



April 1, 2008

To: All Parties and Stakeholders Interested in the Development of an American National Standard for Sustainable Agriculture Practice

From: Michael Arny, President, Leonardo Academy

Subject: Extension of Standards Committee application deadline to May 23, 2008
Reminder of what the draft standard is about
Call for Standards Committee applications

Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in the development of the Sustainable Agriculture Practice Draft American National Standard for Trial Use (SCS-001). We truly appreciate the time you have taken to learn more about the draft standard and to participate in our outreach efforts to spread awareness of this standard development process.

After national meetings in Berkeley, California and Arlington, Virginia and three national teleconferences to inform interested parties about this standard development process, we have gathered a list of nearly 1100 parties and/or stakeholders interested in the development process. This list is continually growing.

In fact, so much interest has been raised in the development of an American national standard for sustainable agriculture practice that we have extended the deadline for applications to participate on the Standards Committee and/or supporting subcommittees to May 23, 2008. This extension is being implemented based on numerous requests to allow time for additional stakeholders to get up to speed and submit their applications.

Purpose of Developing a Standard for Sustainable Agriculture Practice

The Sustainable Agriculture Practice Standard is being developed in response to rising interest in practicing, defining, standardizing, and certifying sustainable agriculture. Establishing a national standard for sustainable agriculture practices has the opportunity to serve many purposes, including:

- Defining sustainability practices and indicators throughout the supply chain on a life-cycle basis
- Distinguishing best practices in crop production and handling
- Guiding producers and handlers through stages of incremental improvement
- Providing a common set of metrics to gauge sustainability progress—whether in a private supply chain, an industry sector, or on a state/regional/national scale
- Setting a reference benchmark for private sustainability efforts

All interested stakeholders have a role to play in shaping the final standard, working within the open consensus process. Within this setting, the standard can be developed and enhanced for the public good.

The Draft American National Standard for Trial Use: Sustainable Agriculture Practice for Food Fiber and Biofuel Crop Producers and Agricultural Product Handlers and Processors (SCS-001)

This draft standard for trial use was announced in the spring of 2007. Within the ANSI process, a draft standard for trial use represents a beginning, not an end. It serves as a starting point from which stakeholder discussions can ensue and is intended to stimulate dialogue on key issues, such as the multiple interpretations of sustainability as it applies



to agriculture, which must be addressed in order to establish a finalized American National Standard for Sustainable Agriculture Practice

The Standards Committee can change any component of the draft standard in the process to establish a final draft standard, which will be subject to public review and comment by other materially affected stakeholders. The Standards Committee will decide how to define sustainable agriculture practices within the scope of this standard, as well as how to address both the general and sector-specific needs of multiple agricultural crop sectors. Ultimately, the Standards Committee will decide what is in the final standard that will be submitted for approval as an American National Standard. For this reason, all interested parties and stakeholders are invited to participate in the development process of this standard by serving on the Standards Committee or a non-voting advisory subcommittee.

Call for Standards Committee Applications

If you have not already submitted your application to participate on the Standards Committee or supporting subcommittees, we encourage you to apply!

Please help us increase awareness about this standard development process among interested parties and stakeholders by forwarding this announcement and the attached press release to anyone you know who may be interested in this standard development process.

For More Information

Please visit the Sustainable Agriculture Practice Draft Standard for Trial Use web page:
<http://www.leonardoacademy.org/Projects/SustainAgStdDevelopment.htm>

Please contact me or Amanda Raster at 608-280-0255 if you have any questions.

Regards,

Michael Arny
President
Leonardo Academy