

2017 Press Kit

SCS Global Services / Food and Agriculture





SCS Global Services

Three Decades of Food and Agriculture Expertise

As an independent third-party certifier and standards developer, SCS Global Services has been recognizing exceptional performance in the food and agriculture sector for three decades, providing leading-edge crop production and quality standards, certifications, supply chain verification systems, and strategic brand and policy guidance. Our goal is to reinforce the efforts of growers, food manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in their efforts to ensure that the food and agricultural sector provides the safest, highest quality, and most sustainable products possible to the marketplace. We work with companies, government agencies, and stakeholders worldwide to identify and drive practices, policies and processes that advance the goals of sustainable development and give innovators a competitive advantage.

Working with capable leaders across the forestry, green building, energy, agricultural, fisheries, and consumer products sectors, we proudly provide services in every corner of the earth. These services are enabling policy-makers, procurement officers, company decision-makers and consumers to make informed decisions based on the highest level of environmental, ethical and quality accountability.

SCS is a California Benefit Corporation, reflecting our commitment to socially and environmentally responsible business practices, and 2016 winner of the Acterra Business Environmental Award for Sustainability.

SCS Services for the Food and Agriculture Sector

FOOD SAFETY TRAININGS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND AUDITS

SCS helps producers, brands, and food handlers minimize food safety risk and meet customer expectations through the highest quality auditing, training and testing services. Major retailers and food service providers around the world approve SCS audits and certifications. For more information about our comprehensive food safety services, [download](#) "Choosing the Right Food Safety Program: A Primer on Food Safety Audit and Certification Options."

Food Safety Training and Education

SCS provides public and online courses, interactive webinars, and customized trainings throughout North America, Mexico and Central America to help companies, institutions, and organizations protect their brands, reduce risk, and meet food safety requirements. Participants learn about a wide range of current food safety topics – FSMA Preventive Controls and Produce Safety Rule, GFSI-level certifications, GAP, GDP, GMP, HACCP, and more – and stay abreast of current industry best food safety practices and changes in regulatory and voluntary program requirements.

GLOBALG.A.P.

SCS offers certification to the Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard and Produce Safety Standard (PSS) for primary producers of fruits and vegetables, as well as combinable crops. Suppliers to Costco must complete a Costco Addendum Audit.

Safe Quality Food - SQF

SCS certifies all primary production, manufacturing, processing, transport, storage, distribution, and retail. GFSI-level Harmonized GAP audits within Module 7H are available at no additional charge.

PrimusGFS

SCS certifies farm and packhouse operations under this leading food safety standard, benchmarked to the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and accepted by buyers around the world.

British Retail Consortium - BRC Food Safety

SCS certifies food processing and packing operations in which food is handled, processed, packed, stored or distributed. SCS conducts BRC audits for Issue 7 in all eighteen categories.

Harmonized GAP, GMP, and GDP Audits

SCS audits to the Harmonized GAP checklists for field and post-harvest operations, plus Tomato and Mushroom GAP metrics. We also provide GAP audits with HACCP, as well as extensive GMP and GDP audits.

TESCO Nurture

SCS provides third-party auditing for companies seeking to demonstrate that they meet Tesco's proprietary standards for food safety, quality and environmental protection for fresh fruits and vegetables at the Gold, Silver, or Bronze level.

Food Safety for Seafood

SCS offers seafood product testing, export testing for seafood, seafood HACCP audits, and BRC or SQF certification. Seafood safety certifications can also be combined with MSC and ASC chain-of-custody audits as applicable.

Additional Services

- Food Safety Supply Chain Management and Verification
- Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Validation
- Food Security

SUSTAINABILITY AND ORGANIC CERTIFICATIONS

SCS has been actively working to promote sustainable production practices in the food and agriculture sectors since our founding. Today, we offer a wide range of certifications and services that support the goals of environmental stewardship, worker and community protections, product quality and economic responsibility.

Sustainably Grown

SCS' Sustainably Grown certification provides agricultural producers around the world with a detailed roadmap to satisfy the emerging market for sustainable products. Certified producers are leaders in worker protection, environmental responsibility and product quality. Major retail, food and beverage and manufacturing companies, such as Unilever, recognize Sustainably Grown as part of their sustainable sourcing policies. Sustainably Grown has also been: 1) benchmarked to the Global Social Compliance Programme, 2) recognized under the Sustainability Initiative Fruit and Vegetables (SIFAV) program; and 3) accredited by ANSI.

Organic

SCS is one of the oldest organic certifiers, and was among the first third-party certifiers to be accredited by the USDA under the National Organic Program. For applicants going the extra mile, organic certification can be combined with certification of Non-GMO Project Verified status, GFSI-level food safety, or Sustainably Grown.

Veriflora®

SCS provides Veriflora® certification to producers of cut flowers and ornamental plants, and awards Veriflora® Approved Input Material to products such as peat moss and biodegradable planting containers that support the goals of sustainability in the floriculture and horticulture sectors. The Veriflora label communicates adherence to strong environmental, social and product quality principles and criteria.

Fair Trade USA

SCS is Fair Trade USA's certification partner for auditing companies to Fair Trade USA Standards in agricultural production and small-scale fisheries. Fair Trade Certified™ products give consumers the confidence that every purchase matters through the Fair Trade Premium that directly impacts the farmers, fishers, and workers at the end of the supply chain. Fair Trade certified producers meet rigorous social, environmental and economic standards that promote safe, healthy working conditions, protect the environment, and ensure fair trading practices.

Better Cotton Initiative

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) set standards for growing cotton in a way that reduces stress on the environment and improves the livelihoods and welfare of farming communities. This holistic approach to sustainable cotton production addresses all three pillars of sustainability under six production principles: crop protection, water, soil, habitat, fiber quality, and decent work.



Equitable Food Initiative: Responsibly Grown. Farmworker Assured.

EFI's goal is to cultivate a healthier, safer and more sustainable produce supply chain by combining food safety, pesticide management, and the fair treatment of workers under one certification. EFI's coalition of growers, retailers, unions, NGOs, and consumer rights groups developed the EFI Standards, which include indicators for responsible labor and environmental practices, and increased worker involvement in food safety management. SCS was the first certification body approved to independently audit companies for compliance with the EFI Standards.

Marine Stewardship Council

The MSC program is the most robust certification scheme for wild-capture fisheries in the market. Certification assures buyers that wild-capture fishery conforms to internationally recognized standards for environmental sustainability, and retailers, food companies, and governments are increasingly requiring MSC certification. SCS is among the world's leading MSC and MSC Chain-of-Custody certifiers. MSC Chain-of-Custody can also be combined with HACCP seafood safety inspections.

Aquaculture Stewardship Council

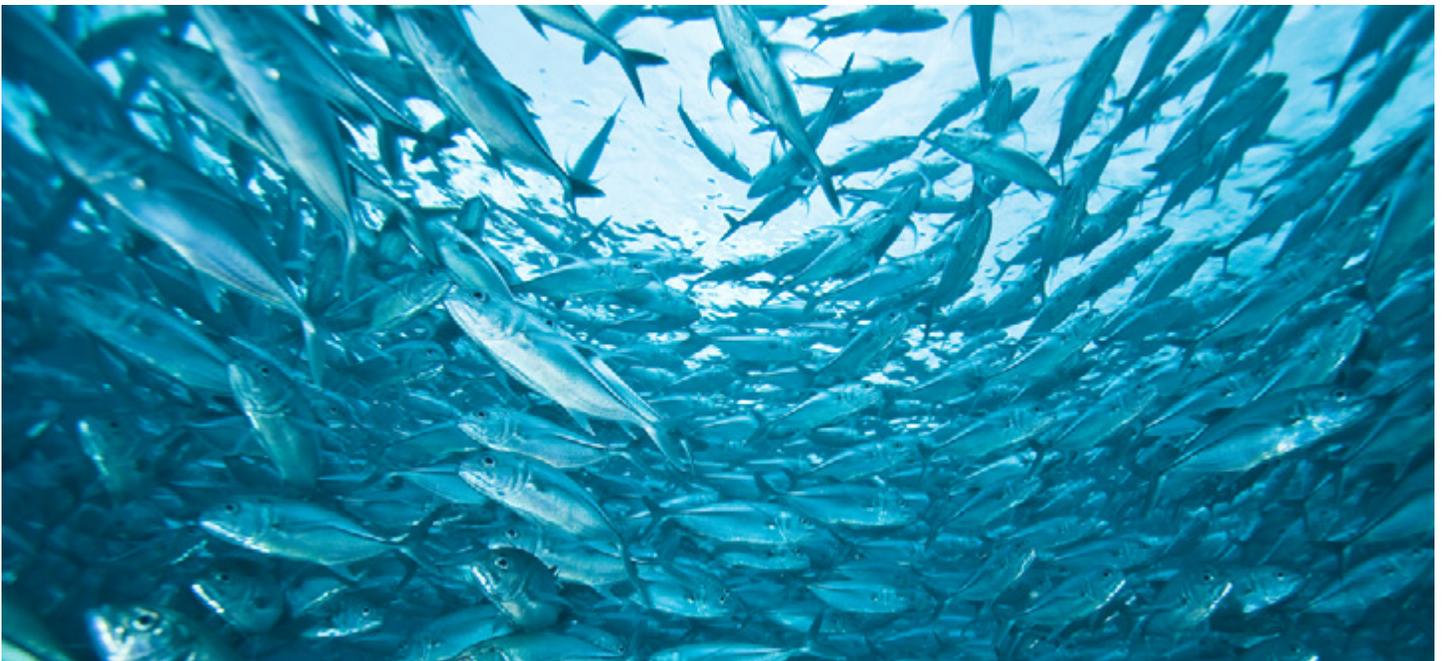
ASC certification assure buyers, retailers and general consumers that aquaculture production conforms to the world's leading standard for responsibly farmed fish and seafood. SCS offers pre-assessments as well as full certification assessments. In addition, SCS can bundle ASC certification with food safety certification.

Sustainable Sugar (Bonsucro®)

SCS is a leading certifier under the Bonsucro® label, which applies to sugarcane used in the production of sugar as well as for ethanol. The Bonsucro standards qualify sugarcane mills, biofuel producers, and processors under the sustainability targets set by the European Union's Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

Corporate Sustainability Consulting

SCS helps companies set the scope of sustainability program, measure current sustainability performance, identify best practices for improvement, and report achievements, based on the most advanced environmental sustainability science and metrics.



PRODUCT QUALITY AND ATTRIBUTE CERTIFICATIONS AND TESTING

When it comes to food, consumers care deeply about a wide range of attributes – flavor, nutritional value, contaminant levels, seedstocks used, and impacts on climate. SCS provides third-party certification and services related to all of these product attributes.

Non-GMO Project Verified

SCS certifies products seeking the Non-GMO Project Verified label, one of the fastest growing label in the food sector providing transparency around the issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) used in food production. Applicants can also obtain bundled certification of Organic, GFSI-level food safety, or Sustainably Grown.

Antioxidant Superfoods

SCS' Antioxidant Superfood certification is reserved for foods and beverages that deliver essential antioxidants at sufficient levels for consumers need every day to reap important health benefits. This certification, backed by the latest published research on traditional diets, reinforces the vital role that whole foods play in sustaining health and well-being.

Sensory Evaluation

Delivering consistent good flavor depends on seed variety, farming practices, maturity at harvest, and post-harvest handling. SCS' comprehensive flavor management certification, flavor mapping, and sensory and analytical testing services helps companies optimize the flavor of fresh food products along the entire value chain.

Pesticide Residue Free

SCS introduced this certification program as an end-product quality control standard. This certification provides lab-tested assurance to consumers that there are no detectable pesticide residues in the foods they purchase, based on laboratory detection limits of 0.01 ppm. This is the world's most stringent pesticide residue certification, qualifying products to meet the maximum residue limits of all countries to which products may be shipped.



ACCREDITATIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Program	Accreditation / Approval Body	Accredited / Approved Since:
Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) Sustainable Fishing	Accreditation Services International	January 2001
Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) Chain of Custody	Accreditation Services International	January 2001
Organic crops, wild crops and handling operations	U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Program	April 2002
Safe Quality Foods standards (SQF Code Edition 7)	American National Standards Institute	March 2009
Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Body- ISO 14065 and 14064-3 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Registry (TCR) General Verification Protocol • Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) • Climate Action Reserve (CAR), Forest Verification Protocol • The American Carbon Registry 	American National Standards Institute	May 2009
Veriflora® Standard for Responsible Peatland Management	Canadian Peat and Sphagnum Association	January 2011
Bonsucro System	Better Sugarcane Initiative	July 2011
GLOBALG.A.P. Option 1 V5.0 (single and multi-sites)	American National Standards Institute	August 2011
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Chain of Custody	Accreditation Services International	April 2012
Mexico GAP V4.0	American National Standards Institute	November 2012
GLOBALG.A.P Produce Safety Standard V4.0 (PSS)	American National Standards Institute	December 2012
Equitable Food Initiative Scheme – Responsibly Grown. Farmworker Assured. Certification Body for Farms and Packing Facilities	Equitable Food Initiative	March 2014
Harmonized Produce Safety Standard V1.0 (HPSS)	American National Standards Institute	December 2015
GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2 V5.0 (groups)	American National Standards Institute	December 2015
Non-GMO Project Verification standard –Technical Administrator	Non-GMO Project	April 2016
Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) standard	Alliance for Water Stewardship	June 2016
Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) standard	Better Cotton Initiative	July 2016
PrimusGFS, including the following scopes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) • Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) • Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) • Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) 	American National Standards Institute	July 2016
SCS Sustainably Grown® – Eligible Eco-Labeling Certification Scheme Owner	American National Standards Institute	December 2016
RSPO Supply Chain Certification Systems (SCCS) worldwide	Accreditation Services International	January 2017

Newsroom

Recent Articles, Announcements, and News

SCS BLOG

www.scsglobalservices.com/blog

Food, Cosmetics, and Energy Sectors All Benefitting from Increased Availability of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil

– by Matt Rudolf

May 26, 2017 – Industry by industry, third-party certification of sustainability performance is increasingly helping to move the dial toward more responsible production and supply chain practices in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the case of palm oil. [Read More.](#)

Taking the Food Industry by Storm: Non-GMO Project Verified

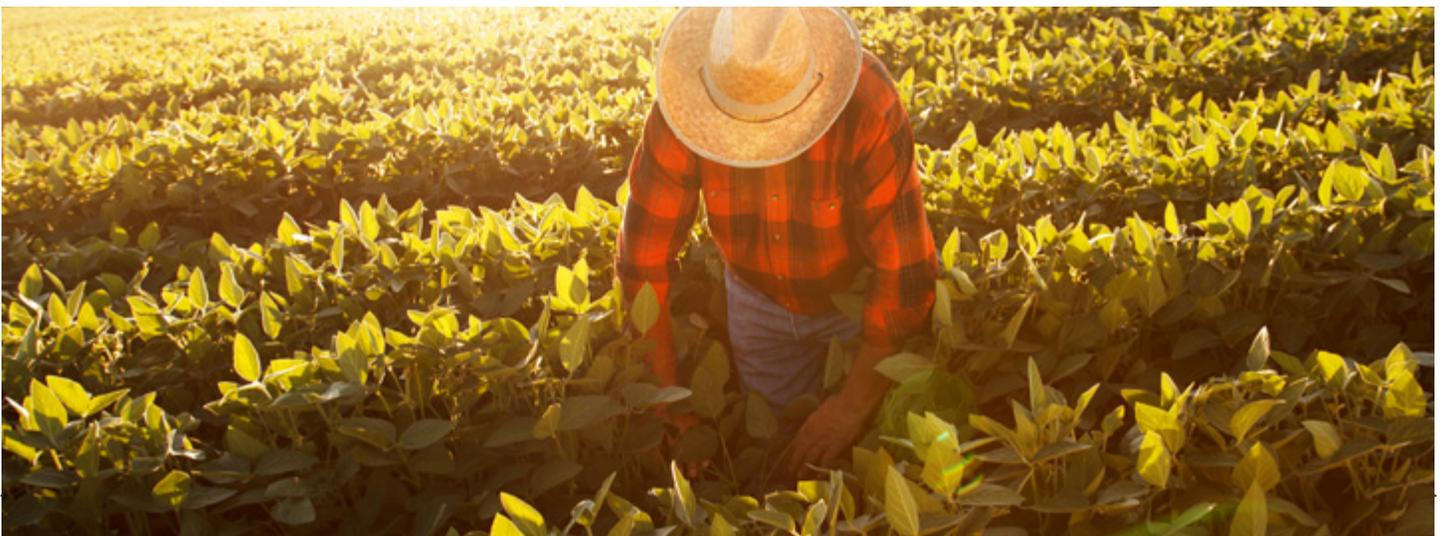
– by Lucy Anderson and Evelyn Drawec

May 10, 2017 – Whether you are deeply concerned about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the food supply, or think such concerns are misplaced, there is one thing everyone can agree on: non-GMO verified foods have taken the food industry by storm. The leading ecolabel in this arena – the Non-GMO Project Verified butterfly– now graces the packaging on countless products on supermarket shelves, thanks in part to Whole Food Co.'s edict calling for such verification. [Read More.](#)

Does Your Food Safety Auditor Have the Right Stuff?

- by Heena Patel

Mar 14, 2017 – Food safety weighs heavily on all companies that produce, handle or sell food. A single incident can cost a company, and sometimes an entire industry, serious reputational harm and business disruption. Dig a little deeper, and you'll discover one key factor that is often overlooked– namely, auditor competence. Ultimately, it's up to the auditor to interpret the standard's intent during the farm or facility assessment. It's like the difference between a good cook and a great chef – it's not just about following the recipe, but about bringing a critical eye to the process, a combination of expertise and instinct. [Read More.](#)



Newsroom Highlights

Responsible Wool Standard Promotes Sustainable Land Stewardship and Humane Sheep Treatment

Mar 14, 2017 - Leading third-party certifier SCS Global Services (SCS) has been approved by Textile Exchange as a licensed certification body for the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS). In this role, SCS is now authorized to conduct independent certification assessments of wool production under the "Farm Scope" of the standard. Moreover, SCS is currently in the licensing process for the "Processing Scope" of the standard, and will soon be able to offer RWS services all the way from the farm through the final manufacturer. [Read More](#)

RSPO Recognizes SCS as First Accredited Certification Body based in North America

Jan 24, 2017 - SCS Global Services (SCS) announced that it has officially earned accreditation as a third-party certifier under the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) program. SCS is the first RSPO-accredited certifier headquartered in North America, and only the second in the Americas. [Read More](#)

Agricultural Innovator Jim Knutzon Joins SCS Global Services in Senior Position

Dec 28, 2016 - SCS Global Services is pleased to announce that Jim Knutzon has joined its corporate management team as the new Vice President for Special Projects. Mr. Knutzon brings decades of agricultural experience to the position, including pioneering work in sustainable and organic production, product development, food safety, and standards development. He will play a pivotal role in the continued expansion of SCS's certification, auditing, and testing services. [Read More](#)

SCS' Sustainably Grown Certification Program Now ANSI Accredited

Dec 29, 2016 - SCS Global Services (SCS) announced today that its Sustainably Grown certification program is now accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). In this context, SCS, is among the first entities to be recognized by ANSI as an eligible eco-labeling certification scheme owner and standards developer under the internationally recognized requirements and processes of the ISO 14020 and ISO 14024 standards. [Read More](#)

SCS' Sustainably Grown is First US-Based Sustainable Agriculture Certification Program to Complete GSCP Equivalence Process

Dec 14, 2016 - SCS Global Services announced today that it has completed the Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP) Equivalence Process for its Sustainably Grown certification program. SCS Sustainably Grown is the first U.S.-based sustainable agriculture certification program to be benchmarked to both the GSCP Reference Code and Audit Process and Methodology Reference Tool, which represent international best practice in sustainable supply chains and social auditing. The benchmarking also means that Sustainably Grown now meets the requirements for recognition by the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). [Read More](#)

“Best Tasting Crab” in the World Receives MSC Certification Certificate Awarded by SCS Global Services

Jul 12, 2016 - The West Coast Deep Sea Crab Fishery, operating in deep waters hundreds of kilometers off the coast of Western Australia, has earned certification under the Marine Stewardship Council standard, the world's premiere fishery certification program. The independent assessment was conducted by SCS Global Services, a trusted third-party auditor. Award winning chef Rene Redzepi of the Copenhagen 2-Michelin-Star restaurant, Noma, described this as the best tasting crab in the world during his visit to Sydney, Australia earlier this year. Noma has been ranked “Best Restaurant in the World” four times, and Australian crystal crab, caught in deep waters of Western Australia, is featured on the Australian pop-up menu. [Read More](#)

First Recreational Fishery Earns MSC Certification Alongside Commercial Fishery.

Jun 24, 2016 - Today, the Mandurah Licensed Fishermen's Association (MLFA) and Recfishwest received Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) recognition for the Western Australian Peel Harvey Estuarine Fishery. This is a world's first side-by-side assessment of a commercial and recreational fishery. The certificate was presented by accredited third-party certifier SCS Global Services (SCS) at a ceremony in Mandurah, Western Australia. “This precedent-setting certification marks a major milestone in the global effort to harvest seafood sustainably,” said Dr. Sabine Daume, who represents SCS' for all MSC fishery assessment efforts in Australia and New Zealand. [Read More](#)

Corporate Environmental, Social, and Quality Achievements Highlighted in SCS Global Services' Latest Annual Report

May 25, 2016 - Millions of acres of forestland and agricultural crops worldwide, thousands of business and consumer products, and a diverse range of companies and organizations earned recognition for environmental and social achievements from third-party certifier SCS Global Services (SCS) in 2015. The [SCS Annual Report](#), published earlier this month, shines the spotlight on steps being taken in the public and private sectors across a wide swath of industries to reduce environmental impacts, improve working conditions, and assure product quality. [Read More](#)

SCS Global Services Becomes Newest Non-GMO Project Verification Provider

Apr 27, 2016 - SCS Global Services (SCS) announced today that it has successfully completed a rigorous, year-long Non-GMO Project Verification Pilot Program, and is now formally recognized as Non-GMO Project Technical Administrator. This designation means that SCS is authorized to independently verify claims for all types of food products and supplements under the Non-GMO Project, one of the United States' fastest growing food labels of all time. [Read More](#)

SCS Contacts and Experts

We are very pleased to help put journalists and editors in touch with our in-house experts to answer your questions related to food and agriculture, and to provide blog content and by-lined articles on topics of interest to your readers.

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