

Food Security Sensitive Management

A Stepwise Approach



Progressively working towards the fulfilment of human rights due diligence

The Food Security Standard (FSS) aims to reduce food insecurity in agricultural production and provides a practical instrument to demonstrate that human rights, in particular the “Right to Food”, are respected by agricultural producers for farm workers, smallholder farmers and communities. To fulfill the “Right to Food” and to achieve FSS certification, all criteria need to be complied with. However, complying with all requirements at once can be challenging for a farm and may take more time to achieve full compliance.

In these situations, the FSS offers an alternative path: Food Security Sensitive Management (FOSSEM).

FOSSEM is designed for farms that are not yet certified or cannot yet fully meet social sustainability requirements because they may be in a challenging context. It offers a step-by-step and customizable approach to implementing human rights due diligence requirements and can lead to full certification.

In the context of current due diligence legislation, it can be used as evidence to show companies’ commitment of corporate social responsibility at production level and their duty of care. It serves primarily as a tool for strengthening management structures that build on social sustainability requirements.



FOSSEM Benefits



Continuous improvement



Demonstrate HRDD commitment from the very first action

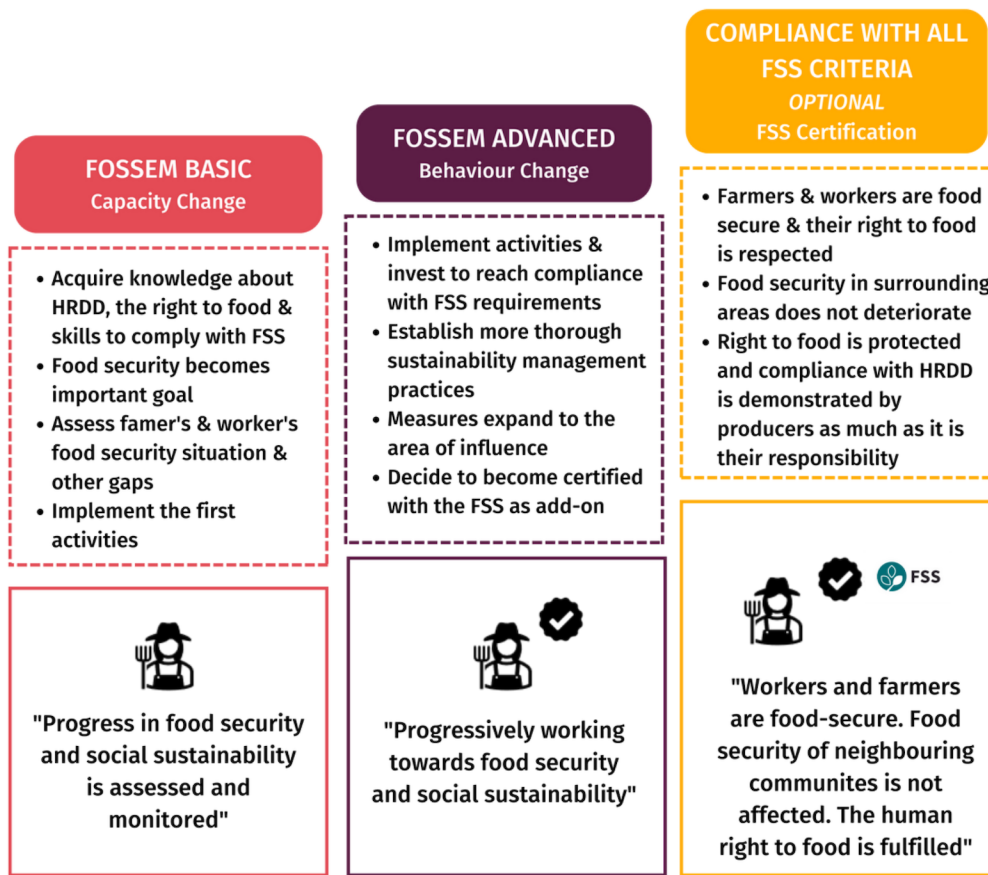


Identification and prioritization of risks



Tailored action plans

Creating impact with a food security sensitive management structure



FOSSEM is implemented in two levels

FOSSEM is built upon the criteria of the Food Security Standard (FSS). These criteria are derived from the FAO guidelines on the right to food, encompassing 17 principles, an 35 criteria that offer clear guidance for achieving food security. In contrast to FSS certification, FOSSEM is a two-step approach for continuous improvement that should gradually lead to compliance with all FSS criteria.

FOSSEM Basic

FOSSEM Basic focuses on determining the status quo, is intended to address criteria that can be met in the short term and monitors progress through self-assessment (or higher). The farm management is free to choose the indicator that they would like to put effort in, however the goal of this level is to achieve 60% compliance of FOSSEM to be able to move to FOSSEM Advanced after a maximum of 3 years.

FOSSEM Advanced

FOSSEM Advanced is the second level and intends to address criteria that can be achieved medium to long term. The ultimate goal of FOSSEM Advanced is to achieve compliance with all 96 FOSSEM indicators. An external assessor should verify the FOSSEM indicator compliance at this stage. Typically, after three years in the FOSSEM Advanced stage, a farm can proceed to acquire FSS certification, however, this is not mandatory.