



Putting the Food Security Standard to Test

The Food Security Standard (FSS) takes up the Human Right to Adequate Food as a new building block for sustainability standards and certification schemes. However, it has not yet been implemented and tested in food insecure regions. Aim of the **FSS | Project** is to implement, test and complement the existing set of criteria in food insecure regions. This will be done by a Multi-Stakeholder approach and lead to the completion of a range of hands-on implementation tools for sustainability standards.

International demand for agricultural commodities is steadily growing due to a rising consumption for food, feedstuff, energy and material use. In view to avoid any concurrence between local food security and agri-exports, the EU and the German federal government grant the primacy of food security above all other biomass uses in their bioeconomy strategies. However, until now, even in most certified biomass production schemes, there are no criteria and verification instruments regarding food security. Starting mid-2017, WWF, WHH and ZEF will bring together their expertise to address these issues and provide hands-on solutions within the next 3 years.

The Food Security Standard (FSS) takes up the Right to Food as a new building block for sustainability standards and certification schemes. It provides practicable and measurable criteria for all kind of traded agricultural and forestry-based products independent of their later use. The FSS represents a best-practice set to ensure that the Right to Food is not violated at local level when producing and trading certified biomass.

The FSS, however, has not yet been tested in food insecure regions. Aim of the **FSS | Project** is to implement and complement the recently developed rights-based food security criteria in food insecure regions in Africa, Latin-America and Asia. In each pilot region, the project will be accompanied and analyzed by a representative stakeholder group (scientists, certification bodies, companies, civil society organizations, governmental representatives, worker groups etc.). Field experience will be gained

in smallholder as well as in large scale agricultural settings. The experiences derived from this test phase will lead to a consolidation of the set of criteria and indicators and be integrated in a comprehensive auditor handbook and training materials.

The project comprises four main working areas:

1. Field testing and implementation of the food security criteria in existing sustainability standards for biomass.
2. Scientific accompanying research and development of assessment tools.
3. Integration of the FSS in existing sustainability standards for biomass, development of audit tools and training curricula.
4. Increase the awareness level of the relevance of the FSS for sustainability certification.

Starting with voluntary sustainability standards and certification systems, the elaborated Food Security Standard can gradually be adapted and implemented in national legislation. In the long term, this allows production and trade of certified biomass to contribute to local food security.

Further reading

Mohr, A. et al. (2016). Food security criteria for voluntary biomass sustainability standards and certifications. In: Biomass & Bioenergy. 89: 133-145.
www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S096195341630040X

FSS | PROJECT

an initiative of Welthungerhilfe, WWF and ZEF
 Email: FSS@welthungerhilfe.de
 May 2017

With support from



by decision of the
 German Bundestag