

Farmer Sustainability Assessment Benchmarking



ADAS is an established third party approved supplier of benchmarking services for SAI Platform and has carried out a range of benchmarks comparing SAI FSA against industry standards e.g. LEAF, Red Tractor, commercial sustainability programmes, and national legislation.



SAI Platform has developed the Farmer Sustainability Assessment (FSA) standard which is used by leading food and drink companies to source sustainably produced raw materials. The ratings established by this standard are well understood in the agri-food sector and benchmarking against it allows for comparing existing codes, schemes and legislation.

ADAS works closely with SAI Platform acting as a preferred supplier of benchmarking services to SAI members. Benchmarking your standard against SAI FSA can help to raise the profile of your standard as the FSA is widely used and understood within the agriculture and food sector.

ADAS supports businesses in comparing SAI FSA against industry standards:

- **Develop new sustainability programme or work with existing schemes** | ADAS can support the development of new bespoke sustainability programmes to align with SAI FSA, or can benchmark existing schemes against SAI FSA.
- **Benchmarking activity** | ADAS uses SAI's established benchmarking template to score each element of the sustainability programme using an agreed scoring system.
 - Review documentation describing company sustainability programme.
 - Calculate scores across a range of focus questions covering legal compliance, health and safety, farm management, environmental management, labour conditions and financial stability.
 - Questions are classed as essential, basic and advanced with set percentages required for responses to each type of question. Scoring is determined according to SAI Platform established performance levels.
- **Provide benchmark score for standard** | Once benchmark is complete ADAS reviews results with standard owner providing rationale for scoring. If required, ADAS may provide advice on ways to modify the standard in order to improve the score.
- **Review governance and verification for standard** | For standards to be published and the results considered to be equivalent to SAI FSA ratings, self-assessment and auditing procedures must be in place and must meet SAI requirements. ADAS can support set up of auditing and verification systems for standard.



Business benefits of benchmarking supply chains:

- **Understanding of pesticide application behaviour and fertiliser use in the supply chain** | Allow risks to be identified, quantified and prioritised and enable targeted actions.
- **Understanding of water, carbon or energy use in the supply chain** | Enable targeted actions to reduce and optimise use.
- **Opportunities to increase performance in sustainability** | Highlighting where opportunities may lie to help increase financial performance, cost savings, enhance security of output and demonstrate sustainability through your supply chains.
- **Improved communication and engagement** | Working with the supply chain to tackle problems together inspires mutual trust and confidence that adds value to all businesses.



Benchmarking UK Farm Assurance Standards with sustainable indicators

ADAS identified and reviewed the UK Farm Assurance Schemes relevant to **Heineken's** procurement of cider apples and malting barley (e.g. Soil Association, LEAF and Red Tractor) and benchmarked them with the sustainability indicators as developed by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) platform. Criteria included sustainable farming system and environmental, social and economic sustainability. Scoring criteria was based on either full alignment, less robust or does not align to the SAI sustainable indicators.

Client Benefits:

- Gap analysis provided strengths and weaknesses between current UK Farm Assurance Standards and SAI sustainability indicators and goals.
- Provided recommendations as to the next steps in the development of either UK Farm Assurance Standards and/or a Heineken owned Farm Assurance.



Baseline understanding of supply chain and Origins programme

ADAS used farmer interviews and information dissemination to establish the sustainability baseline of the management practices **Kellogg's** growers were employing. Collected data using the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) checklist and used the data for benchmarking the sustainable practices of Kellogg's growers.

Client Benefits:

- Identified strengths and weaknesses in the sustainability of crop production systems.
- Enabled a SWOT analysis with recommendations provided to the individual farmers.