January 23, 2009

The Standards Committee for the Sustainable Agriculture Standard and Leonardo Academy are seeking your participation in the efforts to define the underlying mission and scope of this standard development process.

At its September 25-6, 2008 meeting in Madison, WI, the Committee agreed to set aside the SCS-001 draft standard in the interest of coming together and working toward a common goal for agricultural sustainability. The draft standard was set aside as one of many reference documents that will be considered in the further development of a sustainable agriculture standard. As part of that decision, the Committee authorized the formation of six Task Forces to chart the process that will be used in the development of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard.

An important part of the Task Force work, and the standard writing process itself, is that it is as inclusive and transparent as possible. As such, the Task Forces will be made up of both Standards Committee members and Observers to the standard development process. Individuals participating in the Task Forces—whether Committee members or Observers—will have the opportunity to interact fully on all aspects of the work being undertaken. If you are interested in the process to create a national sustainable agriculture standard, we urge you to participate.

There are six Task Forces for you to consider joining:

- **Needs Assessment:** Reporting on current data about the value, market demand, need and potential uses for a Sustainable Agriculture Standard
- **Mission & Principles:** Reviewing and refining the mission, vision, principles, and scope of the committee and standard
- **Reference Documents:** Gathering, cataloguing, and comparing all relevant standards and documents
- **Metrics & Methodology:** Collecting and reporting on current state of measurement tools and indicators for improving environmental, social and economic sustainability
- **Funding:** Identifying and seeking funds to support full stakeholder participation in the process

A charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit Think and Do Tank working to advance sustainability.
**Outreach:** Identifying additional stakeholders and groups to be engaged in and kept informed of this standard development process

Your input on the issues being addressed by the Task Forces is valued. Getting engaged in this work will provide you an important opportunity to weigh in on these subjects. The findings and recommendations from the Task Force efforts will be reported, reviewed and voted on by the full Committee in May 2009.

The Task Forces are operational, but we will continue to seek stakeholder involvement until each Task Force completes its work for submission to the Standards Committee. To participate in one or more of these Task Forces, please contact Amanda Raster of the Leonardo Academy [amanda@leonardoacademy.org].

Your involvement will also be important as we develop subcommittees that will work on developing specific criteria for inclusion in the standards document. Subcommittees will begin to form after the Standards Committee meeting in May. We will be in touch with further details at that time.

Thank you,

Members of the Outreach Task Force
Michael Arny, Leonardo Academy
Amanda Raster, Leonardo Academy