
AWS EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND SMALLHOLDERS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) is a global membership-based collaboration, which unites organizations behind its mission: to lead a global network that promotes responsible use of freshwater that is socially and economically beneficial and environmentally sustainable.

AWS achieves this through a global water stewardship system, centered on the International Water Stewardship Standard (the AWS Standard) that drives, recognizes and rewards good water stewardship performance.

AWS is undertaking a review and revision of the Standard and the systems that support its implementation. The AWS Technical Committee is leading the review of the Standard. The Committee acknowledges that how the Standard caters for, and is applied in the context of, agriculture and smallholder water users requires expertise and knowledge from specialists in the field, in addition to that of the current Technical Committee.

AWS has formed an Expert Advisory Group, made up of AWS members with particular expertise in relation to water use in agriculture and by smallholders, in order to provide specialist advice to the Committee in its review of the Standard.

Purpose

The purpose of the Agriculture and Smallholders Expert Advisory Group is to:

- identify the main barriers to uptake of the Standard by the agricultural sector in general and smallholders specifically;
- identify the current Standard criteria and indicators that are challenging or difficult to adopt and implement in the context of agriculture generally, and specifically for smallholders and those seeking group certification;
- consider what specific guidance should be included within the AWS Standard (or as a stand-alone document) relating to agricultural water users;
- consider what specific guidance should be included within the AWS Standard (or as a stand-alone document) relating to smallholders and those seeking group certification; and
- provide advice and recommendations to the AWS Technical Committee on the above matters.

Membership

Membership of the Agriculture and Smallholders Expert Advisory Group is as follows:

Name	Organisation	Position

Language

The working language of the Advisory Group is English.

The Chairperson

The Advisory Group will determine whether it requires a Chair, and if so, will appoint a Chair from within the Advisory Group's membership.

Communication and meetings

Communications between members will primarily be by way of email. Meetings of the Advisory Group are to be held online or via teleconference every XXXX at XXXX am/pm GMT.

Secretariat

AWS staff will act as Minute-taker and meeting convenor for the Advisory Group.

Confidentiality

The Advisory Group will operate per Chatham House Rules. So, while members of the Group have full authority to share any non-confidential substance of discussions and papers, they shall not report or attribute either the comments of individuals nor their affiliations outside of meetings, whether conducted face to face or virtually.

The confidentiality agreement shall continue beyond the retirement of the member from the Group.

Reporting

The Advisory Group will report back to AWS and the Technical Committee by XXXXX. This report shall be in writing and will include a series of recommendations for consideration by the Committee.

Term

The Advisory Group's term will be considered complete upon provision of its report (including recommendations) to the AWS Technical Committee. The Technical Committee may extend the term of the Advisory Group beyond receipt of the report, should it require further information, advice, or recommendations from Advisory Group.