

THE SELF-ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (SAS)

A TOOL TO FACILITATE THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND COMPETITIVITY OF YOUR BUSINESS

WHO IS IT FOR?

- Growers
- Companies
- Cooperatives and farmer groups producing and supplying fruit and vegetables in ACP countries

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THE SAS?

The SAS is a business management tool to:

- Identify opportunities to be more competitive & resilient
- Create a road map for continuous improvement in food safety, social, environmental and business practices
- Assess business performance on an ongoing basis
- Meet customer sustainability requirements and evidence good practice

THROUGH THE FIT FOR MARKET PROGRAMME, COLEACP IS USING THE SAS TO

- Tailor technical assistance according to the needs and opportunities identified
- Conduct follow-up assessments to monitor and adjust support
- Set baselines, assess progress and evaluate impact

WHAT IS THE SAS?

The assessment consists of two sections, each of which is framed around the COLEACP Sustainability Charter:

1

The checklist – a set of questions on sustainability practices designed to guide businesses so that they comply with the law, meet buyer expectations, and improve social, environmental and business practices

2

Metrics – measures designed to help businesses track costs & revenues, identify areas for improvement, strengthen business planning

In both the checklist and metrics, there is guidance to clarify and explain the questions.



HOW THE SAS FITS INTO THE FIT FOR MARKET PROGRAMME

1. The process begins after producers, cooperatives or companies submit a request to COLEACP for support under the Programme.
2. Applicants are required to complete the SAS as an integral part of Fit for Market. The first time they complete an assessment, businesses are advised to have the support of a COLEACP trained consultant.
3. Completing the checklist and metrics allows COLEACP to work with applicants to set a baseline for their business and identify gaps and opportunities. The outcome of the assessment helps to guide the action plan for Programme support.
4. When a business submits a new assessment, they will first receive a pdf with their responses. COLEACP will then provide a report summarising the key findings, highlighting where businesses are doing well, and areas for improvement, and giving calculations of sustainability key performance indicators. Businesses can also request a dashboard with their SAS results if they wish to communicate their sustainability highlights and KPIs externally, for example with clients/investors/donors.
5. Businesses are advised to complete the SAS every year to build their profile, assess progress, and demonstrate improvement in KPIs. It also allows their Fit for Market action plan to be adjusted and evaluated as the support programme is rolled out.