



I. Introduction

About the Stewardship Index

SISC is a multi-stakeholder initiative to develop a system for measuring sustainable performance throughout the specialty crop supply chain. The project is an unprecedented collaboration amongst the nation's most influential grower organizations, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and buyers of specialty crop products. SISC aims to establish a common suite of outcomes-based metrics to enable operators at any point along the supply chain to benchmark, compare, and communicate their own performance in meeting sustainability goals.

About the SISC Metrics (Beta Version 1.1)

Metric Development

The SISC Metrics (Beta Version 1.1) are a subset of a longer list of metrics developed by SISC participants over the last two years and piloted on farms across the country in 2010. During the piloting process last year, we received 58 datasets from 35 growers for 18 crops across 8 states. The process of getting direct feedback from growers was extremely valuable. SISC used this feedback to hone the data inputs required for metrics and to identify a smaller number of metrics deemed by the SISC Coordinating Council to be the most complete and of greatest utility to growers. A strict data confidentiality policy and non-disclosure agreement was used to protect the confidentiality of growers' data.

SISC will continue to develop and pilot other sustainability metrics to be added to the SISC Metrics as appropriate. The current suite of metrics is intended for use in wide scale piloting, to learn more about the utility and practicality of the metrics, and to collect enough data that we can test assumptions about the value of sharing anonymized, aggregated data with the pilot participants for the purpose of peer-to-peer learning and benchmarking.

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Acknowledgement of the contributors listed here does not signify their endorsement or approval of the SISC Metrics, Calculator or Guide.