

About SAFA

SAFA – Background

In 2009, the FAO Natural Resources Management and Environment Department undertook analytical work with the ISEAL Alliance aimed at identifying and developing a conceptual framework that would be able to capture and render operational a holistic definition of sustainability in the food and agriculture sector, in line with FAO's principles for Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA).

The resulting framework is structured around four pillars of sustainability that presents core issues underlying these four pillars for achieving sustainable food and nutrition security which are particularly relevant for GIs:

- ✦ **Environmental Integrity** pillar corresponds mostly with “food availability”, that is the natural resources endowments that determine yields.
- ✦ **Social Wellbeing** pillar corresponds mostly with “access to food”, or the rights of people to the resources necessary for food production or procurement.
- ✦ **Economic Resilience** pillar could be related to the “food utilization” economy that determines value creation and diets.
- ✦ **Good Governance** pillar is related to institutional practices that determine the fairness and consequently, “stability of food system

SAFA - Structure

Issues under each of the 4 main categories of the framework are organized into themes, each of which has a stated goal. Each theme is further divided into Sub-Themes, which define objectives to be met to meet the Theme Goal. For each Sub-Theme, a list of default Indicators is provided to measure performance against the objectives.

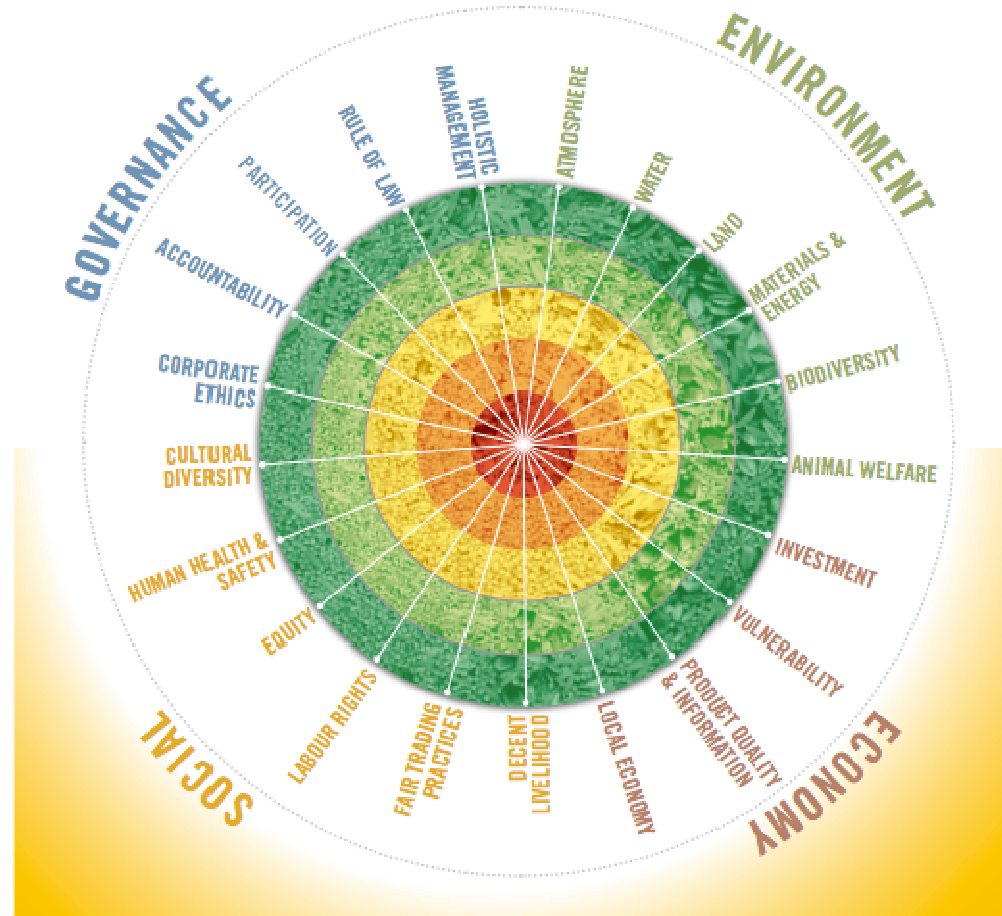


SAFA – Themes (Material Issues)

For each of the four dimensions of sustainability, SAFA outlines essential elements of sustainability through 21 high level themes.

These are applicable at any level of development, for instance national level or commodity-specific.

The themes are further divided into 58 sub-themes.



SAFA - In practice

The SAFA conceptual framework includes the following:

- ✦SAFA Guidelines version 3.0.(2013)
- ✦SAFA Indicators (2013)
- ✦SAFA Desktop Tool version 2.2.40 (2014)
- ✦SAFA Smallholders App version 2.0 (2015).

While stakeholders who do not have a proper sustainability tool have embraced SAFA entirely, large private companies (who already have their own sustainability tool) tend to include parts of SAFA into their schemes, with a view to better compete with other businesses.

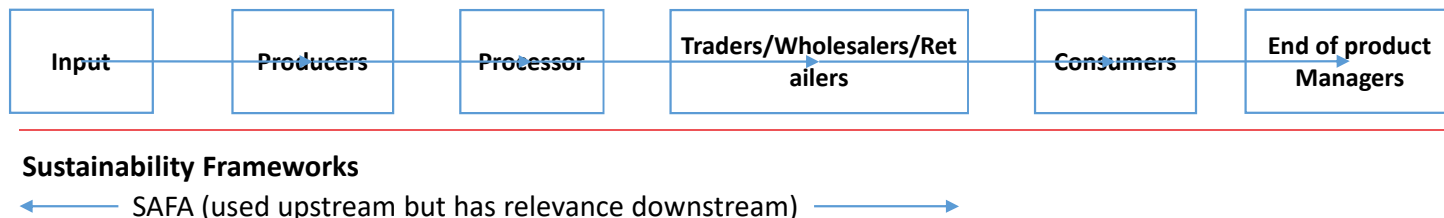
Some countries have used SAFA to create their own decision-making tool, such as done in Argentina, for evaluating different water development options in the Mendoza region, or in New Zealand, for ensuring the sustainability of export commodity groups. In January 2016, the European Parliament approved a Competition Policy that specifically refers to SAFA and calls for the EC to monitor food supply chains in Europe along SAFA's indicators.

SAFA and the Value Chain

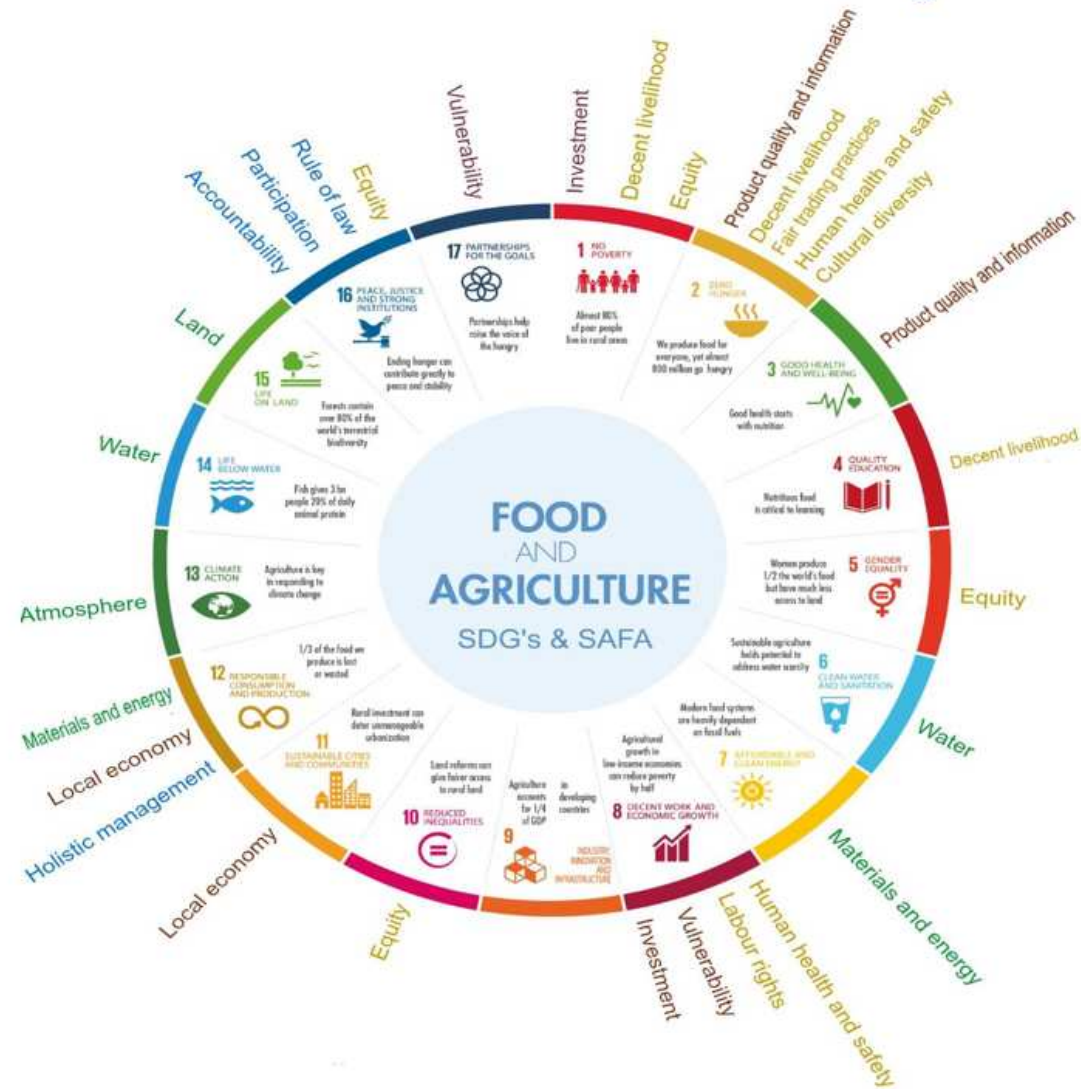
SAFA is tailored to food and agriculture supply chains. SAFA is applicable to all entities in supply chains, from the inputs suppliers, through the site of primary production (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry), to that of final sales to the consumer.

The scope of a SAFA does not include consumers or end-of-life managers, as SAFA does not rate product-specific sustainability where inclusion of these stages would be relevant.

SAFA is flexible in applicability and can be applied by individual producers or by producer groups.



Relevance of SAFA Themes to the 2030 Agenda



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- 1 Taken from: SAFA SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS for Sustainable Development
; 13/02/2017