Summary of Consultation on Smallholder Review, August 2017

Focus on Suitability Concerns of the Bonsucro Production Standard

1. Standard is not clear in the requirements for smallholder farmers/individual fields

Standard is not clear for those that use their own labour (family farm).

It is not clear how to apply requirements to a group or single farmer.

Standard is not clear for those that intercrop or do crop rotation- how can these practices be incentivized.

In some cases, this is not an issue and the performance requirements are realistic for smallholder farmers.

1. Inability to improve practices in the field and/or how to do so

Farmers are capable of improvement.

In some cases, this the reason for the lack of practice change, they need financing or support.

Practice improvement might be limited by government

1. Inability to collect data

Major challenge for smallholder farmers. The baseline is no data collection.

Mostly done by extension agents.

111 points is too many points, need to focus on what is needed and what can be fed back to the individual farmer.

Recommendation to include IPM/bio-control into the calculator.

This is the most difficult and important one for smallholders.

Recommended to calculate fertiliser by number of bags instead of individual NPK application.

Diesel is a challenge, for example, because it is an input used by the contractor.

1. Inability to aggregate data to one single calculator once collected

Smallholders do not have the ability to do this, it is the extension agents that must, or it is a cost to the mill.

1. Lack of indicators on governance (as seen in peer standards on cooperative clear management structure)

Need to define if they are individual farmers or if it is the unit that will be assessed.

Need requirements on training.

Farmers are not empowered with the current standard.

1. Footprint indicators are not meaningful for smallholder farmers

Agreement from some that this is the case, but otherwise still relevant.

These are relevant if they are assessed at the whole region.

1. Any other aspects that haven’t been covered?

The cost of certification is prohibitive.