



Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops

Tools to measure sustainable and regenerative ag outcomes



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Track continual improvement for fruit, nut and vegetable production



What is Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC)?



- SISC is a collaborative metric development organization – focused on creating metrics to measure sustainable and regenerative outcomes **specifically for specialty crops**
- Transparent, multi-stakeholder collaboration that develops and maintains open source metrics to measure sustainable and regenerative outcomes for fruits, nuts and vegetable cropping systems
- SISC is a board made up of a ‘tripartite’ balance of: growers and grower groups, buyers and brands, and environmental NGO’s who collaborate to create science based, data driven metrics to measure on farm sustainability indicators.

Members include:

- NGO’s like World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Sustainable Conservation and The Sustainability Consortium (*Members inc. WM, Costco, Amazon*)
- Grower and Industry Groups like Western Growers Association, IFPA, California Sustainable Winegrowers Alliance, and CA Almond Board
- Growers like Duda Fresh, Del Cabo and Lipman Produce
- And buyers like Campbells, Del Monte, and Smuckers

Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC)



- Transparent, **multi-stakeholder collaboration** that develops and maintains open source metrics to measure sustainability for specialty crops
- **Outcome-focused** for growers to benchmark, compare, and communicate their own sustainability performance
- SISC performance metrics function first as a **grower management tool** and second as mechanism to communicate performance across supply chains
- **A single yardstick** for measuring sustainable outcomes over time, used across the entire specialty crops industry
- SISC metrics can be use both in **North America** and **globally**
- SISC metrics have been developed to **work for both perennial and annual** specialty crops, SISC metrics are **not crop specific**

Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) Metrics



Current Suite of SISC On-Farm Metrics:

1. Energy Use (with GHG translator for on-farm energy footprint)
2. Applied Water Use Efficiency
3. Simple Irrigation Efficiency
4. Habitat and Biodiversity
5. Nitrogen Use
6. Phosphorus Use
7. Food Loss/Waste
8. Soil Health
9. Soil Emissions (GHG footprint for soil emissions on-farm)

Example: SISC Energy Use/GHG Metric



SISC Metric: **Energy Use (with GHG translator for on-farm energy use/GHG footprint)**

- ✓ Captures total on farm energy use and translates to GHG's
- ✓ Growers can use annual whole farm energy use data to respond
- ✓ Electrical is broken down into renewable vs non renewable based on grid mix by location
- ✓ On farm energy generated is taken into account
- ✓ Fuel use has emission factors to GHG by fuel type from Climate Registry protocols for general reporting
- ✓ Results are provided in both total energy use and total associated GHG's
- ✓ Breaks GHG results down into Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions
- ✓ Growers can also use the calculator to allocate energy use/GHG to specific crops for reporting

Read full metric on SISC's website:

https://www.stewardshipindex.org/_files/ugd/917763_5c0d4b21ec8a41d6ae8862697192420b.pdf



What is needed to improve MMRV to best benefit CA agriculture?

1st (& essential): Do Not Create Something Separate/New

1. Refine objectives of California's MMRV work:
 1. Create a clear and concise statement of what the state would like to achieve through MMRV that works for all supply chain partners.
2. Get a very clear overview of ongoing efforts and data needs:
 1. Fully understand the farm/land level data needed by CARB
 2. Get corporations in the room to get a clear picture of the current corporate reporting landscape (which large retailers are asking for what data/results), this should include a clear understanding of the GHG Protocol Land Sector and Removal Guidance.
 3. Get growers in the room to get a clear picture of what data/results would help growers as a management tool, and how they would like to get that information back to help their operation.
3. Finalize what, exactly is being measured:
 1. Use information gathered from CARB, Corporate Reporting requirements, GHG Protocol, and Growers to refine/set standards for measurement and modeling.
 2. Define boundaries and timeframes for measurement and reporting (apples to apples)

What is needed to improve MMRV to best benefit CA agriculture?



4. Identify/design the tools are needed to support reporting:

1. Use the development of reporting processes CA MMRV as a way to simplify/solve the current burden of reporting redundancy falling on growers. In other words, create a solution for reducing reporting redundancy. This will require tech expertise around the table to solve.

5. What technical assistance is needed to help growers with MMRV?

1. Once you know data is needs, standards are set for reporting, and there is a clean and universal reporting process in the works, then look at how to engage technical assistance to support the use of standards/tools. Bring in growers trusted advisors to help solve this.

6. Verification:

1. Identify who will do this and how? Who will pay for it?

7. Compensate growers:

1. This work will fall on growers.
2. Needs to work out economically for growers.
3. Identify ways for how/where will growers will be supported/compensated for this work.
4. This includes brands asking growers for info to report scope 3 over time.