

Australian Agricultural
Sustainability Framework

Community of Practice Exchange

Canberra 20-21 March 2024



National
Farmers
Federation

Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Angela Schuster
Schuster Consulting Group



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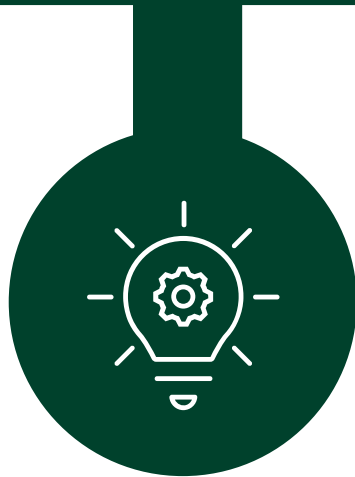
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Format for the Exchange

INSIGHTS



QUESTIONS



INPUT



NFF Welcome

Warwick Ragg
National Farmers Federation



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Why the AASF is Important

AASF responds to international and domestic pressures on agriculture to demonstrate its sustainability

At home it is about social licence and influencing climate and sustainability initiatives – eg the Ag and Land Sector Plan – by having our own initiative enables us to influence not just respond

Overseas it is about supporting our Australian narrative about our sustainability and the uniqueness of our environment and production systems

Industry led, supported by government is key



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AASF Design

Aligns with international initiatives like SAFA, SDGs, GRI and SAI and with domestic initiatives

AASF is a sustainability framework which aligns with ESG to inform corporate ESG requirements

A common set of sustainability principles for the sector assists in a more consistent discussion about the sector's progress against sustainability outcomes

The collage features several key elements:

- Logos:** ISO, RSB, Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework, Sustainable Winegrowing Australia, BEHIND AUSTRALIAN GRAIN, TCFD, Australian Beef Sustainability Framework, myBMP, SMARTCANE BMP, GLOBAL FARM METRIC, World Benchmarking Alliance, TNFD, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, SAI PLATFORM, GRI, Australian Organic, and SAFA.
- Diagrams:**
 - A circular diagram for the **GLOBAL FARM METRIC** with segments for PEOPLE, ECONOMICS, CLIMATE, COMMUNITY, NATURE, SOIL & WATER, GOVERNANCE, RESOURCES, FARM OUTPUTS, FARM & WORKERS, CROPS & PASTURE, LIVESTOCK, and PRODUCTS.
 - A **TCFD** diagram showing 'Agriculture Benchmark' and 'World Benchmarking Alliance' with a list of indicators in four measurement areas: Transformation-specific social inclusion indicators, Governance and strategy indicators, Environment indicators, and Nutrition indicators.
 - A **SDG** grid showing 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
 - A **SAFA** diagram showing 4 themes, 10 priority areas, 23 priorities, and 49 indicators.
- Vertical Lists:**
 - ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY:** E1 Atmosphere, E2 Water, E3 Land, E4 Biodiversity, E5 Materials and Energy, E6 Animal Welfare.
 - GOOD GOVERNANCE:** G1 Corporate Ethics, G2 Accountability, G3 Participation, G4 Rule of Law, G5 Holistic Management.
 - ECONOMIC RESILIENCE:** C1 Investment, C2 Vulnerability, C3 Product Quality & Information, C4 Local Economy.
 - SOCIAL WELL-BEING:** S1 Decent Livelihood, S2 Fair Trading Practices, S3 Labour Rights, S4 Equity, S5 Human Health & Safety, S6 Cultural Diversity.

The AASF is the first national articulation of sustainability in Agriculture



2026 Target state

- Australia positioned as a global leader in agricultural sustainability
- Industry demonstration of sustainability supported and consistent at the national level
- Agriculture prepared for a range of emerging sustainability requirements
- International trade supported by robust principles-based approaches to sustainability
- Commodity and national sustainability initiatives working together



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State of Play

- Global Forum for Farm Policy and Innovation (GFFPI)/ OECD October 2024 – positive engagement about taking a outcomes-based approach versus prescriptive (ie the EU approach)
- Climate COP 2023 strong interest in AASF - next step is how we verify
- Continuing to work with DAFF re sustainability for international market access, traceability and Ag & Land Sector Plan
- Positive engagement with Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations – RDC Chairs and CEOs

AASF progress

Anwen Lovett

National Farmers Federation



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Background

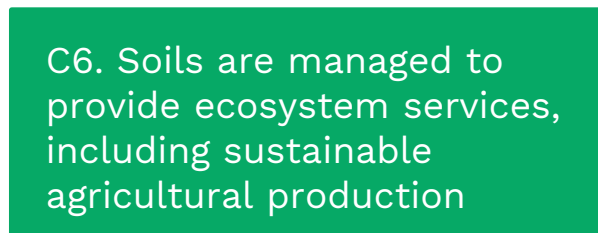
- NFF- Australian Government initiative
- Commenced in 2020 – focus started at biodiversity then broadened to sustainability
- DAFF’s Traceability Uplift Grants supports until 2026
- AASF delivery partners are AFI, CSIRO, Schuster Consulting, ERM and KPMG



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Alignment mapping



	AgCarE	Soil health
	Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 5.1: Minimise nutrient & sediment loss
	Behind Australian Grain	Priority Area: Soil Health
	Cotton BMP	Soil health
	Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 4, Goal 8: Improve land management
	GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.5 Soil Health
	ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.2.3 Protect soil quality & productivity
	Montreal Process	Criterion 4: Conservation & Maintenance of Soil & Water, Indicator 4.2 Soil
	National Soil Strategy	Objectives: Prioritise soil health, Empower soil innovation & stewards, Strengthen soil knowledge & capability
	Roundtable for Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 8: Soil
	Smartcane BMP	Module 1: Soil health & Nutrient Management
	Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle: Land & Soil
	Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: Land & Soil
	UN SDG 15 – Life on Land	Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems ...

AASF Current Activities - 2023 - 2026

