



National  
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Framework



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

# Developing credentials for sustainability performance

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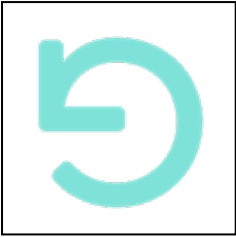
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Regen Farmers Mutual.

[www.aasf.org.au](http://www.aasf.org.au)

[www.regenfarmersmutual.com](http://www.regenfarmersmutual.com)

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Regen Farmers Mutual (RFM) is an agricultural mutual enterprise that supports their members to identify and capture environmental and economic opportunities from their agricultural assets. RFM has used the Framework, specifically principles 1, 4 & 5, to identify important areas of environmental sustainability and develop verifiable credentials to help their members demonstrate their impact in these three areas.

**Background:**

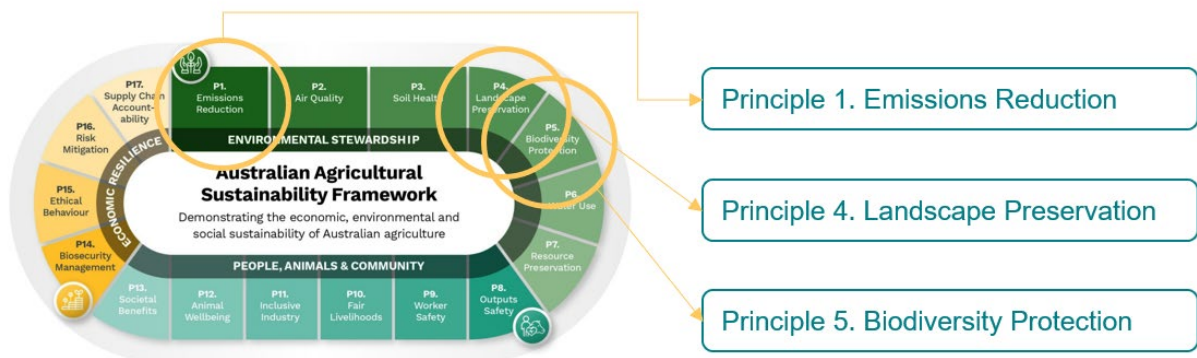
RFM helps their members tap into real economic value by improving their understanding of their environmental assets and the potential new income streams in these areas. Including, the Landscape Impact Program that helps and guides their members to improve environmental assets on their property in ways that can help them attain additional market benefits, such as through carbon markets and biodiversity projects.

To maximise their members’ ability to gain these market benefits, RFM needs to have a current understanding of the sustainability opportunities that are emerging and prioritised by market participants across Australian agriculture, of which the AASF assists in informing that market scan. They also need a reliable and accurate way for their members to demonstrate their impact against these opportunities. This is where the AASF plays a critical role and adds value to RFM’s service.

**Approach to using the Framework:**

Firstly, RFM used the Framework to gain an understanding of the whole-of-sector sustainability objectives most important to Australian agriculture.

Secondly, RFM selected the three principles most aligned and relevant to their core services for their members and communicates in alignment with the Framework. By considering how to meet the criteria attached to each principle, RFM is developing the credentials that farmers can attain to demonstrate progress against these principles and criteria, on this basis to gain financial benefits and new income streams.



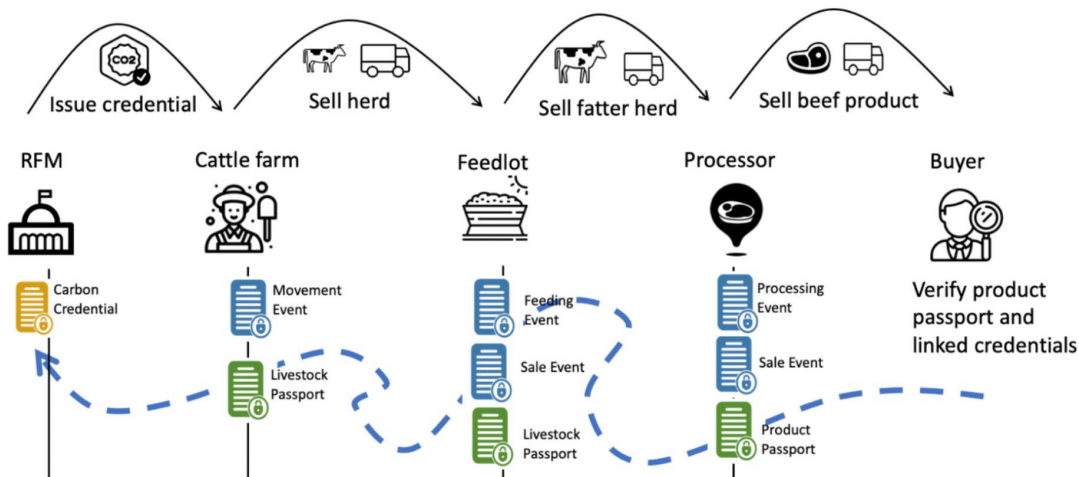
## Collaboration & engagement:

RFM is working as part of a broader consortium with funding from the Federal Government, through the Agricultural Traceability Grants [\(link\)](#), to prototype and test the three sustainability credentials under development, including:

- **Regen Farmers Mutual**
- **Standards Australia**
- **NRM Regions Australia**
- **GoSource**
- **OpenTEAM**

These credentials, aligned to AASF principles, are being developed in the context of a project to improve traceability in the Australian beef supply chain (illustrated below). By tracking and verifying livestock and product throughout the beef supply chain, RFM is increasing beef buyers' capacity to verify the provenance of their purchases. This, in turn, increases RFM's members ability to attract market benefits from their actions on-farm.

## Traceability in beef supply chain



The data that members will need to demonstrate to achieve the credentials have been tested with commercial feedback sought by one of the consortium partners. For example, the project has been able to test the sharing of verified farm carbon emissions reporting that is being sought by a range of buyers in supply chains and financial markets. By incorporating this data into the credentials sought, RFM is ensuring that farmers will be able to respond to the specific needs of major market participants.

## Lessons to share:

Through the development of the three credentials, RFM is currently navigating the complexity involved in identifying, measuring and verifying sustainability datasets consistently. For example, biodiversity measurements need to be assessed by a third party, and in some instances require an in-field condition assessment, which can be resource intensive. RFM shared that through these experiences, and as the AASF becomes more widely used across the agriculture sector, there is an opportunity for the development of aligned indicators, standards and/or credentials.

## Intended use of the Framework in the future:

- **To leverage and inform:** As the AASF continues to be updated and reflect the key sustainability objectives for Australian agriculture, RFM will continue to leverage and expand their services and offering by using the AASF. Using the Framework as a guide to understand what and where their next focus principles are to support identifying and unlocking income opportunities for their members from environmental assets.
- **Guide and inform indicator level data:** RFM keenly await the further release of the indicators to measure impact against each Framework criteria as these indicators will be able to directly inform RFM's data requirements for its credentials in addition to commercial feedback.



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