



The Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Leading Harvest Standard Program 2020 (“LH Standard”) is a third-party audited certification program that provides assurance for the sustainability of farmland management. The LH Standard was designed to harmonize with other sustainability programs and frameworks, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to create more transparency, efficiency, and greater outcomes for agriculture. The following 17 Sustainable Development Goals are from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The LH Standard aligns with 13 out of 17 of the SDGs, within the scope of what is applicable through farmland management and agriculture. Of the 13 SDGs that are aligned, seven are generally aligned with the LH Standard while six are partially aligned, reflecting the differences in format and purpose between the Leading Harvest Standard and the UN SDGs.

Aligned SDGs

Seven Sustainable Development Goals address topics that are directly correlated with the LH Standard. The Objectives and Indicators of the LH Standard can help provide evidence to demonstrate alignment with major topics within SDGs 1, 2, 6, 8, 12, 13, and 15.

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires fair labor practices, provision of fair compensation and a living wage for employees and contractors, investment in local communities, and support for farmland tenant rights.</p>	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires commitment to sustainable agriculture, practical application of regional agricultural best management practices, and driving continuous improvement in sustainable crop production.</p>
<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires operations to protect water resources, manage water use efficiency for continuous improvement, and provide a safe and healthy working environment including appropriate sanitation for farm labor.</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires a safe and respectful working environment, a living wage, sufficient training for staff and contractors, and adherence to all applicable laws and regulations addressing workplace environment, equal opportunity, worker health, safety and compensation.</p>
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires operations to implement practices that conserve energy (especially fossil fuels), minimize inputs through use of integrated pest management and regional agricultural best management practices, identify alternative uses for waste where viable, and support educational initiatives for sustainable agriculture.</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires agricultural energy use conservation, and application of climate-smart agriculture practices to use of renewable energy sources and reduce GHG emissions and airborne dust, and sequester GHGs where appropriate.</p>
<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires appropriate nutrient management and sustainable fertility practices, practices to minimize soil erosion and avoid degradation of agricultural lands, prevent deforestation, protection for threatened, endangered and at-risk species, conservation of native and ecologically important sites, provision of wildlife habitat, and support for crop diversity.</p>		

Partially Aligned SDGs

Six Sustainable Development Goals address topics that are partially aligned with the LH Standard. Understanding that the scope of the SDGs is broader than agriculture, there is also alignment between SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, and 16 and the LH Farmland Management Standard.

<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires operations to provide to a safe and healthy working environment for employees and contractors, use practices that consider and protect public health, and contribute to the health of local communities.</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires training for employees and contractors on sustainable agriculture and opportunities for ongoing learning, and to support research to improve the knowledge and practice of sustainable agriculture.</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires operations to maintain a safe, gender equitable, and professional work environment.</p>	<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires operations to use renewable energy technologies where appropriate.</p>
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>The LH Standard requires fostering the economic vitality of local communities through business practices that support sustainable agriculture and the local economy; community engagement in positive relationships with neighbors and local communities; recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples and their rights; and protection of public health from adverse impacts of enrolled farmland.</p>	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 	<p>Leading Harvest certification is a voluntary sustainability assurance program. Companies who choose to participate are held accountable to conformance with the LH standards through a robust third-party certification process. Leading Harvest is committed to transparency and publishes the Program Users’ audit summary report publicly on their website.</p>

Not Aligned SDGs

Four Sustainable Development Goals address topics that are beyond the scope of the LH Standard. The LH Standard does not provide alignment with SDGs 9, 10, 14, and 17, although some activities engaged in by farms and companies wishing to conform to the LH Standard may indirectly benefit these SDGs.

<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p>The Standard does not address infrastructure or industrialization.</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p>The Standard does not address inequality at the country level.</p>
<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p> 	<p>The Standard does not address oceans, seas, or marine resources.</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<p>The Standard does not address international development.</p>

