



Interpretation Note #3

August 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Bonsucro has so far required that until the date of Chain of Custody certification no sugarcane or sugarcane-derived product can be sold as Bonsucro certified. The date of certification is established on the certificate issued to the farm, mill or supply chain operator by Certification Bodies (CBs).
- 1.2 This interpretation note confirms the requirements allowing material to be considered Bonsucro-certified prior to the certification of a farm, mill or supply chain operator.

2. Relevant Documents

- 2.1 Bonsucro Certification Protocol v.5.1
2.2 Bonsucro Mass Balance Chain of Custody Standard v.4.1

3. Interpretation Note

- 3.1 Sugarcane and sugarcane-derived products harvested or in inventory may be considered certified **up to three months** prior to the initial certification date of the farm, mill or supply chain operator.
- 3.2 The initial certification date shall be estimated but shall be as close to the actual certification date as possible for the purpose of this Interpretation Note.
- 3.3 At the initial farm audit, the CB shall verify if the sugarcane already harvested and in inventory at the farm or elsewhere may be considered Bonsucro-certified and shall verify that it has come from farms included in the unit of certification so that it can be accounted for.
- 3.4 At the initial mill audit, the CB shall verify if the sugarcane already harvested and delivered to the mill during the current or previous harvest season as well as the sugarcane-derived products already produced and in inventory at the mill or elsewhere may be considered Bonsucro-certified and shall verify that it has come either from farms included in the unit of certification of the mill or are covered by a separate Bonsucro certificate.
- 3.5 At the initial supply chain audit, the CB shall verify whether material received or in inventory up to three months prior to the estimated date of certification of the supply



chain operator originates from certified sources. The CB shall confirm whether this material can be considered Bonsucro-certified.

3.6 The CB shall inform their clients that the sale of Bonsucro certified material shall not be allowed prior to the issuance of a valid certificate to the client.

3.7 The CB shall mention in the audit report the certified volume total included prior to the issuance of the certificate. The CB shall also report the volumes in their entirety (summing volumes prior and after issuance of the certificate) as required by the Certificate Protocol. The reporting periods shall be clearly stated.

4 Effective Date

4.1 This interpretation note becomes effective immediately.