



News Release

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Foundation Skylark adopts SAI Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment; SAI Platform supports Skylark's unique farmer engagement approach

SAI Platform and Foundation Skylark have been collaborating for years. The two organizations share the same goal of promoting sustainable agriculture. They have organized joint workshops and field visits and exchange ideas and tools.

This summer, the Skylark approach was benchmarked against the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) of SAI Platform. The outcome was 'equivalent to FSA Silver', which combined with some additional measures can result in 'equivalent to FSA Gold'.

To further strengthen their ties, the two organizations agreed to take their collaboration a step further by leveraging their complementary benefits. "We see the unique farmer engagement model of Skylark as one of the leading ways for farmers to take ownership of critical aspects of their farms' future", says Peter Erik Ywema (General Manager of SAI Platform). "We recognize Farm Sustainability Assessment of SAI Platform as an excellent tool for farmers to assess and continuously improve their on-farm sustainability performance, and to communicate compliance with market requirements", adds Henk Heinhuis (Director of Foundation Skylark).

FSA expresses the views and expectations of a large and rapidly growing group of buyers of crops on how to encourage and improve responsible agricultural practices in their supply chains. It thereby provides an easy and effective way for growers to assess and communicate their sustainability work to customers. SAI Platform ensures that this one tool serves many buyers, meaning avoiding duplication of efforts for growers in costly and time-consuming audits and certifications.

The Skylark model helps growers to learn from their peers. It allows farmers to prioritize and develop actions based on their own vision of their farm, capabilities and local needs. This approach proves to be successful in achieving results. "Combining the FSA and Skylark approaches is a strong model for innovation, learning, assessing and communicating the positive work by people who grow our food", confirm Ywema and Heinhuis.



About SAI Platform

The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform is the global industry initiative helping food and drink companies to source sustainably grown agricultural raw materials and achieve sustainable production.

www.saiplatform.org

About Foundation Skylark

The Skylark Foundation stimulates arable farmers and food processors in their joint effort to improve sustainable arable farming. To enable this, the specific Skylark methodology is developed. This methodology supports every farmer, with support of colleagues and advisors, to write and realise his own sustainability plan. Experience and actively exchange of information are keywords.

<http://www.veldleeuwerik.nl/>

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