcert-EU sanction system)	
2 Procedure	✓ (see REDcert-EU sanction system)	
3 Special requirements	✓ (see REDcert-EU sanction system)	

9 Relevant documents

The documentation structure of the REDcert² scheme principle includes the following:

No.	Document	Published/revised
1	REDcert-EU – Scope and basic scheme requirements	The current version of the REDcert-EU scheme documents and the supplementary REDcert ² principles are published on the web site www.redcert.org .
2	REDcert ² scheme principles for biomass production for the food industry	
3	REDcert-EU – Scheme principles for mass balancing	
4	REDcert-EU – Scheme principles for integrity management	
4	REDcert-EU – Scheme principles for GHG calculation	
5	REDcert-EU – Scheme principles for neutral inspections	
6	REDcert-EU – Sanction system	
7	Checklist for inspecting producers	
8	Checklist for inspecting interfaces, warehouses and suppliers	

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