



2BS Voluntary Scheme
Guidance for SAI/FSA Equivalence

Doc: **2BS-SAI_FSA Guidance**

Version: **0.2 (en)**

Approved on: **02/08/2023**

Guidance

for

SAI/FSA Equivalence

Note on the status of this document:

This reference document is an integral part of the 2BS voluntary scheme developed by the 2BS Association.



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Traceability of changes in this procedure

Date	Section	Paragraph	Deleted text	Added text	Change of version



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1. Introduction

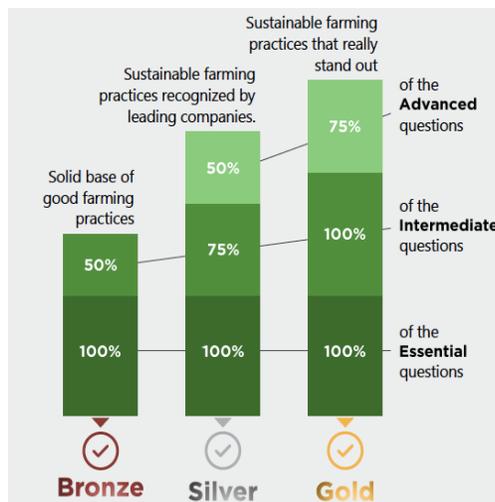
The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) is a global organization that promotes sustainable practices in agriculture. It is a collaborative initiative involving multiple stakeholders, including farmers, food companies, retailers, NGOs, and governmental organizations. SAI aims to improve the sustainability of agricultural systems by fostering the adoption of environmentally friendly practices, promoting social responsibility, and ensuring economic viability.

One of the key tools developed by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative is the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA). FSA is a comprehensive framework that helps farmers assess and improve the sustainability of their operations. It provides a structured approach for evaluating and managing various aspects of farming practices, including environmental, social, and economic dimensions.

The assessment covers a wide range of topics and issues related to sustainable agriculture, including:

- **Environmental Stewardship:** This includes assessing the farm's impact on biodiversity, soil and water conservation, pesticide and fertilizer use, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste management.
- **Social Responsibility:** The assessment evaluates the farm's labor practices, worker health and safety, fair treatment of workers, community engagement, and respect for human rights.
- **Economic Viability:** The assessment examines the farm's financial performance, resource efficiency, market access, risk management, and the farm's contribution to local and regional economies.

Sustainability schemes have the possibility to be benchmarked against the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA). Within the FSA it is possible to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold performance levels. This is determined by how many Essential, Intermediate, and Advanced questions are met in the Self-Assessment Questionnaire.





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In 2021, 2BSvs and 2BSXtra were positively benchmarked by SAI against the FSA 3.0 ([see SAI benchmark results](#)). To understand which level 2BS reached, please refer to section 3 and 4 of the current document.

2. Scope

The scope of this document is to provide guidance to economic operators aiming to benefit from FSA equivalence. This procedure applies to biomass producers and traders.

3. Biomass producers (2BS-STD-01)

3.1. FSA Silver equivalence for France

2BSvs and 2BSXtra specifications reach the FSA 3.0 Silver level on a French scale when the 2BS-STD-01 is implemented in combination with :

- the French legislation
- the EU legislation
- the EU Cross-Compliance & Greening

Biomass producers certified against the 2BS-STD-01 and implementing the French legislation, the EU legislation as well as the EU Cross-Compliance & Greening are able to sell their biomass under the following claim : “FSA 3.0 Silver compliant”.

3.2. FSA Silver equivalence for Europe

2BSvs and 2BSXtra specifications reach the FSA 3.0 Silver level on a European scale when the 2BS-STD-01 is implemented in combination with :

- the 2BS-ADD-01
- the EU legislation
- the EU Cross-Compliance & Greening

Biomass producers certified against the 2BS-STD-01 as well as 2BS-ADD-01 and implementing the EU legislation and the EU Cross-Compliance & Greening are able to sell their biomass under the following claim : “FSA 3.0 Silver compliant”.



4. Biomass traders (2BS-STD-02)

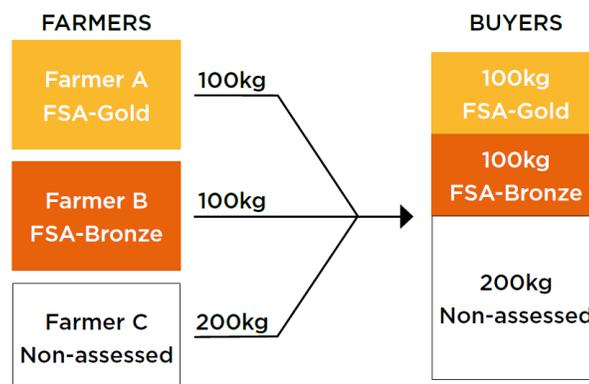
2BS certified traders buying “FSA 3.0 Silver compliant” biomass can sell it with the same claim, provided that a separate mass balance can allow the traceability of material sold under the claim “FSA 3.0 Silver compliant” (see section 5).

A 2BS certified trader can sell "FSA 3.0 Silver compliant" material if he has enough "FSA 3.0 Silver compliant" credits available over the mass balance period (3 months).

5. Chain of custody and Traceability

A separate mass balance is required for material that shall be sold or traded under the claim “FSA 3.0 Silver compliant”.

Indeed, in the mass balance system, agricultural raw materials gathered by first gathering point participating in the FSA may be aggregated in the supply chain, and potentially mixed with other agricultural raw materials. In these cases, there needs to be a management system in place to record the volumes produced by each economic operator and an accounting system to ensure FSA volumes are recorded¹. This is also applicable to traders buying and selling FSA volumes.



¹ FSA User Guide version 3.0



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8. Statement and claims

Statement and claims from 2BS-certified parties concerning the certificate equivalence to FSA Silver must reflect the intention of the certification: engaging farmers and suppliers, and assessing or improving on-farm performance.

Companies are encouraged to specify why and how they work with the FSA-equivalent certificate, and what the scope of this work is. However, the claims cannot indicate whether a product is sustainable - it must indicate whether the company products meet the FSA Silver performance level as a reference for sustainable sourcing.

Companies can make FSA performance-level claims on online platforms, such as the company's website, product websites and on social media. The claims must:

- indicate that the certification is 2BS-FSA equivalent Silver certificate with the 2BS certificate number,
- indicate the Silver performance levels,
- contain 2BS and FSA logos. The logos are available for download on the 2BS website, together with a brand guideline for both brands. The usage of the logos must respect the colors, do's and don'ts, spacing, and all the indications for logo application explained in these documents.

On-pack claims are not allowed.

Organizations have a significant degree of freedom in how they express general FSA equivalence Statements. For reference purposes, the SAI Platform has created some boilerplate language that may help organizations define their public FSA statements, shared below:

Biomass producers

[Producer name] uses the 2BS-FSA equivalent Silver certificate to assess its environmental, social and economic performance as the basis for ongoing improvements.

First Gathering Points

[Organisation name] uses the 2BS-FSA equivalent Silver certificate to engage farmers in assessing their environmental, social and economic performance. The insights enable [name group] to promote sustainable agriculture through focused farm support.

Traders

[Trader name] uses the 2BS-FSA equivalent Silver certificate to assess the sustainability of its agricultural ingredients. [Trader name] is committed to sourcing at least [x] % of its ingredients at FSA [bronze/silver/gold] level by [year x].

Organizations using the 2BS-FSA equivalent certification should refer to the system they use as the FSA, and not as SAI Platform. SAI Platform is the organization that owns and operates the FSA. Besides, companies must always follow national legislation concerning consumer claims.