

Sustainability
in the food chain

DuVo-foundation

Initiatives on Sustainable Development in the Food Sector Worldwide

Inventory produced on behalf of the Foundation for Sustainability in the Food Chain (DuVo)

By B. E. Dutilh, C. E. Dutilh and W. H. M. M. van Laarhoven

Colophon

This file has been issued by the foundation for Sustainability in the food Chain, DuVo. DuVo-members are: Albert Heijn, Avebe, Campina, Cebeco, Cehave, Cosun, CSM, DSM, The Greenery, Heineken Nederland, H.J. Heinz Benelux, McDonald's Nederland, Perfetti Van Melle, Numico, Sara Lee/DE, Unilever Nederland. For more information please contact Chris Dutilh (chris@dutilh.com). Suggestions or amendments are welcome. Lay-out by Van Rosmalen & Schenk, Amsterdam.



November 2001

INTRODUCTION

In 1995 fifteen companies, active in the food chain in The Netherlands have initiated the Foundation for a Sustainable Food Chain (*DuVo*). The first projects carried out by DuVo were related to the identification of major environmental impacts in the food chain. Subsequently the focus changed to the identification of options for improvement along the production chain and to the development of an infrastructure, which could contain and provide such information. In 1998, DuVo has formulated a new strategy, which is composed of the following elements:

- A dialogue with relevant stakeholders, aimed at establishing a common definition for the concept “sustainable food chain”. In that process, measurable criteria can be developed to manage and monitor an improvement process;
- Development of knowledge, aimed at providing factual information which can improve the content of the dialogue;
- Open exchange of knowledge to enable as many parties as possible to share the insights which have been acquired.

DuVo organises an annual Dialogue Meeting sine 1999, bringing together a broad range of stakeholders to inspire one another and exchange ideas. Also since 1999, it issues a booklet reporting on its activities every year: "Sustainability in the Food Chain" (1999), "Beginning of a Dialogue" (2000), and "Sustainability in Perspective" (2001). Of all the booklets, an English translation of the summary has been made. DuVo realised that their initiatives might inspire others, and thus hope to inform a wider international audience about their activities. For the same reason, DuVo decided to investigate whether similar initiatives exist elsewhere in the world. This report is the outcome of that investigation.

THE APPROACH

For this survey a screening has been carried out to identify international initiatives that focus on sustainable development¹ in the food chain. The search started with the personal networks of the authors as well as with an extensive search on the Internet. Subsequently, several key players were contacted with a first outline, asking them for their comments and further suggestions.

Various types of initiatives were included, e.g. government funded promotion programs, or undertakings by research institutes, NGOs or companies. For each project a brief summary is provided in the appendix. In this article some general features will be described.

PROJECTS IDENTIFIED AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

In general, there was a problem on which projects to include, and which not to include, because sustainable development is a widely applied term. The most important element for including a project in this survey was the participation of one or more parties in the food chain, though some exceptions were included for comparison (e.g. *Gossypium*, *RCP*). About half the projects identified were initiated by a government, initiators for the other projects include companies, NGOs and research institutions. Because of our selection criteria, many programs, which are purely government- or science-driven, will not be dealt with. These programs include large organisations like FAO, CSD and OESO.

Most initiatives that were found are initiated in Western countries (Europe and North America). The geographical areas at which a project is aiming, however, may have one of several scopes: a global, a European or a national scope. In the following paragraphs the projects in these three categories will be described, where specific projects are printed in *italic* case. Detailed information on the projects can be found in the appendix.

¹ The concept of sustainable development originates in its current form from the Brundtland Report "Our common future", which was published in 1987. In that report the concept was introduced as "the way of behaviour which would ensure that humanity meets its needs in the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Right from the start, three dimensions were included: social justice, real economic growth and ecological balance.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Global initiatives are either undertaken by NGOs or by (groups of) multinationals. As no government has direct interests on a global scale, they do not go further than to support international foundations or other projects with a worldwide scope.

Initiatives that pursue a fair world operate on a global scale and focus mainly on developing countries (e.g. *CIAT, FLO, IIED, IISD, TNS*). They are not necessarily restricted to the food chain. The money for this work does not come from industry but from international foundations and governmental funding. *FLO* receives its income from the marketing of their own range of Fairtrade labelled products. Some bodies composed of (multinational) corporations (e.g. *SVN, WBCSD*), are aiming at a sustainable world through responsible business. These bodies encourage their members to set a good example. They also initiate or participate in experiments to improve sustainable development by conscientious business. One of those initiatives is the *GRI*, which aims at the development and dissemination of globally applicable sustainability reporting guidelines.

WWF has taken various initiatives with global enterprises to set up projects to support sustainable development (e.g. Forest Stewardship Council, *MSC*).

EUROPEAN INITIATIVES

In Europe, an initiative may come from the European Commission (EC), such as the *European Consultative Forum on the Environment and Sustainable Development*. This forum advises the EC on environmental matters, and consists of all parties that may be affected when decisions are made.

Many initiatives in Europe focus on the safety of food. This has largely been stimulated by the many recent accidents in the food sector and the drop in confidence of the consumers in the food industry. Specific parties in the food chain join on a European level, like *Eurep GAP*, where a group of major European retailers has gathered to raise the standards for the production and safety of food. Another example, but from the beginning of the food production chain, is *EISA*, which is composed of national initiatives from six countries (*FARRE, FILL, FNL, L'Agricoltura Che Vogliamo, LEAF, Odling i Balans*) and mainly focuses on promoting Integrated Farm Management (IFM) in their home country and on increasing the public awareness of its benefits.

The *NordFood* project on cleaner production, which ended in 1997, was an initiative of 22 Nordic companies investigating and implementing several options for cleaner production in the participating companies.

The last category of initiatives is that taken by research institutes. The *SAFE Consortium* for example, is an initiative taken by several independent research institutes trying to become a self-supporting consultative body on food safety.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

National initiatives on sustainable food have been initiated by companies, governments, or research institutions. Usually, an important goal is to promote or carry out research on the environmental impact of products or production processes and to identify potential improvements. This work is sometimes initiated by the companies involved (e.g. *DuVo*). Sometimes the initiative is taken by a research institution trying to generate (methodological) consensus and provide a place where such research can be carried out (*Food 21, IPG I, LCA, Norms for Food Products*).

Collecting results and organising these in a clear and accessible database is also a focus point frequently found in national initiatives (*APUG, Finnish Food Production Chain Involved in LCA Data Production, IPU, IPG I, LCA, Norms for Food Products, SAN*).

Furthermore, many initiatives try to provide a discussion platform for interest groups to exchange ideas and opinions (e.g. *DuVo, FARRE, FILL, FNL, Forum for the Future, IISD, SAN, TNS*). Some groups advise government and other decision-makers, either after consultation or voluntarily (e.g. *European Consultative Forum on the Environment and Sustainable Development, Forum for the Future, IERE, SAFE Consortium, TNS, WBCSD*).

Only a few initiatives investigate the whole food chain and the role of the different parties therein (*DuVo, Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns*).

A range of national initiatives concentrates on promoting the use of integrated farming among farmers and its appreciation among the public (e.g. *CUL, Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture, OFEC*). Some of these have joined on a European level in *EISA FARRE, FILL, FNL, L'Agricoltura Che Vogliamo, LEAF, Odling i Balans*.

In the USA there are various organisations initiated by the government, which provide grants for research in the area of sustainable agriculture (e.g. *SAN, SARE*).

MOTIVATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The motives for initiating projects in sustainable development can be diverse, and are often hard to trace. The types of projects that were found in this inventory suggest three main motivations:

- Producers participate in projects because they take up their social or ecological responsibility, either in response to public or political pressure, or anticipating this and being pro-active (about 40% of the projects found);
- Governments or NOGS stimulate producers to take their responsibility (about 30% of the projects found);
- Governments stimulate the agricultural sector to develop a competitive advantage in order to protect domestic employment and economy (about 20% of the projects found);

In some cases, projects have been initiated by NOGS (e.g. *CIAT*, *FLO*) or by research institutes trying to interest industry or governments to finance specific studies (e.g. *SAFE Consortium*).

A large portion of all projects (40%) is primarily related to the agricultural sector. The objectives are to stimulate organic agriculture or integrated farming, by conducting background research and collecting and disseminating information. These projects are promoted either by governments, with the objective to stimulate the local economy or to reduce environmental pressure (e.g. *Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture*, *OFEC*), or by industry or farmers associations (e.g. *EISA* and its participants in Europe), who endeavour to increase the confidence of the public in the agricultural products (about half of these initiatives).

Improvement of the production process is another major objective found in this screening (about 40% of the initiatives found). In agriculture as well as in the industrial sector research projects have been initiated to find ways to produce more, healthier and more competitive products. In many cases these projects were stimulated by governments (about three quarters of these initiatives), in order to support their national economy or employment as well as the environment. Sometimes industry or farmers have taken the initiative (one quarter of these projects), in order to reduce their impact on the environment and to support sustainable development (e.g. *NordFood*, *RCP*).

In most cases the government supports universities and industries either directly or through specific programmes (e.g. *Food 21*, *IIED*, *LCA*, *Norms for Food Products*, *OFCD*, *SARE*, *Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns*).

Social justice and fair economic growth are two of the dimensions of sustainable development which are often addressed in combination (10% of the initiatives

found). Initiators (mainly NOGS) focus on third world countries or countries that supply raw materials for Western industries. An important objective is a better rewarding system for the agricultural labourers, and a better education in order to teach them how to do business with Western industries (e.g. *CIAT*, *FLO*, *MSSRF*). Industrial initiatives in this area are scarce (e.g. *FLO*, *Gossypium*).

Restoring the public confidence in food is an important issue, especially in view of the large number of recent problems in this area. Food safety is a goal pursued by all parties involved in the food chain, with governments (through funding of national initiatives) and retailers leading the way (e.g. *Eurep GAP*), and independent research institutes picking up the thread as well (e.g. *SAFE Consortium*).

Finally, many projects pursue integrated goals, which are best summarised in the term “sustainable development” (25% of the initiatives found). For some initiatives the scope of interest was very wide, in which case they were also included in this category (e.g. *DuVo*, *Forum for the Future*, *GRI*, *Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns*, *TNS*, *WBCSD*).

Though many of the food related initiatives mainly focus on the primary sector without considering other links in the food chain, there are exceptions. Notable in this respect is *Gossypium*, which is not active in the food sector, but considers the cotton chain from its production all the way to the sale of clothing. Of central interest are the primary culture of cotton and the position of the planters, which is supported by the marketing of the end products. The Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (*FLO*), which offer a selection of food products on the Western market, are an initiative similar in the sense that they consider the entire chain, but here the focus is on the social and economical dimensions of sustainability whereas *Gossypium* also considers the environmental dimension.

HOW DO PROJECTS OPERATE

In general, most projects focus on two different approaches to reach their objectives, viz. research and communication.

RESEARCH

Most scientific investigations are conducted by research institutes or universities, with involvement from industry or the primary sector. While universities concentrate on basic research (e.g. *CUL*, *Norms for Food Products*), industry is conducting

Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) or investigating ways to decrease their ecological footprint (e.g. *LCA, NordFood*). Initiatives in the area of organic agriculture are usually carried out in co-operation with farmers (e.g. *EISA* and participants, *Farm*A*Syst*).

While some institutions conduct research by investigating production techniques or carrying out LCAs, others bring together research data and make this better accessible (e.g. *APUG, Norms for Food Products*). This is done by gathering the information into a database, which is sometimes publicly accessible (e.g. *IPG I, Norms for Food Products, SAN*) and sometimes only meant for the initiators themselves.

COMMUNICATION

Three aspects of communication can be distinguished: internal communication, communication with fellow organisations and stakeholders, and communication with other parties such as the public or government.

Most initiatives communicate via the Internet (about 90% of the initiatives have a web site), and many of them also have their own news letters (at least 20% of the initiatives found). On most web sites results of specific research and events is freely available to interested outsiders. In agriculture, where the Internet-penetration is lower, a large part of the communication occurs via printed publications (e.g. *EISA, ENL, L'Agricoltura Che Vogliamo, LEAF*).

Apart from limiting their communication to the participants or members of the initiative, some projects seek possibilities to communicate with a broad range of stakeholders to extend the basis of their dialogue.

Informing and educating the public is an important method applied by almost all projects screened. Many of the products mentioned in the following paragraph are part of this approach. Some initiatives go further and formulate guide lines or provide advice for authorities or other decision-makers (e.g. *European Consultative Forum on the Environment and Sustainable Development, Forum for the Future, IERE, SAFE Consortium, TNS, WBCSD*).

PRODUCTS

The products which result from an initiative are most often publications of some sort, and include: reports of workshops, scientific reports, newsletters, notices of advice issued to influence or inform decision-makers, press-releases, information leaflets for the public, position statements, etc.

A few initiatives (e.g. *FLO, LEAF, MCS*) have introduced (or will introduce) a label for products which have been produced according to specific standards. Most

environmental or sustainable labelling concepts however have been initiated by various governments, hoping to stimulate a different purchasing behaviour².

EISA has published a codex, which is a management tool to help farmers identify areas for improvement. Several of *EISA*'s participants have demonstration farms propagating the concept of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to farmers as well as interested outsiders.

Some industrial initiatives also aim at supporting improvements in the production process (e.g. *DuVo, NordFood*). In some cases, the products of a research program lead to direct improvements in the production process. In other cases it results in workshops for members of the initiative or for a broader audience.

FINANCING

Most initiatives have a non-profit policy or are funded by some financing program. Parties which benefit from the outcome of the efforts (e.g. companies) are usually funding at least part of the research costs. Money sources are thus governments, companies or institutes, and occasionally private foundations. Some research institutes earn their money by conducting sponsored research, acting as independent experts on behalf of companies, government or other parties (e.g. *SAFE Consortium*).

Some initiatives only require a modest budget, since their main objective is to improve business awareness and to enhance the involvement of participating companies in sustainable enterprise (e.g. *DuVo, SVN, WBCSD*). On the other hand, some extensive research programs which require a large amount of funding (e.g. *Food 21, NordFood*) are co-funded by industry and government. Another group of extensive research projects is being paid by government funding only, either directly or through some body that decides where the money is best spent such as a university or grant agency (e.g. *SAN, SARE*).

² For an inventory of labelling initiatives, we refer to the report "'Consumentenzorgen' in Nederland", KPMG Ethics & Integrity Consulting, Amstelveen, 2000.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Initiatives included in this report probably only represent a fraction of the total number of projects regarding sustainability in food supply initiated worldwide. Many Western universities, governments and large industries have their own departments addressing one or more of the dimensions of sustainable development.

Most initiatives are nationally oriented, and focus on sustainable development in a home country or region (e.g. Europe, Scandinavia). Most of the (few) initiatives that were found to have a global scope are focussing on the situation in developing countries, and are not restricted to the food sector.

As the agricultural sector is the prime party addressed in the debate on food safety, a large part of the initiatives identified focus on agriculture-related topics, like stimulating organic farming or enhancing the public trust in agricultural products. The reason for this involvement is mainly economic (governments stimulating niche products, industry gaining public confidence), the ecological dimension of sustainable development coming in second place. Methods applied to reach these objectives are encouraging arrangements that enhance sustainable development, scientific research, and communicating the results of such research to the public, the media and the government, through a variety of publications and events.

The rest of the food production chain also receives attention, generally with a stronger focus on ecology. Research like performing LCAs and analysing improvement of the production pathway in terms of environmental impact is the main tool used for this. For industries, implementation of improvement options and communication with the public and the authorities is the main factor.

This study has provided DuVo with a useful insight in the involvement of industry in projects regarding sustainability in the food chain elsewhere in the world. Various potentially interesting projects have been identified, and the report may serve as a tool to interest others in the work DuVo is doing.

APPENDIX

In this section a brief summary is given for most of the initiatives found. Where possible, we have included the following features:

REGION	
INDEX-NUMBER	PROJECT NAME (ABBREVIATION)
	Possible additional information
<i>contact</i>	The Internet address • The project leader or main contact person (email address)
<i>participants</i>	The interest groups that participate in the project
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size of the budget • The source of the budget • Information about the funding of the initiative
<i>initiative</i>	The type of initiator and the starting date (and where applicable the ending date)
<i>goal, method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g Examples of goals of the initiative m Examples of methods used to achieve the goals
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of products of the organisation

The projects are arranged according to their geographical reach, as that seems to be a simple distinction. Three categories are discerned: initiatives with a global scope (A1), a European scope (A2) and a national scope (A3). An alphabetical index of all initiatives is included first.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF INITIATIVES

APUG (Action-Plan Environment and Health)	National initiatives, Switzerland	3.17
CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture)	Global initiatives	1.4
CUL (Centre for sustainable agriculture)	National initiatives, Sweden	3.14
DuVo (Foundation for a Sustainable Food Chain)	National initiatives, The Netherlands	3.13
EISA (European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture)	European initiatives	2.3
Eurep GAP	European initiatives	2.1
European Consultative Forum on the Environment and Sustainable Development	European initiatives	2.2
Farm*A*Syst	National initiatives, USA	3.21
FARRE (Forum for Environment-Friendly Integrated Farming)	National initiatives, France	3.7
FILL	National initiatives, Luxembourg	3.12
Finnish Food Production Chain Involved in LCA Data Production	National initiatives, Finland	3.6
FLO (Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International)	Global initiatives	1.1
FNL (Organisation for the Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture)	National initiatives, Germany	3.8
Food 21	National initiatives, Sweden	3.15
Forum for the Future	Global initiatives	3.19
Gossypium	Global initiatives, Cotton	1.3
GRI (Global Reporting Initiative)	Global initiatives	1.2
Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture	National initiatives, Canada	3.3
IERE (Institute for Environmental Research and Education)	National initiatives, USA	3.21

IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development)	Global initiatives	1.5
IISD (International Institute for Sustainable Development)	Global initiatives	1.6
ILU (Institute for Agriculture and Environment)	National initiatives, Germany	3.9
IPG I	National initiatives, Switzerland	3.18
L'Agricoltura Che Vogliamo	National initiatives, Italy	3.11
LCA (Life Cycle Assessment)	National initiatives, Denmark	3.5
LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)	National initiatives, UK	3.20
MSC (Marine Stewardship Council)	Global initiatives	1.7
MSSRF (M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation)	National initiatives, India	3.10
NordFood	European initiatives	2.4
Norms for Food Products	National initiatives, Belgium	3.1
Odling i Balans	National initiatives, Sweden	3.16
OFEC (Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition)	National initiatives, Canada	3.4
RCP (Responsible Care Program)	Global initiatives, Chemical industry	1.8
SAFE Consortium (Safe Food in Europe)	European initiatives	2.5
SAN (Sustainable Agriculture Network)	National initiatives, USA	3.23
SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education)	National initiatives, USA	3.24
Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns	National initiatives, Belgium	3.2
SVN (Social Venture Network)	Global initiatives	1.9
TNS (The Natural Step)	Global initiatives	1.10
WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development)	Global initiatives	1.11

A1 GLOBAL INITIATIVES

1.1 FAIRTRADE LABELLING ORGANIZATIONS

<i>contact</i>	http://www.fairtrade.net • coordination@fairtrade.net
<i>participants</i>	There are labelling initiatives in 17 countries, mainly in Europe, but also North America and Japan.
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consumer pays for the Fairtrade system • Non-profit association
<i>initiative</i>	In 1988, the Netherlands became the first country to launch the Fairtrade consumer guarantee. In order to co-ordinate the work of the national initiatives FLO was set up in April 1997.
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Setting Fairtrade standards (known as Fairtrade criteria)</p> <p>g Certifying Fairtrade producers</p> <p>g Guaranteeing consumers that the Fairtrade criteria are met</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee, cocoa, honey, bananas, tea, orange juice and sugar • Other products may be added

1.2 GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE (GRI)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.globalreporting.org • info@globalreporting.org
<i>participants</i>	From UN and other private foundations
<i>funding</i>	In 1997
<i>initiative</i>	In 1997
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Supporting global progress towards sustainable development</p> <p>g Promoting international harmonisation in the reporting of corporate performance information to enhance responsible decision-making</p> <p>g Elevate sustainability reporting practises worldwide</p> <p>g Design, disseminate and promote standardised reporting practises, core measurements and customised, sector-specific measurements</p> <p>g Ensure a permanent and effective institutional host to support such reporting</p> <p>g A multi-stakeholder process of open dialogue and collaboration in the design and implementation of widely applicable sustainability reporting guidelines</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications, e.g. "Sustainability Reporting Guidelines" (June 2000)

COTTON

1.3 GOSSYPIMUM

<i>contact</i>	http://www.gossypium.co.uk • info@gossypium.co.uk
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	Gossypium is an initiative of Vericott Ltd.
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>m A complete in-house supply chain management of cotton products, from the plant to the customer</p> <p>m Controlled organically grown cotton, fair trading, higher prices and technical support for the farmers</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton products

1.4 INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (CIAT)

<i>contact</i>	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical http://www.ciat.cgiar.org • ciat@cgnet.com
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) • Non-profit, NGO
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g To alleviate hunger and poverty</p> <p>g Preserve natural resources in developing countries</p> <p>m Collaborative research that improves agricultural productivity and natural resource management</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Publications

1.5 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IIED)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.iied.org • mailbox@iied.org
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 5,600,000 English Pounds for 1999 • Supported by governments, international agencies and foundations • Non-profit organisation
<i>initiative</i>	Founded in 1971 as the International Institute for Environmental Affairs in the US.
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Promoting sustainable patterns of world development</p> <p>g Transform decision-making at all levels</p> <p>g Primarily active in Africa, Asia and Latin America.</p> <p>m Research, communication, stakeholder engagement, capacity development and implementation services</p>
<i>products</i>	

1.6 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IISD)

<i>contact</i>	http://iisd1.iisd.ca • info@iisd.ca
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by governments, UN, foundations and private sector • Non-profit organisation
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Promote the transition toward a sustainable future</p> <p>m Policy research, information exchange and advocacy</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action recommendations based on analyses • Knowledge networks to build the capacity of e.g. civil society • Timely reporting of international negotiations critical to the sustainability of the planet

1.7 MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.msc.org • info@msc.org
<i>participants</i>	Retail, industry, NGOs, parties involved in marine fishing industry
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of charitable foundations, private companies and individuals • More than 100 major seafood processors, traders and retailers from over 20 countries worldwide have pledged their support
<i>initiative</i>	1996 by WWF and Unilever, independent since 1999
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Promote sustainable marine fishing practices</p> <p>m Develop and promote criteria for certification</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental standard for sustainable marine fishing, which allows accredited certifiers to certify fisheries • Documentation and information

1.8 RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAM (RCP)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.goodchemistry.org • Nicole Naylor (nicole_naylor@americanchemistry.com)
<i>participants</i>	Chemical companies worldwide
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	American Chemistry Council in 1988
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g No accidents, injuries or harm to the environment</p> <p>g Stimulate companies to lead in ethical ways that benefit society, the economy and the environment</p> <p>m Principles: to recognise public input regarding products; to provide safer chemicals (producing, transport, disposal); to make health, safety, the environment and resource conservation critical considerations; to provide information and pursue protective measures for employees, public and others; to support education and research on health, safety and environmental effects of products and processes; to resolve pending problems; to lead in the development of responsible laws; to encourage and assist others to adhere to Responsible Care principles and practices.</p>
<i>products</i>	

1.9 SOCIAL VENTURE NETWORK (SVN)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.svn.org • svn@svn.org
<i>participants</i>	International businesses.
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit network
<i>initiative</i>	1987
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Build a just and sustainable world through business</p> <p>g Promote new models and leadership for socially and environmentally sustainable business</p> <p>m Member initiatives (for people, planet and profits)</p> <p>m Information services (access to relevant information for its members)</p> <p>m Community forums</p>
<i>products</i>	

1.10 THE NATURAL STEP (TNS)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.thenaturalstep.org
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g Develop scientifically valid principles for sustainability g Foster system-wide implementation of these principles g Develop new tools in association with leading scientists g Support the use of the TNS framework in companies through training g Provide a forum for dialogue, particularly for decision-makers g Make sustainability knowledge easily understood and accessible
<i>products</i>	

1.11 WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.wbcsd.org • info@wbcsd.org
<i>participants</i>	150 international companies from more than 30 countries and 20 major industrial sectors.
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g Be the leading business advocate on issues connected with sustainable development g Participate in policy development g Demonstrate progress in environmental and resource management and corporate social responsibility and to share practices among members g Contribute to a sustainable future for developing nations m There is an annually meeting council composed of the Chief Executive Officers of the member companies
<i>products</i>	

A2 EUROPEAN INITIATIVES**2.1 EUREP GAP**

<i>contact</i>	http://www.eurep.org • Willem Hofmans (willem.hofmans@ah.nl)
<i>participants</i>	Leading European food retailers.
<i>funding</i>	• Supported by participants
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g Raise standards for the production of food g Primarily aimed at food safety
<i>products</i>	

2.2 EUROPEAN CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

<i>contact</i>	http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/forum/home.htm
<i>participants</i>	figures from the business world, regional and local authorities, professional associations, unions and environmental protection and consumer organisations.
<i>funding</i>	• Supported by European Commission
<i>initiative</i>	European Commission; 1997 successor of General Consultative Forum on the Environment (1993)
<i>goal, method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g Preparation and publication of recommendations and opinions g Particular emphasis on the sixth environmental action program, on the formulation of a European sustainable development strategy, and on the process of integrating environmental and sustainability concerns in all EU policy areas
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports • Statements • Newsletters • Press releases

2.3 EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE (EISA)

<i>contact</i>	Susanne Witsch (s.witsch@fnl.de)
<i>participants</i>	FARRE (3.7), FILL (3.12), FNL (3.8), LEAF (3.20), L'Agricoltura Che Vogliamo (3.11) and Odling i Balans (3.16).
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	g Sustainable agriculture, which is economically viable, environmentally responsible and socially acceptable m Promotion of IFM
<i>products</i>	Publication, e.g. "A common codex for Integrated Farming" (January 2001)

2.4 NORDFOOD

<i>project</i>	"Cleaner Production"
<i>contact</i>	Audun Admundsen (auduna@online.no)
<i>participants</i>	Research institutions from participating countries.
<i>funding</i>	Supported by 22 food companies from Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark
<i>initiative</i>	1994 – 1997
<i>goal, method</i>	Introduce and implement Cleaner Production (CP) options in the participating companies g Introduce Environmental Management System (EMS) in the participating companies and consider how EMS could be integrated in other management systems m Test methods and systems in the context of CP in the Nordic food-processing industry m Study experiences from the companies that chose to implement EMS
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report • Spin-off projects • Publications

2.5 SAFE CONSORTIUM (SAFE FOOD IN EUROPE)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.safeconsortium.org • Harm Hofstra (harmen.hofstra@safeconsortium.org)
<i>participants</i>	five independent European research institutions: INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique; France), IFR (Institute of Food Research, UK), TNO (Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek, The Netherlands), Wageningen UR (the Netherlands), VTT (Finland). Other independent European research institutions can join.
<i>funding</i>	Supported by participants
<i>initiative</i>	In 2001 by participants as an answer to the food safety crisis and the decreasing confidence.
<i>goal, method</i>	g Food safety g Collection and analysis of communal information g Putting up research programs g Informing the media and the consumer to restore confidence g Enter public discussions on food safety. Being independent of governments or industries, the participants are ready to publish anything important about food safety
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications • Press releases

A3 NATIONAL INITIATIVES

BELGIUM

3.1 NORMS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS

<i>contact</i>	http://www.belspo.be • Mrs. C. Mathieu (math@belspo.be)
<i>participants</i>	DWTC (Federale Diensten voor Wetenschappelijke, Technische en Culturele Aangelegenheden: Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs), government
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost € 5,000,000 • Supported by government
<i>initiative</i>	March 1997 – February 2001
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Obtaining tools for evaluation of management in quality of living (consumer) and use of resources (environment)</p> <p>m Preparation and maintenance of databases with information gathered by different research institutions</p> <p>m Encouraging research about norms for food products</p> <p>m Develop criteria for framing norms for pollution in the production process of a product</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications

BELGIUM

3.2 SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

<i>contact</i>	http://www.belspo.be • Mrs. C. Mathieu (math@belspo.be)
<i>participants</i>	DWTC (Federale Diensten voor Wetenschappelijke, Technische en Culturele Aangelegenheden: Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs), government
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost € 22,000,000 • Supported by government
<i>initiative</i>	2001 – 2005
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Analysis of the role of the different parties in the food chain, the production pathways and consumer patterns and the interaction between these; energy, transport and agro-products</p> <p>g A second project focuses on global change, ecosystems and bio-diversity</p>
<i>products</i>	Publications

CANADA

3.3 HEALTHY FUTURES FOR ONTARIO AGRICULTURE

<i>contact</i>	http://www.gov.on.ca/omafra • aboutomafra@omafra.gov.on.ca
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total budget \$ 90,000,000 in four years • Supported by Ontario government up to 50% of the total costs; under special circumstances up to 70%.
<i>initiative</i>	In 1999 by OMAFRA (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in Ontario) after consultation with the agro-food industry.
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Maintain the leading position of Ontario's agro-food industry</p> <p>g Stimulate collaboration between farmers, agro-food businesses, commodity and food industry organisations, conservation authority and rural community organisations</p> <p>g Produce food in a safe, environmentally sustainable way</p> <p>g Improve rural water quality and water use efficiency</p> <p>g Maintain the rural environment</p> <p>m Generate jobs and economic growth, capitalise on marketing and export opportunities</p> <p>m Stimulate a constant improvement of products</p> <p>m Investments in research, production and marketing techniques</p>
<i>products</i>	

CANADA

3.4 ONTARIO FARM ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION (OFEC)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.gov.on.ca/omafra • aboutomafra@omafra.gov.on.ca
<i>participants</i>	Over 30 farm organisations.
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost \$ 18,000,000 to date • EFP originally supported by minister of Agriculture and Agro-food • Since 2000 supported by Agricultural Adaptation Connell (AAC)
<i>initiative</i>	1992
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g There are 2 major public-private programs: <i>Food System 2002</i> (1987) with \$ 2,000,000 a year for funding and <i>Environmental Farm Plans (EFP)</i> with a budget of \$ 50,000,000</p> <p>g Food System 2002: reduce the use of pesticides by 50% (in 2001 40% is achieved)</p> <p>g EFP: in Ontario 20,000 producers entered this program of which 12,000 are completed</p>
<i>products</i>	

DENMARK

3.5 LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.lcafood.dk • John Hermansen (john.hermansen@agrsci.dk)
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,300,000 Danish Crowns • Supported by ministry of food, agriculture and fisheries
<i>initiative</i>	Autumn 2000 – autumn 2003
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g establish a foundation for conducting LCAs for typical products from agriculture and aquaculture</p> <p>m Distribute the knowledge of LCA among branch organisations and companies in the food area</p> <p>m Give interested organisations the possibility of obtaining methodological consensus by conducting LCAs for food products</p> <p>m Build a database containing LCA data for agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and food processing</p> <p>m Adjust the LCA methodology to specific aspects of agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries</p>
<i>products</i>	Publications

FINLAND

3.6 FINNISH FOOD PRODUCTION CHAIN INVOLVED IN LCA DATA PRODUCTION

<i>contact</i>	http://www.vtt.fi/ket/projects/foodchain • Juha-Matti Katajajuuri (juha.matti.katajajuuri@vtt.fi)
<i>participants</i>	finnish agricultural and food industry and trade in co-operation with VTT Chemical Technology and other research centres.
<i>funding</i>	Supported by ministries for environment and agriculture
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Collect LCA-data</p> <p>g Data production and related research work; information system; interactive communication between producers, users and other stakeholders as well as utilisation of data</p>
<i>products</i>	Publications

FRANCE

3.7 FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY INTEGRATED FARMING (FARRE)

	<i>Forum de l'Agriculture Raisonnee Respectueuse de l'Environment participant of EISA (2.3)</i>
<i>contact</i>	http://www.farre.org • Jean Marie Mutschler (jmmutschler@farre.org)
<i>participants</i>	A large number of organisations representing a variety of different fields, from farming development unions to agricultural suppliers, the agro-foods industry and environmental bodies associate themselves with the FARRE approach.
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Control of crop culture</p> <p>g Increase public awareness</p> <p>m Promote IFM (income farmers, consumer's expectations and care for environment)</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings on IFM • Publications

GERMANY

3.8 ORGANISATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (FNL)

Fördergemeinschaft Nachhaltige Landwirtschaft
participant of EISA (2.3)

contact <http://www.fnl.de> • Susanne Witsch (s.witsch@fnl.de)

participants Farms, farmers' and horticulturists' unions, agricultural industry, etc.

funding

- 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 German Marks
- Supported by members
- Non-profit organisation

initiative From FEP (1983, for integrated crop management only) came FNL, which considers all agriculture. Initiative taken by members in January 2000.

goal, method

- g** Inform public about the importance of agriculture, rural areas and communities
- g** Promote and communicate scientific bases of sustainable development in agriculture
- g** Encourage application of best practices in sustainable development
- g** Act as a communicator
- g** Improve image of agricultural production, products and their competitiveness in the processing chains
- m** Promote awareness of animal husbandry
- m** Specialists are hired from universities to do research
- m** Seminars, pilot farms etc. are organised
- m** Farmers are offered courses to communicate better towards the public and the media

products

- Publications with new developments for farmers
- Leaflets etc. for public
- Press releases
- Conferences
- Presence at the Expo

GERMANY

3.9 INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT (ILU)

Institut für Landwirtschaft und Umwelt
scientific part of FNL (3.8)

contact <http://www.fnl.de> • Dr. Andreas Frangenberg (ilu@fnl.de)

participants

funding

initiative 1997

goal, method

- g** Clarify the complexities in agriculture and environment
- g** Help in decision-making
- g** Questions: Is modern agriculture in a dead-end road? At what price did we obtain the safety of our present-day nutrition? How to obtain sustainable agriculture? How can policies be judged? How to (re)gain the confidence in agricultural products?
- m** Investigate scientific publications, summarise them, publish them

products Publications, e.g. "Sustainable Agriculture: From the history of ideas to practical application"

INDIA

3.10 M. S. SWAMINITHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION (MSSRF)*Centre for research on sustainable agricultural and rural development**contact* <http://www.mssrf.org> • Dr. M. S. Swaminithan (msswami@mssrf.res.in)*participants* The Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (CRSARD) was launched in 1990 as a registered society to carry out MSSRF's research and training goals.*funding*

- Initial funding from the World Food Prize, the Tyler Prize, the Honda Prize and UNEP-Sasakawa Environment Prize
- Now supported by a wide range of donors: national and international, organisational and individual, public and private
- Non-political, non-profit, scientific trust

initiative 1988*goal, method* **g** Harness science and technology for environmentally sustainable and socially equitable development in agriculture and rural development**g** Add value to work of the poor and create innovative income opportunities**g** Promote recognition and reward of tribal and rural people for their contributions to the conservation and enhancement of bio-diversity**g** Catalyse more active participation of women in development and enable them to derive full benefit from technological progress**m** Research and training for the conservation of bio-diversity, with an emphasis on its role in human food and livelihood security*products*

ITALY

3.11 L'AGRICOLTURA CHE VOGLIAMO*participant of EISA (2.3)**contact* www.lagricolturachevogliamo.it • info@lagricolturachevogliamo.it*participants* Associations, co-operatives, industries, farmers and individual members*funding* Non-profit organisation*initiative**goal, method* **g** Promote IFM**m** Demonstration farms provide a platform for sharing experiences and developments between professionals, and to communicate with the non-farming community*products* Publications (e.g. "Manuale di gestione agricola integrata", a book about IFM)

LUXEMBOURG

3.12 ORGANISATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRATED FARMING IN LUXEMBOURG (FILL)*Fördergemeinschaft Integrierte Landwirtschaft Luxemburg participant of EISA (2.3)**contact* Gerard Conter (gerard.conter@ser.etat.lu)*participants* The organisation counts 23 members including co-operatives, associations, departments, individual enterprises and other organisations in relation to agriculture, viticulture and horticulture.*funding**initiative**goal, method* **g** Promote IFM**m** Organise information- and contact meetings*products*

THE NETHERLANDS

3.13 FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD CHAIN (DUVO)*Stichting Duurzame Voedingsmiddelenketen**contact* Chris Dutilh (chris@dutilh.com)*participants* 16 companies active in the food chain.*funding*

- About € 100,000 yearly
- Supported by participants

initiative In 1995 by 15 companies active in the food chain.*goal, method* **g** Dialogue with stakeholders to establish a common understanding of sustainability in the food chain**m** Establishment of measurable criteria to steer and monitor an improvement process**m** Knowledge development to provide factual information to enhance the dialogue**m** Open exchange of knowledge to enable various parties to share the acquired insights*products* Publications

SWEDEN

3.14 CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (CUL)*Centrum för Uthålligt Lantbruk*

<i>contact</i>	http://www.cul.slu.se • Karin Höök (karin.hook@cul.slu.se)
<i>participants</i>	University
<i>funding</i>	University
<i>initiative</i>	University
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Develop the understanding and sustainable use of biological natural resources</p> <p>m Research</p> <p>m Teaching</p> <p>m Continuous environmental assessment</p> <p>m Information extension</p>
<i>products</i>	

SWEDEN

3.15 FOOD 21*Sustainable Food Production*

<i>contact</i>	http://www-mat21.slu.se • Thomas Nybrant (Thomas.Nybrant@lt.slu.se)
<i>participants</i>	25 doctoral candidates and some 75 researchers are involved (universities).
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,000,000 Swedish Crowns yearly • Supported by MISTRA over an 8-year period (Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research composed of government, public institutions etc.)
<i>initiative</i>	1997 – 2004, by university.
<i>goal, method</i>	g Sustainable solutions in food production in the following areas: natural resource objectives, external environment objectives, animal welfare, ethics, product quality, consumers, farmers and economy
<i>products</i>	Publications

SWEDEN

3.16 ODLING I BALANS*participant of EISA (2.3)*

<i>contact</i>	http://www.odlingibalans.com • info@odlingibalans.com
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	At present there are 19 contributing partners from the entire food chain
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Reduce environmental effects of crop cultivation</p> <p>g Produce high quality agricultural products</p> <p>g Develop a resource efficient agriculture with good economy</p> <p>m Demonstrate for other farmers, decision makers and the public how we manage agriculture with respect for both health and the environment</p> <p>m Demonstrate measures which can be undertaken on most farms and that will lead to considerable improvements</p> <p>m Invite organisations, companies and government authorities the opportunity to work together with a common philosophy, an environmentally adjusted and resource efficient agriculture</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 pilot farms • publications, e.g. "Avoid subsoil soil compaction – an important measure for high yields"

SWITZERLAND

3.17 ACTION-PLAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH (APUG)*Aktionsplan Umwelt und Gesundheit*

<i>contact</i>	http://www.unibas.ch/ispmb/s/apug/apughome.htm
<i>participants</i>	Founded by Abteilung Umwelt und Gesundheit from BAG.
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	1998
<i>goal, method</i>	m Make and update database
<i>products</i>	

SWITZERLAND

3.18 IPG I*Integriertes Projekt Gesellschaft I*

<i>contact</i>	http://www.ipgesellschaft.ch • Jürg Minsch (mensch@edv1.boku.ac.at)
<i>participants</i>	Subprojects in about 30 different areas by institutions from Swiss universities and private research bureaux.
<i>funding</i>	
<i>initiative</i>	January 1996 – March 2000
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Substantial contribution to sustainable development in Switzerland</p> <p>g Institutional and Ecological innovations beyond Niche products</p> <p>g Increased consumer demand</p> <p>g Rules-of-thumb for consumption of meat and vegetables</p> <p>g Methods for ecological weighting in eco-balances</p> <p>g Subproject III: Education and publicity efforts for sustainable food in Switzerland</p>
<i>products</i>	Publications

UNITED KINGDOM

3.19 FORUM FOR THE FUTURE*licensee of The Natural Step*

<i>contact</i>	http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk • info@forumforthefuture.org.uk
<i>participants</i>	The forum is a network for individuals active in sustainable development.
<i>funding</i>	1,250,000 English Pounds yearly
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Initiating projects, events, research</p> <p>g Working with and help decision-makers</p> <p>g Reinforcing best environmental practice in several communities</p>
<i>Informing the media</i>	m Provide scholarships
<i>products</i>	Magazine "Green Futures"

UNITED KINGDOM

3.20 LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING (LEAF)*participant of EISA (2.3)*

<i>contact</i>	http://www.leafuk.org • Caroline Drummond (cdleaf@farmline.com)
<i>participants</i>	Some thirty members representing national government departments, farmers, supermarkets, conservation, environmental and consumer groups, educational establishments and industrial bodies.
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 250,000 English Pounds yearly • Supported by memberships (farming, industry), industry sponsorships and government
<i>initiative</i>	In 1991 by representatives from agriculture and industry.
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Promote IFM</p> <p>g Promote the benefits of IFM to consumers</p> <p>g Raise awareness of the way many farmers are responding to current concerns</p> <p>m Identify areas of improvement</p> <p>m Demonstration farms (now 40 in UK) for farmers and non-farmers</p>
<i>products</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters • Publications • Workshops • Technical publications • LEAF audit (a self-assessment management tool for farmers) • LEAF product label will be introduced soon

USA

3.21 FARM*A*SYST

<i>contact</i>	
<i>participants</i>	Government agencies and private business
<i>funding</i>	Voluntary program
<i>initiative</i>	1991
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Enable farmers to prevent pollution on farm, ranches and in homes</p> <p>m Confidential environmental assessments</p> <p>m Help to address some important environmental issues</p>
<i>products</i>	

USA

3.22 INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (IERE)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.iere.org • Rita Schenck (rita@iere.org)
<i>participants</i>	
<i>funding</i>	Non-profit institution
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Provide facts and skills about environmental impact to decision-makers</p> <p>g Environmental management (e.g. community environmental management systems to support sustainability, cost-benefit analysis of regulatory reinvention projects, participation in the development of international standards on environmental management, eco-labels based on LCAs, verification of environmental performance)</p> <p>g Environmental impact research (development of indicators of land use for use in LCA and policy, testing different fate and transport models, analysis of local environmental conditions; life cycle impact assessments, research on the links between LCA and sustainability)</p> <p>g Environment and development (pollution prevention, LCA training in developing nations, assistance in local environmental issues)</p> <p>g Environmental education for adults</p>
<i>products</i>	

USA

3.23 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE NETWORK (SAN)*communications and outreach arm of SARE (3.24)*

<i>contact</i>	http://www.sare.org • Andy Clark (san@nal.usda.gov)
<i>participants</i>	University, government, farm, business and non-profit organisations.
<i>funding</i>	Supported by US Department of Agriculture
<i>initiative</i>	1991
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Exchange of information on sustainable agriculture</p> <p>g Facilitate information exchanges in support of SARE</p> <p>g Provide service and foster innovation in information systems</p> <p>m Sponsor of competitive grants for sustainable agriculture research and education in a regional process nation-wide</p>
<i>products</i>	

USA

3.24 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (SARE)

<i>contact</i>	http://www.sare.org • Valerie Berton (vberton@wam.umd.edu) Jill Auburn (jauburn@reeusda.gov)
<i>participants</i>	Producers, extension agents, researchers and representatives from industry, NGOs and state and federal agencies decide on the funding.
<i>funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over \$1,000,000,000 • Supported by US Department of Agriculture
<i>initiative</i>	
<i>goal, method</i>	<p>g Increase knowledge about - and help farmers and ranchers adopt - practices that are economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible</p> <p>m Competitive funding of projects</p>
<i>products</i>	