

Benchmarking: ProTerra Standard (V5.0) and Bonsucro

Table 2 - Additional sustainability requirements for Bonsucro certified farms to be recognised under PT V5.0

Additional requirements	Observations
1.1.5 Certified organisations shall demonstrate clear title to land in accordance with national practice and law.	Confirm compliance with this requirement.
1.1.6 Certified organisations shall ensure that suppliers of core inputs and services are compliant with the ProTerra Standard.	Under Bonsucro this is applicable only sugarcane supply base outside the unit of certification. Under ProTerra this is applicable to all core suppliers.
1.3.1 ProTerra certified materials and products shall be identified using correct stains, ProTerra logos, seals, Trustmark and certificates, according to the Guidelines and Requirements for the Use of the ProTerra Logos and Seals.	Confirm compliance with this requirement where applicable.
2.2.1 The workweek shall be set according to local and national laws, and shall be consistent with local industry standards, and shall, at maximum, not routinely exceed 48 hours per week (excluding overtime). Where agreement with Worker Unions exists related to weekly working hours and overtime, these will be respected.	Bonsucro allows more than 48 working hours (up to 60 is permitted). In the case of a ProTerra audit, excess working hours should be double-checked.
2.2.2 Overtime shall be limited as specified in local and national law and shall not routinely exceed 12 hours per week.	Confirm compliance with this requirement.
2.2.3 Overtime in excess of 12 hours shall only be permitted during exceptional, limited periods, when there are constraints or risk of economic loss and when conditions regarding overtime in excess of 12 hours have been previously agreed between workers and management. Where agreement with Worker Unions exists related to excess overtime, these will be respected.	Confirm compliance with this requirement.
2.5.2 All workers living on site shall have appropriate, fairly priced, and safe food, sufficient water and housing	There are no requirements regarding the fair price of housing under Bonsucro. Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
2.6.2 There shall be a signed labour agreement between the certified organisation and the subcontracted companies, that include clauses requiring compliance with the labour and legal rights of the employees. In those countries where there are no requirements for formal labour agreements between workers and employers, alternative documented evidence of a labour relationship must be present.	Confirm compliance with this requirement.
2.7.2 An ongoing program of job-related training including regular refresher training shall be provided to all workers to ensure that they are competent to conduct their work efficiently, effectively and safely. Additionally, certified organisations shall provide all employees with training regarding (a) sustainability; (b) GMOs, where applicable; (c) good agricultural practices, where applicable; and (d) their specific tasks, roles and responsibilities, related to these matters.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
2.8.3 Wages or salaries and hours worked shall be regularly and legally paid in the national currency, documented and recorded.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
2.8.4 Employers shall not make deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
2.9.4 Hazardous tasks, including the application or handling of pesticides and chemical products, shall only be conducted by qualified, and properly trained workers, taking into consideration the worker's health condition and particularities. Workers who have been injured or are ill, shall not perform activities that are detrimental to their health and safety and that can affect other workers.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
2.10.1 Workers shall be trained in the health and safety aspects of their job, particularly those workers handling pesticides and other toxic substances or operating hazardous equipment. These workers shall be trained in how to adequately store, apply, and dispose of pesticides and other toxic substances and how to safely operate hazardous equipment, taking into account the manufacturer's instructions and the legal requirements.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Bonsucro related indicators: 2.1.5 and 4.5.2. Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
2.11.3 In locations where specific regulations do not cover maternity leave, certified organisations shall establish a reasonable leave period.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
2.12.2 Certified organisations shall not impede the functions of collective bargaining organisations or workers' associations and their representatives shall have access to their members at the workplace.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
2.12.3 There shall be no discrimination by management or workers between unrepresented workers and workers represented by labour trade unions or associations, and there shall be no discrimination to workers representatives.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
3.2.1 In all cases, land use in all cases shall not interfere with the agricultural production systems of neighbours, and measures shall be in place to allow coexistence of different production systems.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
3.2.2 Land rights disputes shall be resolved before certified status can be granted.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
3.2.3 Certified organisations shall ensure that, prior to any activity that may affect indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, land, resources, territories, livelihoods, and food security, their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is secured for any activity that affects their ancestral lands, territories and natural resources.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
4.1.2 Certified organisations shall adhere to governmental regulations and international conventions that pose additional restrictions, including stricter cut-off dates, on the conversion of land for agriculture or other commercial purposes. No agricultural commodity produced or used by a certified organisation shall be produced on land that has been illegally converted.	Bonsucro has no requirements that any agricultural commodity produced or used by a certified organisation be produced on land that has been illegally converted.
4.2.2 Certified organisations shall protect rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species on their land and shall not gather, hunt or fish wild species or products from their natural habitat. Gathering, hunting and fishing shall only occur when permitted by law and shall be done in a manner that assures those species will continue to flourish in their natural habitat, as well as other species that normally depend on the gathered/hunted or fished species.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
4.2.3 The introduction of invasive species and new pests shall be avoided, and past introductions (prior to first certification), shall be controlled and monitored. Any relevant pest outbreak shall be reported to the authorities.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
4.3.2 Farms shall maintain and safeguard native vegetation existing on their land, in order to protect and provide habitat for wild species. A map of the farm should be available, showing the native vegetation as well as a plan to protect and restore native vegetation where necessary.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
Principle 5 – No use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
6.1.3 Certified organisations shall discharge sewage /effluents in a manner that does not cause pollution to water and does not contaminate the soil or crops with chemicals, heavy metals, by-products, excess nutrients or pathogens. Raw sewage shall not be used to irrigate crops.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable. Note also that under ProTerra this is also applicable to farms.
6.1.4 Certified organisations shall ensure that there is no run-off of wastewater, oil and oil spills, chemical and chemical residues, minerals and organic substances.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
6.2.1 Non-hazardous waste shall be segregated and, where appropriate, minimised, recycled or reused. If recycling or reuse is not possible, a legal means of treatment and final disposal shall be employed.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable. Note also that under ProTerra this is also applicable to farms.
6.2.2 Certified organisations shall manage biological waste such as manure, straw, crop residues, food scraps, and processing by-products, among others, in an appropriate way to avoid pollution and/or to prevent these from becoming a source of pathogenic contamination or pest harbouring. Management of these waste shall at least comply with national laws relevant to the location of the certified operation, as stated in Article 1 of this standard. In countries where there are no relevant local laws and/or regulations, organisations should apply World Bank and IFC guidelines.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
6.2.4 Waste shall not be incinerated or burned, except when required for phytosanitary purposes, or in cases when it is burned for energy or heating, or used for biogas/oil production.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable. Note also that under ProTerra this is also applicable to the mill.
7.1.1 Certified organisations shall conserve quantity and quality of existing natural water resources, such as lakes, rivers, artificial lakes, dams, water tables and aquifers around their facilities, including creating or aggravating water scarcity situations.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable. Bonsucro reference is 4.3.1 and 4.3.3.
7.1.2 Certified organisations shall not undertake new initiatives that reduce the availability of water for drinking, irrigation, or for traditional uses for neighbouring communities and businesses.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
7.2.1 Certified organisations shall implement best practices for water conservation and avoidance of contamination of surface and groundwater. When irrigation is used, effective measures shall be implemented to ensure efficient irrigation and compliance with relevant regulations. The use of irrigation water shall be controlled in order to avoid soil salinisation.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable. Bonsucro references are: 4.3.3 applies to mill and agriculture, 4.3.4 applies to mill, 4.3.5 applies to agriculture and 4.3.6 applies to the mill (under ProTerra 7.2.1 only applies to farm).
7.2.2 Any evidence of contamination of ground or surface water shall be reported to the local environmental authority and mitigated based on a plan agreed with such authority if necessary.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
8.2.1 Certified organisations shall monitor and adopt practices to minimise the use of energy from non-renewable sources (e.g., fossil fuels), and to obtain an increasing proportion of their energy from renewable sources such as, but not limited to, hydropower, solar and wind, or from biomass (crop residues) and local recycled materials.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.1.1 Certified organisations shall adopt agricultural good practices and adopt conservation systems such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Crop Management (ICM). As much as possible, organisations should adopt organic agricultural practices and ensure adequate and continuous monitoring of crop health, and the implementation of measures to improve crop resilience.	Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and organic agricultural practices are not considered under Bonsucro. Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
9.2.1 Certified organisations shall not clear areas for cultivation by burning vegetation, or burn sugarcane for harvesting purposes, e.g. sugarcane, unless this practice is allowed by local and national law.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.3.2 Certified organisations shall evaluate suitability of the soil for production of specific crops and to define a soil management system.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.3.5 Adequate monitoring shall be carried out to demonstrate that practices are in place to protect soil quality and prevent soil erosion.	This is a core indicator under ProTerra (immediate compliance for certification) but a Non-core indicator under Bonsucro (to be complied according to the timelines defined in the Bonsucro Certification Protocol). Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement where applicable.
9.4.4 Certified organisations shall maintain records of all fertilisers, pesticides, other agrochemicals and other inputs purchased, used, and disposed of, including biocontrol agents. Data on pests, diseases, weather conditions during spraying, and weeds shall also be recorded and retained.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.6.1 Certified organisations shall avoid or reduce the use of toxic or polluting materials whenever possible and shall select inputs having the least possible toxicity and environmental impact for the required application. Agricultural practices are implemented to minimise diffuse and localised impacts on surface and groundwater quality from chemical residues, fertilisers and other potential sources.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.6.2 Pesticides listed on the WHO Classes Ia, Ib lists, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, as well as pesticides forbidden by local, national, and regional law, shall not be used on crops.	Consider tolerance where no non-banned, legally registered alternatives exist. Bonsucro indicates: <i>"In the absence of non-banned alternatives or non-chemical alternatives available, the use of a banned agrochemical is tolerated. In these cases, the Risk Management Plan shall be updated to include and control the risks arising from applying a potentially dangerous chemical. The operator shall develop a plan to phase out or eliminate the use of the banned agrochemicals"</i> . Under ProTerra there is no tolerance on the use of banned pesticides.
9.6.3 Certified organisations shall test products before commercialisation to ensure that residue levels of pesticides are negligible or are, at least, compliant with residue limits set in the country of import or use.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.1 Agrochemicals, including pesticides and fertilisers, shall be applied using methods that minimise harm to human health, wildlife, plant biodiversity, and water and air quality.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.2 Certified organisations shall not engage in pesticide spraying over bodies of water, or over preserved, protected or residential areas, in compliance with local, regional and national regulations. Pesticides shall be sprayed as per local regulations requirements in terms of distance from populated areas and bodies of water. In the absence of such regulations, pesticides shall not be sprayed within 30 meters of human populated areas, and bodies of water.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.3 In crop areas adjacent to roads or residential areas where access by people is possible, recently sprayed areas shall be appropriately marked to warn people not to enter into such areas.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.4 Aerial spraying shall be conducted only under weather conditions that minimise drift to adjacent areas, and must be in compliance with local, regional and national laws and should not have an impact on populated areas and water bodies.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.5 Residents within 500 meters (or more if required by national legislation) shall be informed at least one day in advance before aerial spraying is done.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.6 Aerial spraying shall not be carried out with pesticides listed in the WHO Classes Ia, Ib and II lists, Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.7 Certified organisations shall adhere to quarantine periods, avoiding harvest until applied pesticide hazard for consumers is reduced to acceptable levels.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
9.7.10 Certified organisations shall regularly maintain and calibrate crop protection product and fertiliser application equipment on a regular basis. All equipment and machinery used in the production or farming activities shall be regularly maintained to ensure their safe, proper and efficient functioning. Records shall be kept.	Confirm compliance with this ProTerra requirement.
Principle 10 – Traceability and Chain of Custody	Bonsucro traceability requirements are in a separate Standard: Bonsucro Mass Balance Chain of Custody Standard - version 5.1 from March 2019 It is unclear whether it is mandatory to be certified to the Bonsucro Mass Balance Chain of Custody Standard in order to be certified to the Bonsucro Production Standard. Compliance with entire principle 10 is therefore confirmed as applicable. Note in particular that under ProTerra: • Certified organisations shall have clear rules to avoid double counting of certified material and shall be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of such rules. • Certified organisations shall make information available related to ProTerra certified contracted volumes: the volume of the purchased certified product and the output of certified sold product. Organisations shall provide evidence of data consistency during the certification process (refer to the ProTerra Certification Protocol in force). Carry over of certified volumes is only possible if the company's certified status is continuous. In contrary cases, the carry over is not possible and the corresponding amount must be excluded from this balance sheet and from the certified volumes. • In the case of mass balance, where a ProTerra-certified material is mixed with other non-certified material a mass balance shall be maintained to demonstrate that volumes of ProTerra-certified material received are equivalent to ProTerra-certified material dispatched. The non-certified material shall be tested for the absence of pesticides and evidence shall be provided that the non-ProTerra certified material does not originate from deforested areas (refer to indicator 4.1.1) and has not been produced using forced or child labour. Otherwise, the ProTerra certification status will not be granted. Additionally, the final product shall not exceed the maximum residue levels of pesticides permitted in the country of import or use. This shall be confirmed by the certified organisation by providing the analytical results of representative multi-residue analyses of pesticides for each lot supplied. Compliance with these requirements must be explicitly verified and confirmed.
Certification Decision	Note that the Bonsucro Production Standard for non-core indicators requires compliance with a minimum of 60% of the applicable indicators. To be certified 80% of all indicators must be met including all CORE indicators. ProTerra has 103 CORE indicators out of a total of 143 indicators. This means meeting 115 indicators (rounded number), that is, 103 core plus 12 non-core indicators. Currently Bonsucro is only aligned with only 9 of the PT non-core indicators. These are: 1.14, 2.9.3, 2.10.3, 2.11.1, 2.11.2, 4.3.1, 7.1.5, 8.1.1 and 8.1.2. Compliance must be confirmed for at least 7 additional ProTerra non-core indicators.