



# 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](#), which addresses 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.



Currently, more than 90 agricultural crops are under Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture certification. 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
- 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.

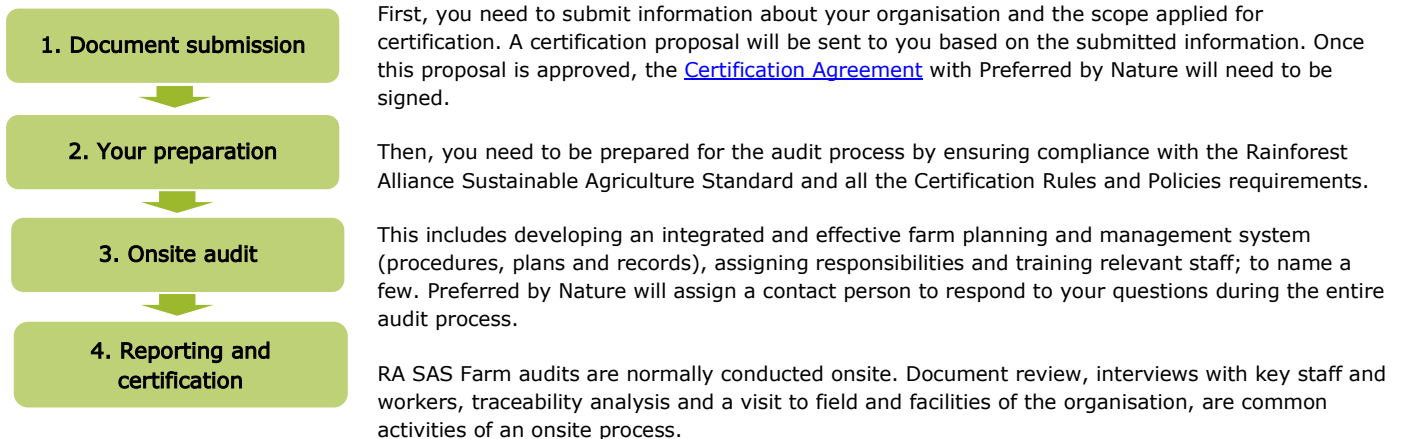


- Fees include review of the audit report, conducted by approved reviewers, independent from the audit process.
- Administrative fees are covered for audit planning, certification management, database management and certificate issuance. Other services of access to the Rainforest Alliance Marketplace, use of the seal, and customer service are also included.
- Honoraria for administrative staff and office costs and utilities are also covered.

## What does the certification process entail?

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

Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Farm certificates for farms and producer groups involved in crop production are normally issued for a three-year period. We conduct an initial assessment as a basis for the certification. Subsequently, you need to undergo annual audits to maintain the certificate.



## Which trademarks can we use?

The Rainforest Alliance logo and trademarks are well recognised in the European and North American markets. Both 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 upon your registration. It is Rainforest Alliance who will approve your trademark usage and Preferred by Nature as a certification body will only confirm during the audit whether a license agreement is in place whether a logo approval requesting system is in place and whether the actual content of the product meets the claim.

## 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. After this certification period of three (3) years, if your company wants to extend the certification status a new certification audit is mandatory.

Please note that period of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023 is considered as Transition Period to the 2020 Rainforest Alliance certification programme. Those who apply for certification and are certified during this period will only need to comply with the Core Requirements of the 2020 RA SAS. Once a positive certification decision is received, a certificate with validity of 1 year is issued. Starting July 2023, certification audits with full applicable requirements of 2020 RA SAS will be carried out, which positive certification will lead to issuance of a new certificate with 3 years validity period, subject to annual audits.