



# Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture

## Farm Certification - Service information

### What is Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Farm certification?

This certification applies to farms that seek to meet the comprehensive requirements of the [Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard](#), addressing social, economic and environmental criteria. Certified farms are awarded the Rainforest Alliance Certified™ seal, a prestigious badge that can be used to market products grown on certified farms.



Over 90 agricultural crops are currently under the certification scope. Rainforest Alliance has a [list of certification bodies authorised to carry out audits](#) in specific countries. The following crops grown in a country included in this list, can achieve a Rainforest Alliance certificate, after a positive recommendation based on the results of a certification audit: chili, cocoa, coffee, coconut, cut flowers, fruits, nuts (such as hazelnuts), pepper, tea, while special additional conditions apply for herbs, spices, other herbal tea ingredients, rooibos, and vegetables.



### What are the criteria for a farm to earn certification?

A farm must comply with the certification requirements of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard and the Certification Rules. While the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard forms the foundation of Rainforest Alliance certification, it is complemented by supportive policies. For certain countries and topics, additional policies have been developed as needed.

The Sustainable Agriculture Standard is rooted in the following sustainability principles: Management, Traceability, Income and Shared Responsibility, Farming, Social, and Environment. You can find all policies, standards and guidance relevant to audited and certified operations on the [Rainforest Alliance webpage for the 2020 certification programme](#).

### What are the costs of Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture certification?

- Audit fees including honoraria to the auditors and other technical experts or translators that participate in the audit.
- Associated travel expenses include cost of ground and air transportation, food and lodging for the audit team during the audit days covered.
- Audit duration and audit team shall be determined per audit basis, based on the scope of the certification, relative to the product(s), production area, total area, geographic location and number of farms and facilities (such as processing units) included in the scope.
- Audit fee discounts are possible where the audited organisation is able to provide lodging, food, air or land travel for the audit team, or other applicable travel expenses.
- Fees include review of the audit report, conducted by approved reviewers, independent from the audit process.
- Administrative fees are covered for audit planning, certification management, database management and certificate issuance. Other services of access to the Rainforest Alliance Marketplace, use of the seal, and customer service are also included.
- Honoraria for administrative staff and office costs and utilities are also covered.



## How can Preferred by Nature support you?

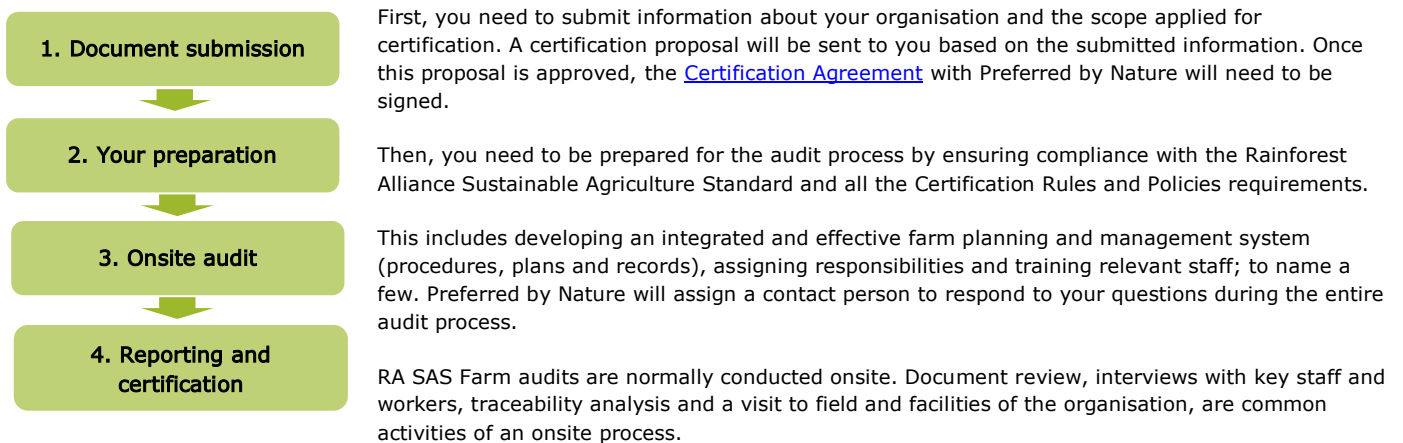
Preferred by Nature certifies farms and organisations that meet the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard Farm requirements. We also offer optional **pre-assessment** services to analyse an organisation's compliance level before certification. This process is conducted separately from the certification audit and avoids conflicts of interest.

Please note that pre-assessment does not make certification easier or cheaper.<sup>1</sup> We provide pre-assessment only after mitigating any potential conflicts of interest and this process does not replace a certification/surveillance audit. The person performing pre-assessment will not engage in certification activities of the same organisation.

## What does the certification process entail?

Farmers and producer groups must meet the criteria of the [Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard \(RA SAS\)](#) to use the Rainforest Alliance name and the Rainforest Alliance Certified™ (RAC™) seal. Certified farms must also sign a license agreement and obtain Rainforest Alliance's approval to use their trademarks by sending an e-mail to [customersuccess@ra.org](mailto:customersuccess@ra.org).

Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Farm certificates for farms and producer groups involved in crop production are normally issued for a three-year period. An initial assessment is conducted for certification, followed by annual audits to maintain the certificate.



## Which trademarks can we use?

The Rainforest Alliance logo and trademarks are widely recognised in Europe and North America. They can be applied to certified products and used for promotional purposes if you are registered on the Rainforest Alliance Traceability Platform and have signed a Trademark License Agreement. Rainforest Alliance approves trademark usage, while Preferred by Nature, as a certification body, confirms the presence of a license agreement, logo approval system and product compliance during the audit.

## How do I maintain my certificate?

After obtaining the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture certification, you are subject to annual audits for the three-year certification period validity. To extend certification status beyond three years, a new certification audit is mandatory. Please note that the period of **1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023** is the Transition Period to the 2020 Rainforest Alliance certification programme. During this period, applicants and certified entities will only need to comply with the Core Requirements of the 2020 RA SAS. A positive certification decision results in a one-year certificate. From July 2023 onwards, certification audits will adhere to the full requirements of 2020 RA SAS, leading to a new three-year certificate decision, subject to annual audits.

<sup>1</sup> Pre-assessments follow the general cost criteria outlined under the headline "[What are the costs of Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture certification?](#)" except where administrative costs derive solely from certification related administrative activities that pertain only to the certification scope (i.e., certificate issuance).