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A Crosswalk of the Potato Sustainability Alliance Sustainability Assessment Tool with the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 Program

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The Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 program is a third-party audited certification program that provides assurance for the sustainability of farmland management.¹ It is an outcome-based program which relies on users to provide conformance evidence to demonstrate their conformance with the program.

It has been designed so that users of other farmland sustainability programs can use their enrollment in those programs to help achieve conformance with the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020. Farmers who participate in the Potato Sustainability Alliance (PSA) have the advantage of already using the PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool, a credible farm sustainability program. The PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool provides considerable conformance evidence² for achieving conformance with the Leading Harvest Standard 2020. This document crosswalks the PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool to the Objectives and Indicators of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020. It identifies the level of overlap between the two systems and is used elsewhere to guide PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool users in using their tool results as conformance evidence. Importantly, this document is only intended to illustrate where the PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool provides or does not provide evidence to demonstrate conformance to Leading Harvest Standard 2020. This crosswalk does not make a determination on conformance itself as the specific evidence provided by a grower must be assessed by a qualified certification body.

Use of PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool as conformance evidence

The participation in the PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool goes a long way to achieving conformance with the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 and its indicators. Each Leading Harvest Indicator has been cross walked to the PSA Questionnaire to determine how PSA participation provides conformance with Leading Harvest Standard 2020 indicators. The PSA Sustainability Assessment Tool results can provide significant levels of conformance evidence (high and moderate) for over one-half (7 of 12 relevant objectives or 58%) of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 objectives (Figure 1). They also provide considerable levels of conformance evidence (high and moderate) for almost two-thirds (49 of 64 or 60%) of the Leading Harvest Indicators (Figure 2 and Appendix A). Appendix A provides a color coding system which can be used to quickly identify levels of Leading Harvest Indicator conformance and likely conformance gaps using Appendix B.

¹ Whitman, A. (producer). 2020. A Primer for Understanding the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard. Produced by Manomet, Inc, Manomet MA on behalf of Leading Harvest, Arlington, VA.

Leading Harvest. 2020. Leading Harvest Farmland Management Program 2020. Leading Harvest, Arlington, VA.

² Conformance evidence is evidence of activities that demonstrate how your operations have met Indicator requirements. This may include documents, statements, measurements, other verifiable information, and/or observations of actions, practices, technology, and conditions. **Users may select the conformance evidence that they want to present to the audit team.** They may need to explain how the conformance evidence is sufficient for meeting the Indicator requirements. **The audit team verifies the conformance evidence and makes a determination as to whether it sufficiently meet the requirements described by the Indicator.**

Appendix A. Conformance scoring of PSA users by cross walking the PSA Questionnaire modules and questions with the Leading Harvest Standard 2020 indicators.

Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	Conformance Color Code	Description
Yes		The participation in the PSA program very likely can be presented as conformance evidence for 27 of the 66 Leading Harvest Standard Indicators because these indicators are fully addressed by questions in the PSA Questionnaire (20 questions) or may not be applicable to your farm (7 questions). Stewards, Master, and Experts will likely be in conformance for these indicators.
Mostly		The participation in the PSA program can be presented as close to full or full conformance evidence for 10 Leading Harvest Indicators. PSA users should review these indicators so that they are able to explain to the auditors their approach for these indicators. PSA users <u>may need to provide</u> some additional conformance evidence for these indicators. A review of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 technical guidance document ³ may be necessary to help users identify what, if any additional evidence may be necessary.
Partially		PSA users possess partial conformance with another 12 Leading Harvest Indicators. PSA users should review these indicators carefully so that they are able to explain their approach to addressing these indicators to the auditors. PSA users will need to provide some additional evidence beyond PSA to achieve conformance with these indicators. A review of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 technical guidance document ⁴ can help users identify what additional evidence may be necessary.
No		The participation in the PSA program results does not provide conformance evidence for 13 indicators, some of which are unique to the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020. PSA user will need to provide additional evidence beyond PSA to achieve conformance with these indicators. A review of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 technical guidance document ⁵ can help users identify what additional evidence may be necessary.

³ Whitman, A. 2020 (producer). Guidance information for applying the Leading Harvest Standard Est 2020. Produced by Manomet, Inc, Manomet MA on behalf of Leading Harvest, VA.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Appendix B. PSA user guidance for understanding how the PSA Questionnaire responses supports conformance with the Leading Harvest Standard 2020 Indicators. Color coding for PSA users - Lime = very likely in conformance, Green = mostly in conformance or better, Teal = partial conformance, Navy= lack of conformance.

Objective 1. Sustainable Agriculture Management: To practice sustainable agricultural stewardship to improve crop production and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

Audit Summary: Auditor will review a written statement (or declaration) of farmland stewardship commitment (Indicator 1.1.1) and interview for Indicators 1.1.2-1.2.1.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 1.1.1 <i>Farmland Stewardship Commitment:</i> A written commitment statement and list of goals that describes the sustainable agricultural stewardship of <i>farmland</i> .	No	Use an existing mission statement or prepare a short written sustainability statement which includes goals for economic viability, environmental stewardship, and social considerations (workplace environment and impacts to local community).
Indicator 1.1.2 <i>Farmland Stewardship:</i> Demonstration of the management of major synergies and tradeoffs between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable agricultural stewardship of <i>farmland</i> while ensuring long-term profitability and sustainability.	Partially	Affirmative responses to questions S10 Q1.1, S10 Q1.2, S10 Q1.3, and/or S10 Q1.4 (Economic Sustainability Module) of your PSA questionnaire can be used as evidence that you address this indicator. Be prepared to discuss how you manage for long-term sustainability, including how you tackle relevant economic factors (e.g., markets, regulations, costs, technology), environmental factors (e.g., changes in pests, cropping, changes in environmental regulations, climate change), and/or social factors (e.g., succession, workforce changes or social expectations impacting farming), including complex synergies and tradeoffs.
Indicator 1.1.3 <i>Farmland Conservation:</i> Conservation of <i>prime farmland</i> to avoid its conversion to nonagricultural uses when conversion would adversely impact regional agriculture.	No	Be prepared to discuss your long-term farmland investment strategy and how it keeps <i>prime farmland</i> in ag. production. <i>Prime farmland</i> has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing agricultural products.
Indicator 1.2.1 Adapting to <i>Critical External Factors:</i> A process for periodically identifying <i>critical external factors</i> and adapting to their impacts to ensure the long-term profitability and sustainability of agricultural production of a farm or farm management unit.	Partially	Affirmative responses to questions S10 Q1.1, S10 Q1.2, S10 Q1.3, and/or S10 Q1.4 (Economic Sustainability Module) of your PSA questionnaire can be used as evidence that you address this indicator. Similar to Indicator 1.1.2 this indicator focuses only on short-term sustainability strategies. Be prepared to discuss how you manage for critical factors. Critical external factors are off-farm factors that are significantly relevant to the economic viability and sustainability of your operation, such as evolving markets, supply chain changes, regulatory changes, availability of water and other inputs, and social license.

Objective 2. Soil Health and Conservation: To maintain or enhance *soil health* to optimize crop yield and protect long-term *soil productivity* on *agricultural lands*.

Audit Summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all questions in the Soil Conservation Quality and Nutrient Management modules and ask follow up questions if there are gaps.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 2.1.1 Soil Quality: Application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> (e.g., tillage systems, <i>cover cropping</i> , addition of <i>soil amendments</i>) to maintain or enhance <i>soil fertility</i> and physical and biological characteristics of soil.	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss your cropping practices which support soil health. Soil health considers the chemical, biological, and physical characteristics of soil ecosystems.
Indicator 2.1.2 <i>Soil Health</i> Monitoring: Monitoring of <i>soil health</i> characteristics, including nutrients from different sources necessary to maintain or enhance <i>appropriate</i> nutrient balance and <i>soil health</i> .	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss about your soil health monitoring.
Indicator 2.1.3 <i>Nutrient Management Program</i> : An up-to-date <i>nutrient management program</i> that efficiently uses nutrient inputs and nutrients in the soil and <i>crops</i> to create optimum conditions for <i>crop</i> production and nutrient utilization and avoids nutrient loss to water and air.	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire (noting response to question S7 Q1.2) and be prepared to discuss your nutrient management program to grow crops and avoid overuse. A program is an organized system or set of activities. Your PSA questionnaire describes your system as does a nutrient management plan (question S7 Q1.2).
Indicator 2.1.4 <i>Crop Residues</i> : Application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> to use <i>crop residues</i> to maintain or improve <i>soil health</i> and long-term <i>soil productivity</i> where <i>appropriate</i> .	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss about practices for managing crop residues if applicable
Indicator 2.2.1 Cropland Soil Management: Application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> to <i>minimize soil erosion</i> and physical damage (e.g., compaction) of <i>cropland</i> and restore <i>soil health</i> where <i>appropriate</i> .	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire (noting responses to questions S7 Q1.1, S7 Q1.2, S7 Q1.3, and S7 Q1.4) and be prepared to discuss about practices minimizing soil degradation (erosion, compaction) in different fields if applicable.

Indicator 2.2.2 Degradation of *Agricultural Lands*: A *process* to avoid the widespread loss of *agricultural lands* to *soil mismanagement* (e.g., failure to prevent extensive *soil erosion*, acidification, salinization and accumulation of other adverse compounds).



Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss about practices for avoiding loss of farmland from soil mismanagement. A *process* is a *purposeful series of practices or routines (formal or informal)*. A USDA NRCS conservation plan qualifies as having a process.

Objective 3. Water Resources: To protect water resources and manage water for efficient agricultural productivity.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all questions in Water Management and Nutrient Management modules and ask follow up questions if there are gaps.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
<p>Indicator 3.1.1. Agricultural Water Withdrawal: A <i>process</i> for avoiding the depletion of available <i>groundwater</i> resources beyond the recharge capacity of the watershed or catchment and by direct withdrawal where <i>groundwater depletion</i> is an issue as determined by a <i>groundwater regulatory agency</i>.</p>	<p>No (but may not be applicable to all farms)</p>	<p>This only applicable <u>if</u> a <i>groundwater regulatory agency</i> has determined where <i>groundwater depletion</i> is an issue. Be prepared to describe your regulatory situation and process for avoiding depletion. A process is a <i>purposeful series of practices or routines (formal or informal)</i>.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1.2. Regional Water Conservation: Participation individually or collaboratively in regional water <i>conservation</i> programs where <i>appropriate</i> to help foster responsible use and conservation of <i>groundwater</i> and <i>surface water</i> used for agriculture.</p>	<p>No (but may not be applicable to all farms)</p>	<p>This only applicable <u>if</u> regional water <i>conservation</i> programs exist. This may include participation in irrigation <u>if</u> they locally exist.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1.3. Water Conservation: A water management <i>program</i> that uses <i>appropriate</i> technology (including <i>crop/irrigation system design</i>) and applies <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> to utilize water efficiently; to provide water tailored to <i>crop</i> needs; and to control <i>pests, pathogens, salinization</i> and accumulation of other adverse compounds.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss about <u>your organized system</u> of practices for managing technologies and practices for using water efficiently.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.2.1. Input Application on Agricultural Lands: Application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> when applying <i>fertilizers</i> and other <i>soil amendments, crop protectants</i> and other agricultural inputs to avoid and control infiltration of nutrients, <i>crop protectants</i> and pathogens into <i>groundwater</i>.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss about practices protecting ground water when applying inputs. This includes <i>regional ag. input application BMPs</i> have been developed by regional land grant agricultural universities to control application of inputs and protect water quality.</p>

Indicator 3.2.2. *Water Quality Protection:*
Application of *regional agricultural best management practices* to manage water runoff from *cropland* into *surface water* and protect *wetlands, riparian areas* and *water quality* of *groundwater* and *surface water*.



Provide your completed PSA questionnaire (noting response to Question S13 Q2.1) and be prepared to discuss about practices for protecting groundwater and surface water from runoff. *Regional water quality BMPs* for ag. have been developed by regional land grant agricultural universities to protect water quality and wetlands.

Objective 4. Crop Protection: To achieve *crop* protection objectives while protecting people and the environment.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all questions in Seed Handling Planting, Pesticide and Nutrient Handling and Application, Handling, and Pest, Weed, and Disease Management modules and ask follow up questions if there are gaps.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 4.1.1 <i>Pest</i> Monitoring: Monitoring of pests to prevent excessive crop loss and economic injury to crop plants.	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss your pest monitoring practices.
Indicator 4.1.2. <i>Crop</i> Protection: A process for preventing excessive crop loss from pests, crop protectant resistance and buildup and spread of pests.	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss your process (routine) practices for protecting crops from pests. A process is a <i>purposeful series of practices or routines (formal or informal)</i> .
Indicator 4.1.3. <i>Pest</i> Control Practices: Prioritization of the use of lowest risk, most selective treatment options to achieve crop protection goals whenever appropriate.	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss how you select treatment options to minimize risk and protect crops.
Indicator 4.2.1. Application and Storage of <i>Crop Protectants</i> : Application and storage of <i>crop protectants</i> according to label instructions and regulatory requirements and application of practices to protect employees, farm workers, public health, and the environment and avoid drift of <i>crop protectants</i> offsite.	Yes	Provide your completed PSA questionnaire and be prepared to discuss application and storage of crop protectants to protect people, the environment, and drift. The auditor may wish to see crop protectant storage facilities.

Objective 5. Energy Use, Air Quality and Climate Change: To conserve energy used by agricultural operations and minimize adverse impacts to the atmosphere and the global climate.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all questions in Energy Conservation and Air Quality modules and ask follow up questions if there are gaps.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 5.1.1 Energy Conservation: Use of technologies and application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> to conserve energy where appropriate.	Yes	Affirmative responses to questions S16 Q2.1 and S16 Q2.2 (Energy Conservation Module) of your PSA questionnaire can be used as evidence that you address this indicator.
Indicator 5.1.2 Renewable Energy: Use of <i>renewable energy</i> technologies and application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> where appropriate.	No (may not be applicable to all farms)	If <u>applicable</u> , explain use of renewable energy technology or purchase of renewable energy.
Indicator 5.2.1 Air Emissions: Use of <i>low-emission technologies</i> when compatible with <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> .	Yes	Affirmative responses to questions S16 Q1.1, S16 Q1.2, S16 Q1.3, S16 Q1.4, S16 Q2.1, S16 Q2.2, and S16 Q3.1 (Energy Conservation Module) of your PSA questionnaire can be used as evidence that you address this indicator. Energy conservation reduces GHG emissions.
Indicator 5.2.2 Airborne Dust Control: Application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> to minimize airborne dust where and when it adversely affects human health and/or the environment.	Yes	Affirmative responses to questions S14 Q1.1, S14 Q1.2, S14 Q1.3, S14 Q1.4, and S14 Q1.5 (Air Quality module) of your PSA questionnaire can be used as evidence that you address this indicator. Dust control only necessary when it adversely affects human health and/or the environment.

Indicator 5.3.1 *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*: Application of climate-smart *regional agricultural best management practices* that *minimize greenhouse gas* emissions from agricultural operations and farmland and/or sequester greenhouse gases that contribute to *climate change* where *appropriate*. Examples could include, but are not limited to, application of *low-emission technologies* and practices that reduce use of agricultural inputs or their volatilization, increase carbon sequestration using *farmland*, and reduce volatilization of *greenhouse gases*.

Mostly

Affirmative responses to questions S16 Q1.1, S16 Q1.2, S16 Q1.3, S16 Q1.4, S16 Q2.1, S16 Q2.2, and S16 Q3.1 (Energy Conservation Module) of your PSA questionnaire can be used as evidence that you address this indicator. Energy conservation reduces GHG emissions.

Indicator 5.3.2 *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience*: Application of *climate-smart regional agricultural best management practices* to adapt to *climate change* impacts and enhance farm or management unit resilience where *appropriate*. Examples could include, but are not limited to, use of heat-resistant *crop* varieties, new *crop* species, practices that improve soil moisture retention and soil drainage, and training on management of new *crop* pests.

No (may not be applicable to all farms)

If appropriate, evidence of use of heat-resistant crop varieties, new crop species, practices that improve soil moisture retention and soil drainage, and training on management of new crop pests address this indicator.

Objective 6. Waste and Material Management: To manage waste, agricultural chemicals and other materials from agricultural operations to *minimize* their adverse impacts to agriculture and the environment.

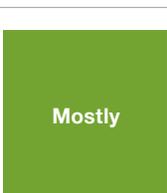
Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all questions in Minimum Requirement module and ask follow up questions to assess gaps with Indicators 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.1.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 6.1.1 Waste Disposal: A process for properly handling and disposing of <i>universal, hazardous</i> and <i>solid waste</i> .	No	Be able to describe your routines for handling waste. This could be a way to appropriately centralize storage of waste and a contract arrangement for a vendor who periodically hauls away waste.
Indicator 6.1.2 Resource Recovery: A process for properly handling waste to be reused, repurposed or recycled, or converted to energy, where <i>appropriate</i>	No	To the extent it is practical and makes sense, the user should describe their routine for handling waste to be reused, repurposed, recycled, or converted to energy.
Indicator 6.1.3 Management of <i>Agricultural Chemicals</i> and Other Materials: Management, use and storage of <i>agricultural chemicals</i> and equipment gases, fluids and fuels according to regulatory requirements and application of practices to manage spills and protect employees, farm labor and the environment.	Yes	An affirmative response to questions S2 Q16.1, S2 Q15.1, S4 Q4.1, and S4 Q3.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.
Indicator 6.2.1 Food and Agricultural Product Waste: Prevention of excessive loss of food <i>crops</i> and other <i>agricultural products</i> during harvest and on-farm storage.	Partially	An affirmative response to question S14 Q2.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Auditor may ask about equipment calibration practices, etc. to minimize crop loss during harvest.
Indicator 6.2.2 Resource Recovery of <i>Agricultural Waste</i> : Reuse, repurpose, and/or recycle product or <i>crop residues</i> , manure, other agricultural wastes and/ or agricultural inputs (e.g., tailwater recovery) where <i>appropriate</i> .	Mostly	An affirmative response to question S2 Q11.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Consider how you use crop residues of rotational crops. Only applies <u>where appropriate</u> .

Objective 7. Conservation of Biodiversity: To manage *farmland* in a manner that maintains agricultural production while conserving *biodiversity* where *appropriate* or legally required.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for questions in the *Biodiversity* and *Pollinator Protection* module and ask follow up questions to assess gaps with Indicators 7.1.2, 7.2.2,

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
<p>Indicator 7.1.1 <i>Threatened and Endangered Species: Protection of threatened and endangered species when they occur on enrolled farmland and management of agricultural operations with consideration of threatened and endangered species in the local watersheds and landscapes of operation.</i></p>		<p>An affirmative response to questions S13 Q1.1 and S13 Q2.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.2 <i>At-Risk Species: Program to locate and protect known viable occurrences of at-risk species on enrolled farmland. A protection program may be developed independently or collaboratively and may use easements, conservation land sales, exchanges or other conservation strategies.</i></p>		<p>Regional lists of threatened and endangered species PLUS at-risk species may be up to 1/3 longer than the list of Threatened and Endangered species alone. Few at-risk species use agricultural habitats.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.2.1 <i>Native Habitats and Natural Communities: Maintenance or conservation of native habitats and natural communities in areas not used for agricultural production.</i></p>		<p>An affirmative response to questions S13 Q1.1 and S13 Q2.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Native habitats and natural communities can occur in areas adjacent to cropland but not in cropland.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.2.2 <i>Ecologically Important Sites: Participation individually or collaboratively in plans or programs that manage Ecologically Important Sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.</i></p>		<p>Ecologically important sites can occur in areas adjacent to cropland but not on cropland.</p>

<p>Indicator 7.2.3 <i>Cropland for Wildlife Habitat</i>: Application of <i>regional agricultural best management practices</i> on <i>cropland</i> to create temporary <i>wildlife habitat</i> where <i>appropriate</i>. Examples could include, but are not limited to, no-till practices, <i>cover cropping</i>, adding <i>soil amendments</i> made up of organic matter, bird boxes, <i>soil erosion</i> control structures (e.g., grassed waterways), delayed mowing, intercropping, seeding areas with native <i>grassland</i> seed mixes, tailwater recovery ponds managed as <i>wetlands</i>, and water level management of rice fields for waterbirds.</p>	 <p>Mostly</p>	<p>An affirmative response to questions S13 Q4.1, S13 Q4.2, and/or S13 Q4.3 and questions in the Pollinator Protection module of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.3.1 <i>Habitat Conversion</i>: Demonstration of commitment to avoid the <i>land use conversion</i> and fragmentation of <i>natural communities</i> and <i>Ecologically Important Sites</i> on enrolled <i>farmland</i>.</p>	 <p>Mostly</p>	<p>An affirmative response to question S13 Q3.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.3.2 <i>Deforestation</i>: Demonstration of commitment to prevent <i>deforestation</i> of <i>natural forest</i> when farming where biome-specific or geography-specific <i>deforestation</i> protocol(s) are in place, by:</p>	 <p>No (not applicable)</p>	<p>Not applicable because the U.S. lacks a deforestation protocol.</p>
<p>(a) A written policy to demonstrate the <i>Standard user's</i> commitment to a zero <i>deforestation policy</i> that identifies the regions of application, relevant <i>natural forest</i> types, <i>appropriate deforestation cut-off date(s)</i> in areas with biome-specific or geography-specific <i>deforestation</i> protocols, and</p>	 <p>No (not applicable)</p>	<p>Not applicable because the U.S. lacks a deforestation protocol.</p>
<p>(b) Demonstration of due diligence to prevent the acquisition of <i>farmland</i> that was converted from <i>natural forest</i> after an <i>appropriate deforestation cutoff date(s)</i> identified by the <i>Standard user</i> in areas with biome-specific or geography-specific <i>deforestation</i> protocols.</p>	 <p>No (not applicable)</p>	<p>Not applicable because the U.S. lacks a deforestation protocol.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.4.1 <i>Crop and Genetic Diversity</i>: Use of a variety of <i>crop</i> species, <i>crop</i> varieties, companion crops (e.g., <i>cover crops</i>, cross-pollination donors) and/or crop rotation where <i>appropriate</i>.</p>	 <p>Mostly</p>	<p>An affirmative response to questions S12 Q1.1, S12 Q1.2, and/or S12 Q1.3 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Auditor may ask additional questions about use of different crop varieties and crop used in crop rotation.</p>

Objective 8. Protection of Special Sites: To manage Special Sites on farmland that are geologically or culturally important in a manner that recognizes and respects their unique qualities.

Audit summary: Auditor will ask follow up questions to assess gaps with Indicators 8.1.1 and 8.1.2.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 8.1.1 <i>Special Site</i> Identification: Use of information such as existing natural heritage data or expert advice in identifying or selecting Special Sites.	Partially	An affirmative response to questions S13 Q2.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Identify any known cemeteries, Native American archaeological sites, or unique geological features (e.g., rare geological features such as natural caves, etc.) and explain how they were identified.
Indicator 8.1.2 <i>Special Site</i> Management: <i>Appropriate</i> mapping, cataloging and management of identified Special Sites in a manner that recognizes their unique qualities.	Partially	Be able to explain how you protect cemeteries from farming or other activities, Native American archeological sites from soil disturbance, and unique geological sites from building or roads.

Objective 9. Local Communities: To operate safely and responsibly; contribute to the economic well-being, social networks and health of local communities; and to recognize and respect the rights of local communities and *Indigenous Peoples* in regions of agricultural operations.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all relevant questions in the *Working Conditions* and *Management* modules and ask follow up questions to assess gaps for Indicators 9.1.1, 9.3.1, and 9.3.3.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 9.1.1 Economic Contributions: Payment of federal, state and local taxes and, as <i>appropriate</i> , employment of staff from local communities and local procurement of supplies and services.	No	Be able to identify taxes paid, local employment offered, and whether any supplies or services are purchased locally.
Indicator 9.2.1 Community Engagement: Engagement in positive relationships with neighbors and local communities thus raising the awareness of sustainable agriculture.	Yes	An affirmative response to questions S5 Q7.1, S7 Q4.1, S8 Q10.1, S8 Q10.2, S8 Q10.3, and S8 Q10.4 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.
Indicator 9.3.1 Local Community and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> Policy: A written <i>policy</i> demonstrating a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of local communities and <i>treaty rights</i> of <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> .	No	Auditor will ask for a short written statement or declaration to review which identifies your commitment to recognize and respect the legal right of local communities and treaty rights of <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>
Indicator 9.3.2 Land Tenure Rights of Local Communities and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> : Demonstration of due diligence to prevent infringing on the land tenure rights of local communities and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> when purchasing and managing land.	No (may not be applicable)	Only applicable if land will be purchased soon or has recently been purchased. Then user must demonstrate awareness of and respect for land tenure rights of local communities and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> .
Indicator 9.3.3 Local Communities’ and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> ’ Inquiries: Demonstration of commitment to be receptive to local communities’ and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> ’ inquiries and concerns.	No	Conformance evidence may include: farm signage with contact information; periodic listening sessions with people from local community and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> ; providing contact information to neighbors and leaders in local communities and <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> communities.

Indicator 9.4.1 Public Health and Safety:
Application of health and safety *regional agricultural best management practices* that protect public health from adverse impacts of *agricultural chemicals*, excessive nutrients, equipment gases and fluids, fuels and air pollution and that train employees to operate equipment safely.



An affirmative response to questions S4 Q3.1, S4 Q4.1, S4 Q5.1, and/or S4 Q6.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.

Objective 10. Personnel and Farm Labor: To provide a safe and healthy working environment, fair compensation and training for Standard user personnel, contract management company employees and contract farm labor necessary to improve the practice of sustainable agriculture.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all relevant questions in *Working Conditions* module and ask follow up questions to assess any gaps for Indicators 10.1.1, 10.3.1, and 10.3.2 through 10.4.1.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 10.1.1 <i>Equal Opportunity Employment:</i> Provision for equal opportunity employee recruitment and occupations.	No	An auditor will ask questions about how employees are selected and assigned job roles.
Indicator 10.1.2 <i>Respectful Work Environment:</i> Maintain a safe, <i>gender equitable</i> and <i>professional work environment</i> .	Mostly	An affirmative response to question S8 Q2.1 and S8 Q2.2 (<i>Working Conditions</i> module) of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Auditor may ask additional questions.
Indicator 10.2.1 <i>Personnel and Contract Worker Training:</i> Health, safety and occupational education and training for <i>Standard user personnel</i> and <i>contract management company employees</i> .	Yes	An affirmative response to questions in <i>Working Conditions</i> module (e.g., questions S8 Q7.1 and S8 Q8.1) and <i>Training</i> module of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.
Indicator 10.3.1 <i>Sustainability Policy Commitment:</i> <i>Standard users</i> shall provide a written <i>policy</i> demonstrating commitment to the <i>Leading Harvest Standard</i> that is communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and farm managers.	No	An auditor will request to (1) see a short written statement describing PSA user commitment to the <i>Leading Harvest Standard</i> and (2) ask questions to determine whether this commitment has been communicated to family members and any employees.
Indicator 10.3.2 <i>Employee Roles and Responsibilities for Sustainability:</i> Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving the <i>objectives</i> of the <i>Leading Harvest Standard</i> .	Partially	An auditor will ask questions to determine whether employee roles and responsibilities for <i>Leading Harvest</i> objectives have been assigned to employees and whether employees understand their roles and responsibilities.

Indicator 10.3.3 Employee Sustainability Training: Staff education and training for Standard user personnel and contract management company employees sufficient to fulfill their roles and responsibilities under the Leading Harvest Standard. Examples could include, but are not limited to, postsecondary degrees and professional certificates, in-house training, continuing education programs for managing waste, recycling, crop protectant safety, professional development opportunities, and participation in agriculture-related professional organizations.

Partially

An affirmative response to questions in Working Conditions module (e.g., questions S8 Q7.1 and S8 Q8.1) and Training module of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Indicator 10.2.1 (above) focuses on basic training while Indicator 10.3.3 includes more broadly sustainability training.

Indicator 10.4.1 Wages and Pay: Compensation to ensure a living wage for Standard user personnel and contract management company employees.

No

An auditor will ask about wage level of the lowest full-time paid employees and whether they equal to or greater than MIT's Living wage estimate for your region: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>.

Indicator 10.5.1 Farm Labor Monitoring Program: A program to monitor farm labor contractors employed by Standard users or Contract Management Companies to ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, and local labor laws, statutes, and regulations by reviewing policies, practices, and training addressing workplace environment, equal opportunity, worker health, safety, and compensation, including living wage and, where appropriate, housing and transportation.

No

Not applicable if farm labor contractors are not employed. This requires an organized system of monitoring *farm labor contractors*.

Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance: To comply with applicable federal, state and local laws, statutes, and regulations.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all relevant questions in *Working Conditions* module and ask follow up questions to assess any gaps for Indicators 11.1.1 through 11.2.2.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
Indicator 11.1.1 Access to Compliance Information: A process by which personnel have access to information of relevant laws, statutes, and regulations in <i>appropriate</i> locations.	No	An auditor will ask about routines for providing this information. PSA users can address this indicator by making sure legally mandated labor law signage is posted in accessible locations and making SDS sheets for chemicals are available to employees.
Indicator 11.1.2 <i>Standard User Compliance Program:</i> A program to achieve compliance with applicable federal, state or local laws, statutes, and regulations.	Partially	An affirmative response to question S2 Q2.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. This indicator requires the application of a systematic set of routines to achieve conformance. A PSA user may partially address this if paperwork is filed annually for access to financial credit and the paperwork asks whether the operation is in legal compliance.
Indicator 11.1.3 Compliance Commitment: Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available <i>regulatory action information</i> .	Partially	An affirmative response to questions S2 Q15.1 (pesticide applicators license) of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Other required licenses and permits also can be evidence for this indicator as they demonstrate commitment to legal compliance.
Indicator 11.2.1 Written Compliance Policy: A written <i>policy</i> demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those addressing civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers’ compensation and <i>living wage</i> , <i>Indigenous Peoples’</i> rights, workers’ and communities’ right to know, prevailing wages, workers’ right to organize, and occupational health and safety.	No	A simple written statement or declaration indicating commitment to comply with social laws is sufficient.

Indicator 11.2.2 Consistency with International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions: Demonstration of commitment to respect the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

No

This Indicator applies only to the core ILO conventions not fully covered by existing U.S. law, which includes: No. 87 (Right to Organize), No. 98 (Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining), and No. 111 (Discrimination). No. 87 states “Workers and employers...shall have the right to establish, and, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, to join organizations of their own choosing without authorization.” No. 98 references federal government obligations to supply the right to organize and collective bargaining. This Indicator helps ensure that Program Users respect widely respected principles concerning key labor rights. Conformance evidence for Indicator 10.1.1 (Equal Opportunity Employment) may be applicable to this Indicator (ILO No. 111).

Indicator 11.2.3 Consistency with *Farmland Tenant Law*: Demonstration of commitment to respect the rights of *farmland tenants* of leased lands with respect to the *covenant of quiet enjoyment* as determined by national, state and/or local laws, statutes, and regulations.

No (likely not applicable)

Not applicable if PSA user is not applying the *Leading Harvest Standard* to tenants.

Objective 12. Management Review and Continual Improvement: To promote *continual improvement* in the practice of sustainable agriculture by conducting management reviews and monitoring performance.

Audit summary: Auditor will review whether you checked “yes” on PSA questionnaire for all relevant questions in Management module and ask follow up questions to assess any gaps for Indicators 12.1.2 through 12.1.4.

Objectives and Indicators	Can my PSA questionnaire provide sufficient conformance evidence?	PSA User Guidance
<p>Indicator 12.1.1 Performance Review: A system to review commitments, <i>programs</i>, procedures and measures of progress; evaluate their effectiveness; and review progress toward achieving goals for employees, contractors, use of agricultural inputs, management of adverse and positive environmental impacts, and agricultural production, including greater resource-use efficiency.</p>		<p>An affirmative response to questions S2 Q1.1, S2 Q1.2, S2 Q1.3, S2 Q1.4, S2 Q1.5, S2 Q1.6, S2 Q1.7, and S2 Q1.8 and S7 Q1.4, S7 Q2.1, S7 Q2.2, and/or S7 Q3.1 (Management module) of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 12.1.2 Monitoring Performance: A <i>program</i> for collecting, reviewing and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving <i>Leading Harvest Standard objectives</i> and <i>performance measures</i>.</p>		<p>Participation in the PSA program could be used as evidence of a program (an organized system) for reviewing and reporting progress if PSA users (1) periodically review their progress and (2) consider their progress in light of the Leading Harvest objectives and indicators. Preparing for a Leading Harvest audit by reviewing your PSA questionnaire information and determining gaps in conformance with Leading Harvest would be conformance evidence for this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 12.1.3 Agricultural Innovation: A <i>process</i> for identifying and considering opportunities for achieving improved farming efficiency, deploying improved technologies, and using new markets for underutilized <i>agricultural products</i>, new <i>crops</i> and low-grade agricultural materials (e.g., bioenergy markets).</p>		<p>An affirmative response to question S3 Q6.1 and S10 Q1.2 (Economic Sustainability) and questions S7 Q1.4, S7 Q2.1, and/or S7 Q2.2 (Management module) of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 12.1.4 Annual Review and Improvement: An annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve agricultural efficiency and farm conformance to the <i>Leading Harvest Standard</i>.</p>		<p>An affirmative response to questions S7 Q1.4, S7 Q2.1, S7 Q2.2 and/or S7 Q3.1 (Management module) of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. PSA user will also need to conduct an annual review of progress regarding <i>Leading Harvest Standard</i> indicators.</p>

Indicator 12.2.1 Support for Agricultural Research: Participation individually or collaboratively in agricultural research or other science-based programs that improve the knowledge and practice of sustainable agriculture. Examples could include, but are not limited to, test plots for seed or *crop* trials or new practices; citizen science projects; demonstration days; research or partnerships to address agricultural productivity, *water quality*, community issues or similar topics that broaden the understanding of the benefits and impacts of sustainable agriculture.

Mostly

An affirmative response to question S7 Q3.1 of the PSA questionnaire can be evidence for this indicator. Auditor will ask to see if there are additional areas of support for research

Objective 13. Tenant-Operated Operations: To promote the use of *regional agricultural best management practices* on *farmland* leased by *farmland tenants* to broaden the practice of sustainable agriculture and to promote the efficient use of agricultural inputs and the management of adverse environmental impacts.

Audit Summary: This Objective is Not Applicable unless farmland owners is certifying land operated by tenants.