

6.7 Factsheet Bonsucro

This factsheet aims to provide accessible and factual information on the Bonsucro certification scheme. This factsheet presents the actual status of the scheme in March 2023. For more detailed information on the system, the reader may visit the website of the certification scheme or contact the scheme owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this factsheet is for informational purpose only and cannot be used in replacement of the official Bonsucro standards and procedures

Table 15 Factsheet Bonsucro

Scheme Feature	Description
General	
Name of scheme	Bonsucro (formerly called Better Sugarcane Initiative (BSI))
Scheme owner	Bonsucro is the leading global sustainability platform and standard for sugarcane, one of the world's most important crops. Its purpose is to collectively accelerate the sustainable production and use of sugarcane. Bonsucro convenes over 300 members from more than 50 countries to address critical challenges in the sugarcane sector and drive both performance and impact through its system of sustainability standards. The organisation works across all sugarcane products and derivatives – sugar, ethanol, molasses, and bagasse in traditional and newer market sectors, from sugar and alcohol to biofuels and bioplastics.
Website	https://bonsucro.com/
Label provided	
Operational since	2009
Number of active certificates	235 certified entities Can be consulted at https://bonsucro.com/certified-members-3/
Standard ownership	Private
General objective	The purpose of Bonsucro is "to collectively accelerate the sustainable production and uses of sugarcane".
Scope	
Biomass feedstock coverage	Specific type of feedstock - Sugarcane
Sector/Product group coverage	Bonsucro standard covers all sugarcane products and derivatives – sugar, ethanol, molasses, and bagasse in traditional and newer market sectors, from sugar and alcohol to biofuels and bioplastics.
Supply chain coverage	Bonsucro standard covers production, processing and trade around the world.
Geographic focus of the standard	Global
Governance, Standard Development and Certification Requirements	
Scheme governance	Bonsucro is governed by a Board of Directors, who are the Legal Members of Bonsucro. The Board exercises ultimate responsibility for Bonsucro, while delegating the day-to-day responsibility for managing the organisation to the CEO and Secretariat team. The Board of Directors delegates responsibility to specific Committees (e.g., Finance & Risk Committee; Governance and Nominations Committee; Human Resources and remuneration Committee), Technical Advisory Board and ad hoc task groups to support in its work. The Members' Council (MC) has been

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	created as the representative body for Bonsucro members. The Chair and Vice Chair of the MC both also sit on the Board of Directors and so can ensure a cross flow of information and views between the bodies
Standard documents	Bonsucro Certification system consists of standards, Guidance for implementation and the Bonsucro Certification Protocol. There are three standards for Bonsucro certification– two on the production side of the supply chain, the Production standard and Production Standard for smallholders, and one on the trading side of the supply chain, the Chain of Custody standard. Also, there is the EU RED standard. Bonsucro has a library of tools and documents on its website: https://bonsucro.com/certification-tools/ and https://bonsucro.com/tools-and-resources/
Transparency and accessibility of standard documents	Transparency through freely accessible Bonsucro standard documents and information is available in different languages as English, Portuguese and Spanish predominantly (https://bonsucro.com/public-qms-library/).
Multi-stakeholder participation in standard development	Bonsucro is a multi-stakeholder non-profit organization and supports over 300 members in over 50 countries, from all elements of the sugarcane supply chain, including farmers, millers, traders, buyers and support organizations.
Compliance with ISEAL's Standards-Setting, Impacts and Assurance Codes of Good Practice	Bonsucro is ISEAL Code Compliant member of ISEAL alliance. The system has been independently evaluated against ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice.
Compliance with regional, national, international laws	Ensured by Principle 1. Indicator 1.3.1 The operator has a system in place to promote compliance with all applicable local, national, and ratified international laws and regulations.
Reference to standards and policies	General requirements for Bonsucro certification system are in line with ISO 17065:2012 and Certification bodies audit personnel shall follow guidelines included in ISO19011:2011. The scope of the Bonsucro Certification System can be with or without compliance with the EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED), its similar provisions in the EU Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) and their amendments as per Directive 2015/1513. As such, the Bonsucro Certification System makes a distinction between: 1. Compliance with Bonsucro requirements 2. Compliance with Bonsucro EU requirements: Bonsucro requirements plus additional requirements that are needed for EU RED compliance.
Obligation for certification	The Bonsucro Certification System is applicable to sugarcane farms, sugarcane mills, sugarcane Smallholders farmers and operators in the supply chain. The standard applies to any economic operator wishing to sell or buy sugarcane and sugarcane derived products as Bonsucro certified and make related claims. Retailers and distributors of finished products do not need certification.
Certification process	There are 7 steps to achieve a Bonsucro certification: Step 1. Initial contact, Step 2. Download documents & tools, Step 3. Establish certification team and define scope of certification, Step 4. Increase capacity and attend training, Step 5. Perform gap analysis, Step 6. Establish roadmap to certification, Step 6. Schedule a pre-audit or full audit: Contract a Bonsucro Licensed Certification Body to carry out an audit of the mill and farms), Step 7. Schedule a pre-audit or full audit: Achieve Bonsucro certification and start selling Bonsucro certified products and communicating to your stakeholders your achievement on product claims and credit trading.
Traceability and Chain of custody	Bonsucro follows a mass balance approach for tracing Bonsucro certified claims in the supply chain. Further information is provided in Bonsucro Mass Balance Chain of Custody Standard Version 5.1
Verification of compliance	The verification of compliance with the Bonsucro requirements as well as the issuance of certificates are performed by recognised third-party certification bodies that hold valid License Agreements with Bonsucro.
Accreditation of Certification Bodies	The CB shall be accredited or comply with ISO 17065. Part A of the Bonsucro Certification Protocol v5.1 sets out the process and procedures that a certification body (CB) shall follow to obtain accreditation from Bonsucro to carry out audits against the Bonsucro Production and Mass Balance Chain of Custody Standards and there is the Bonsucro Accreditation and Oversight Procedure that sets the CB monitoring process.
Training of auditors and staff and qualification and evaluation of competencies	Accredited CBs shall be responsible for attending CB training when necessary, and as requested by Bonsucro, and remaining up to date with Bonsucro requirements. Technical managers and Lead Auditors are required to pass a Bonsucro exam in order to receive a certificate to be able to qualify.
Audit process	Audits are carried out by licenced third-party certification bodies. Bonsucro certificates are issued following a successful audit during which the certification body verifies the compliance with all applicable Bonsucro requirements.
Frequency of audit	After the initial audit, the CB shall carry out audits following a three (3) year certification cycle. Two (2) surveillance audits, in a 12-month period, shall be carried out during the certification cycle before the next re-certification audit.
Internal audit	The operator ensures that internal monitoring processes are conducted, corrective actions implemented & management review conducted
Certification claims and labels	For public communication the operator shall comply with the logo use requirements as set out in Bonsucro Claim and Labelling Rules and License Agreement (https://bonsucro.com/claims/).

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Sanctions, non-conformities and suspension	After each audit (i.e., initial, surveillance and re-certification), the economic operator receives a compliance audit report from the Certification Body identifying the nonconformities any agreed corrective actions and deadline for implementation/verification. NCs are graded according to indicator 18. Conformity Level Grading of the Certification Protocol v6, and the deadlines and issuance of certificate are set according to Table 9: Corrective action plans management from the Certification Protocol v6. The economic operator must correct all NCs on Core indicator before certification decision either for Systemic or Incidental NC. For non-core indicator, must correct at least a required number of NCs to meet the pass rate to receive a certificate. Suspensions and withdraw follows the indicators 23. Suspension and Withdrawal from the Certification Protocol v6.
Complaint and appeal mechanisms	Bonsucro has a publicly available Grievance Mechanism, specifying the procedure to follow to submit a complaint. Additionally, Bonsucro offers the possibility for stakeholders to report on the actions of a Bonsucro certificate holder or of a Bonsucro licensed certification body. https://bonsucro.com/complaints-and-grievances/
Guarantee smallholder inclusiveness of the standard	To widen access to certification, Bonsucro launched the Production Standard for Smallholder Farmers in 2018. It is based on the rigorous Production Standard but has been adapted to facilitate collecting data on a much smaller scale to ensure the cost for implementation is lower and inclusive.
Promote continuous improvement	A standard review process takes place at least every five years. The standard distinguished between core and non-core indicators. For certified companies the standard requires conformity with Principle 3 Criterion 3.1 To monitor production and process efficiency; to measure the impacts of production and processing so that improvements are made over time.
Assurance of quality	The CB is responsible for developing and implementing a documented quality management system reflecting all Bonsucro requirements, supporting the audit team with requirements interpretation. Additionally, Bonsucro requires certified companies to operate a quality management system to ensure and demonstrate the correct implementation and maintenance of Bonsucro Standard(s).
Impact assessment	In 2021, Bonsucro launched its new five-year strategic plan, Changing for Good. It presents how Bonsucro will grow and provide a stronger and more specific focus on climate action and human rights. It also sets out plans to develop an impact fund, support more smallholder farmers, and improve use of data and digitisation. Bonsucro Outcome Reports are publicly available on the website and published every year.
Risk management	For companies wishing to get certified certification body carries out a risk to be included in the audit report. For certified companies the standard requires conformity with Principle 1 Criterion 1.1. Leadership demonstrated through enactment of commitment, context analysis, stakeholder mapping & risk assessments
Cost of certification	No explicit and general information is available for the costs of the whole certification process. To achieve certification with the Bonsucro Standards, companies must be members of Bonsucro. Fees for Bonsucro membership are payable annually and differ depending on the nature of the business. Membership fees can be found at: https://bonsucro.com/join-the-network-2/
Sustainability Principles and Criteria Reference Document	The “Bonsucro Production Standard” defines principles and criteria for certification for achieving sustainable production of sugarcane and all sugarcane derived products in respect of economic, social and environmental dimensions. The Standard is used by Bonsucro members who wish to achieve certification. It is also used by Licensed Certification Bodies and auditors when carrying out certification audits. The current Production Standard is the version 5.1 that is under an interim revision for version 5.2; and the previous version 4.2 that is also in force until December 2023.
Major Must and Minor Must	The Bonsucro Production Standard has two different types of indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core indicators: which must be complied with. These are identified with the term 'Core' in the column “scope” throughout the Standard. • Non-core indicators: which must be complied with in line with the certification decision section of the Bonsucro Certification Protocol V6
Environmental	
Reduce GHG emissions	Principle 3.2 to monitor global warming emissions with a view to minimising climate change impacts. Available the Bonsucro Calculator providing certified operations with an effective tool to assess and take action on their GHG emissions.
Protection of land with high carbon stock	Principle 4 indicator 4.1.3 The operator ensures that no areas of natural ecosystems defined internationally or nationally as legally protected has been converted to agriculture on or after 1st of January 2008
Protection of peatland	Principle 4 indicator 4.1.3 The operator ensures that no areas of natural ecosystems defined internationally or nationally as legally protected has been converted to agriculture on or after 1st of January 2008
Promote sustainable forest management	n/a

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Protection of land with a high biodiversity value	Principle 4 criterion 4.1 To protect and rehabilitate biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as maintaining and enhancing high conservation values (HCVs), indicator 4.1.5 – The operator ensures that cane expansion is from non-HCV areas following certification.
Restoration, preservation and strengthening of biodiversity	Implicitly covered in Principle 4 indicator 4.1.2 The operator develops and implements a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)
Sustainable use of water	Principle 4 criterion 4.3 Water Stewardship Plan in place.
Maintaining and enhancing water quality	Principle 4 criterion 4.3 Water Stewardship Plan in place, indicator 4.3.6 The operator minimises detrimental effects of waste discharge
Maintaining and enhancing soil quality and productivity	Principle 4 criterion 4.2 Soil Management Plan in place to avoid erosion and maintain and improve soil health
Soil quality consideration for use of residual flows	n/a
Prohibition on the use of hazardous/toxic chemicals	Principle 4 indicator 4.4.4 The operator only applies legal & safe agrochemicals
Implement best practices for the use of (agro)chemicals	Principle 4 criterion 4.4 Pest, Disease and Weed Management Plans in place and criterion 4.5 To ensure hazardous chemicals and materials do not negatively impact biodiversity and ecosystem services
Restrict air pollution, promote good air quality	Principle 5 criterion 5.2 To reduce emissions and effluents. Indicator 5.2.1 The operator comply with point source air emissions legislation.
Limit the risk of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC)	No specific criterion. It is indicated in the standard that ILUC is difficult to estimate.
Circularity	
Promote waste reduction and responsible waste management	Principle 5 Criterion 5.2 To reduce emissions and effluents. To promote recycling of waste streams where practical
Raw material efficiency	Principle 3 Criterion 3.1 To monitor production and process efficiency; to measure the impacts of production and processing so that improvements are made over time
Efficient use of energy	Principle 3 indicator 3.2.5 3.2.5 The Operator maximises the energy return on energy invested
Promote use of renewable sources	Not explicitly covered
Promote material circularity	n/a
Social	
Compliance with labour rights	Principle 2. Criterion 2.3 To respect workers right to favourable working conditions, and 2.4 To safeguard respect for labour rights through functioning social dialogue mechanisms
Respect wellbeing of workers	Principle 2. Criterion 2.1 To provide a safe and healthy working environment in workplace operations, Criterion 2.2 To provide all workers (including migrant, seasonal and other contract labour) with benefits and salary sufficient to achieve an adequate standard of living, Criterion 5.3 To train workers and other workers in all areas of their work and develop their general skills, and Criterion 5.4 Continuous improvement of worker welfare
Respect property and usage rights	Principle 2. Criterion 2.5 Use of land and water resources does not diminish the legal, customary or user rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
Respect wellbeing of the local population	Implicitly covered by Indicator 1.2.3 The operator conducts and documents an improvement opportunity assessment outside the unit of certification (that identifies opportunities to address adverse social and environmental conditions)
Food security	Not explicitly covered
Economic	
Financial and economic viability	Principle 5. Criterion 5.1 To promote economic and social sustainability.
Fair business practices, Integrity	Criterion 1.1.1 The operator develops and implements sustainability policies, which covers anti-corruption, anti-bribery
Promote local development, Inclusive economic growth	Implicitly covered by Criterion 1.2.4 The operator develops and implements a continuous improvement plan to address the salient opportunities identified outside the unit of certification (defines and prioritises actions the operator shall take to narrow environmental and social gaps between certification area and supplier area)

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Use of knowledge and technology	Implicitly covered by Criterion 3.1 To monitor production and process efficiency; to measure the impacts of production and processing so that improvements are made over time
Fair trade and market practices	No specific criterion.
Risk assessment and management	Principle 1. Criterion 1.2.2 The operator conducts a risk analysis on compliance against the Bonsucro Production Standard

Date completed: 20 March 2023

Sources:

- Bonsucro website <https://bonsucro.com/> (Last visited: 19 March 2023)
- Bonsucro library of tools and documents <https://bonsucro.com/certification-tools/> (Last visited: 19 March 2023)