



DONUTSS – Ghent

Frank de Ruijter (frank.deruijter@wur.nl)

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About The Sustainability Consortium (TSC)

Enabling the consumer goods industry to provide more sustainable products



- A multi-stakeholder non-profit organization
- Translate scientific information into business practice
- Mission: to design and implement measurement and reporting systems
 - credible, transparent and scalable, science-based
 - accessible for all producers, retailers, and users of consumer products
- A global organization, with offices in the United States, Europe and China
- >100 Members and 1000s of users worldwide





www.sustainabilityconsortium.org/members/ (March 2015)



Why do we need data on nutrients?

- The Sustainability Consortium informs decision makers on product sustainability throughout the entire product life cycle across all sectors
- Nutrients (N and P) are responsible for environmental hotspots in many product categories (mainly agriculture)
- Communication on sustainability within the supply chain (retail ⇔ suppliers) using Key Performance Indicators (preferably quantitative indicators)
 - Progress over time
 - Benchmarking



Which data do we need?

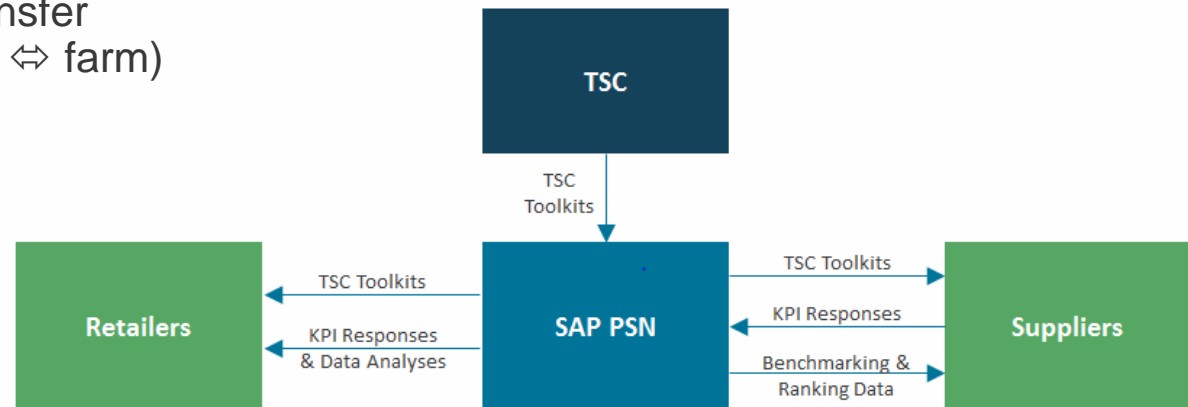
- Indicator requirements:
 - measurable (outcome oriented, preferably quantitative)
 - differentiating
 - actionable
- Indicators are product based
- For agricultural products and nutrients this requires farm data
- Data per crop
- Current indicators for nitrogen and phosphorus:
 - aligned with Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC)
 - Nitrogen use intensity:
 - kg N / metric tonne of crop harvested
 - Phosphorus use:
 - $(\text{kg P added} - \text{kg P recommended}) / \text{metric tonne of crop harvested}$
 - difference between P applied and P recommended based on soil P tests



What is currently missing?

Current:

- Recommended phosphorus application based on soil test (or the test result: soil P status) are not registered in record keeping software
- Systems for easy data transfer are lacking (retail supplier ↔ farm)



Future:

Current indicator is based on agronomic recommendations.

Aim is reduction of eutrophication and resource depletion.

Improved indicators may be adopted, requiring more/other data:

- **Eutrophication:** risk of P transfer into water bodies
e.g. Water Quality Index based on rainfall, slope, soil type, soil cover, OM%, tillage, irrigation, conservation practices, fertilization
- **Resource depletion:** use of recovered P
choice of fertilizer types





THE SUSTAINABILITY CONSORTIUM

The Sustainability Consortium® is jointly administered by
Arizona State University and University of Arkansas with additional
operations at Wageningen University and Nanjing University.

