



Our Planet... Our People... Our Profits... a total sustainability approach.

Further information on SAI Platform Australia has been prepared for new visitors in a 'Questions and Answers' format below.

Direct enquiries on membership and the Platform are most welcome and can be made to Dr Selwyn Heilbron (telephone: 03 9249 9542; mobile 0418 548 099).



### Why has the SAI Platform been established?

**All parts** of the agriculture and food industry value chain **have a vital interest** in the sustainability of agricultural production.

The food industry relies on **long term supply** of agricultural materials for its business. The agribusiness industry relies on a successful agricultural industry as a market for its products and services.

However damage to natural resources and the problems faced by rural communities **affect agricultural productivity and the supply** of agricultural raw materials.

These also affect **consumer confidence** in the entire food chain.

It is for these reasons that founding members have initiated programs for sustainable agriculture **within their own companies**.

However they believe a common food and agricultural industry platform can promote sustainable agriculture on a wider and even global scale. For this reason SAI has been established by some of the **leading food companies in the world** and has now spread internationally to Australia.

### What are the features of the SAI?

SAI is an **action-oriented** initiative for those who wish to play an active role in the development, recognition and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.

The scope of SAI is the growing/production of commodities, which members address together in a **pre-competitive** manner.

SAI has an **inclusive** approach and aims to involve all key stakeholders in the food chain.

It undertakes **voluntary** activities that enhance sustainability.

### Why is the Australian Chapter of SAI being established?

The overall aim of the SAI initiative is the development of sustainable agricultural practices worldwide. **Australia is a key participant in the global agricultural system** and it is therefore natural for SAI to have its activities reach Australia.

Australian agriculture also has a vital interest in developing sustainable practices and **SAI can contribute in practical ways** to such practices.

### Who can be involved in the Australian SAI chapter?

**All agriculture and food industry participants** who agree with the principles of SAI Australian Chapter and are committed to supporting sustainable agricultural practices within their field of business are welcome to join the SAI Australian Chapter. This is a broader group that is the case for SAI Platform, which is limited to food companies.

SAI also encourages other stakeholders interested in sustainable agriculture to **participate** in its various activities.

### What will the Australian SAI Chapter's activities be?

The SAI Australian Chapter's main work will consist of initiating a series of **working groups** composed of active Australian Chapter members and aimed at developing sustainable agricultural practices along the three pillars of sustainability - economic, social and environmental.

The general framework for working groups revolves around three key **activities**:

- 1) Development of documents: mission statement, principles and practices, and indicators for sustainability
- 2) Stakeholder consultation and
- 3) Pilot testing and roll-out under the responsibility of companies.

SAI also keeps track of sustainable agricultural developments and ensures their **communication** to members and interested parties through its website, newsletter, meetings etc.

### What role will farmers play in the activities?

SAI recognises the importance of working together with the stakeholders of the food chain towards the development of sustainable agriculture.

In concrete terms it will regularly exchange views and information with a wide range of stakeholders notably at meetings as well as with commodity specific working groups etc.

In particular, **farmers' involvement and support are critical** to the successful design and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices. SAI strongly encourages all interested stakeholders - including producers and consumers associations, governments, non-governmental and other groups to actively participate in its ventures.

### Is the Australian SAI chapter a lobbying organisation?

SAI is not a lobbying organisation. Its only purpose is to promote continuous improvement processes and practices that will achieve a sustainable agriculture. It may provide technical input to trade and policy-oriented groups in order to stimulate the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

### What are the benefits of becoming a member of SAI Australian chapter?

**Knowledge sharing** - the members of SAI working together on a pre-competitive basis enables the sharing of knowledge and gaining of insight into the practical experiences of other members and stakeholders. It also helps members to learn from the various working groups and addresses cross-cutting issues related to sustainable agriculture.

**Credibility and acceptance** - guidelines may be developed on a voluntary basis in consultation with stakeholders consequently reinforcing their credibility and acceptance. Being a member can thus also help a participant communicate with and gain credit from a wide range of stakeholders.

**Relationships** - solid relationships with key stakeholders notably enable development of partnerships to facilitate sustainable agriculture.

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