MOREGANIC®

RUBBER FARM MANAGEMENT STANDARD

R-FMS
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Region:	Global
Crops:	Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*)

Revision Procedure: This Standard uses semantic versioning (vX.y.z). Editorial = patch, minor = clarifications, major = scope changes. Revisions follow the Document Control and Revision Policy in Annex J, which defines roles, consultations, approvals, releases, and transition periods.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Moreganic® Framework

Moreganic© represents a comprehensive approach to sustainability, emphasizing Ecological Integrity, Ethical Responsibility, and Economic Viability - the “Three E’s.” Designed to support sustainable agricultural practices globally, the framework serves as a foundation for developing specific guidelines tailored to individual products and supply chains. This document is part of a broader initiative to transform agroforestry systems by focusing on biodiversity and embedding sustainability into multiple production and supply chain aspects.

Relation to Universal Framework

The Moreganic® Rubber Farm Management Standard complements the Moreganic® Universal Framework, translating its principles into practical, verifiable requirements specific to rubber farming. It ensures alignment with broader sustainability objectives, reinforcing traceability, transparency, and continuous improvement.

By adopting this standard, rubber stakeholders contribute to a sustainable and ethical latex supply chain, demonstrating compliance with global sustainability goals and the Three E’s of the Moreganic® Framework.

The Moreganic® Rubber Farm Management Standard (MR-R-FMS)

The Moreganic® Rubber Farm Management Standard (MR-R-FMS) offers tailored guidance for rubber farmers, growers, plantation operators, collection centres, primary processors, and Certified Material Organizations (CMOs). It provides a clear certification pathway to align stakeholders with the sustainability principles outlined in the Moreganic® framework.

2 SCOPE & FUNDAMENTAL CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

This certification standard is structured to align with globally accepted international frameworks, ensuring consistency with recognised best practices for sustainability certification systems.

SCOPE OF STANDARD

This standard defines certification criteria for sustainable rubber farming and primary processing, providing a structured approach to improving ecological, ethical, and economic sustainability across the latex supply chain.

THE STANDARD COVERS AND REFERENCES THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- **Farming / Production**: Certification criteria for cultivating latex-yielding trees (*Hevea brasiliensis*) and complementary crops, using agroforestry principles to enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, and promote fair labor conditions.
- **Farm-Level Practices:** All activities directly managed by the farmer beyond rubber cultivation, including agroforestry design, soil management, labor practices, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Collection:** All activities related to storage, aggregation, collection, and transportation of rubber products up until Primary Processing.
- **Traceability:** Product flow from farming to Primary Processing.
- **Primary Processing:** Post-collection handling of rubber latex, including coagulation and preservation prior to secondary processing.
- **Verification and Auditing:** Conformity assessment framework including audit methodology, internal control systems (ICS), documentation requirements, non-conformance management, and certification renewal processes.

SCOPE PARAMETERS

Throughout this standard, the term “rubber” refers to latex and its derivatives, including all intermediary and finished forms. The primary species addressed is *Hevea brasiliensis*, unless otherwise specified. Value-added rubber products covered under this standard are listed in Annex D - Permitted Value-Added Rubber Products.

Where specific formats or documents (e.g., Moreganic® Biodiversity Action Plan, Compliance Declarations) are required, they are included in annexes or referenced templates to ensure consistency.

APPLICABILITY

The Moreganic® Rubber Farm Management Standard directly applies to the following stakeholders seeking Moreganic® certification:

- **Farmers:** Individual smallholders, farmer groups, and cooperatives engaged in rubber cultivation and latex production
- **Plantations:** Large-scale rubber plantations and estate operations
- **Collection centres:** Collection facilities engaged in aggregation and storage of farm latex
- **Primary Processing**: Post-collection handling of rubber latex, including coagulation and preservation prior to secondary processing.

NOTE: Further supply chain activities including primary processing (e.g. centrifuging, coagulation), trading, and secondary processing are governed by the separate Moreganic® Chain of Custody Standard.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for Moreganic certification, applicants must demonstrate compliance with the following fundamental criteria:

- **Legal Land Rights**: Proof of land ownership or documented legal right to use the land
- **Correct Land Use**: Compliance with local land use regulations and zoning requirements
- **No-Deforestation Commitment**: No conversion of natural forests or high conservation value areas from January 1, 2021 onwards
- **Agrochemical Transition**: Demonstrated 3-month period without use of synthetic agrochemical products prior to certification application
- **Legal Compliance**: Demonstrated compliance with all applicable local laws and regulations

NOTE: Development of a Moreganic® Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP), including baseline biodiversity assessment and 5-year enhancement plan, is a mandatory certification requirement that will be completed during the Onboarding and certification process (see Section 3.1.1 for MBAP requirements).

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADAPTATION

The Moreganic® certification does not supersede national or regional regulations. All certified entities must comply with applicable laws.

National or regional regulations may introduce more stringent or specific requirements (e.g., input restrictions, buffer widths, documentation needs). Where such requirements apply, operations shall follow local laws, and Moreganic® may support integration of additional practices. These adaptations do not override the Moreganic® Standard but may be used to enhance compliance and certification readiness.

Regional adaptations, such as agroforestry species and buffer zone widths, may be proposed in the Moreganic® Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP), in accordance with local ecological conditions and regulatory frameworks.

GUIDANCE VS. REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the obligatory criteria of the farm management standard, this document also includes guidance and good practices. These are non-mandatory recommendations, case studies, and research-based insights to support implementation, strengthen sustainability outcomes, and encourage continuous improvement. Examples include guidance on tapping techniques, agroforestry design, biodiversity strategies, and social responsibility measures.

3 MOREGANIC® RUBBER FARM MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Certification criteria are presented as a separate, structured section with clear numbering to facilitate easy reference and auditability. The requirements herein are measurable and auditable.

KNOWLEDGE BOX

THE MOREGANIC® APPROACH: WHY BIODIVERSITY MATTERS

Why Biodiversity Matters in Latex Agroforestry

Rubber agroforestry systems are emerging as a key model for ecological sustainability, integrating latex production with biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Unlike monoculture plantations, these systems incorporate native species, companion crops, and mixed vegetation, which significantly enhance soil health, water cycles, pest control, and carbon sequestration (Jose, 2009; Hua et al., 2022).

Soil Health & Water Regulation

Biodiverse agroforestry enriches soil organic matter, improving its structure, aeration, and water-holding capacity. This reduces runoff, erosion, and nutrient depletion, ensuring long-term productivity without excessive reliance on synthetic inputs (Garrity, 2004). Mixed-species plantations also regulate water cycles, reducing flood risks while enhancing groundwater recharge - a critical function in tropical latex-growing regions, where seasonal droughts can impact yields (Somboonsuke et al., 2018).

Microclimate Regulation & Increased Latex Yields

Maintaining diverse vegetation creates a buffered microclimate, reducing temperature fluctuations, extreme heat, and humidity loss - factors that directly impact rubber latex production. Studies show that intercropping rubber trees with shade-tolerant plants, fruit trees, or timber species creates cooler, more stable growing conditions, leading to higher and more consistent latex yields (Ziegler et al., 2009). Additionally, the presence of native vegetation attracts pollinators and predatory species, naturally controlling pest populations and reducing the need for chemical interventions (Hua et al., 2022).

Wildlife Corridors & Ecosystem Balance

Biodiversity in agroforestry extends beyond soil and climate benefits, offering natural habitat corridors for wildlife. Many rubber-growing regions are biodiversity hotspots, and integrating agroforestry principles helps restore degraded land, enabling pollinators, birds, and beneficial insects to thrive. Research suggests that maintaining at least 10-15% of plantation areas as biodiversity reserves supports higher ecosystem resilience while improving crop stability through natural pest control (Jose, 2009).

Carbon Sequestration & Climate Resilience

Agroforestry plays a crucial role in carbon storage and climate mitigation. Studies estimate that well-managed latex agroforestry systems can sequester between 50 to 150 tons of carbon per hectare over their lifecycle, significantly outperforming monoculture plantations in long-term carbon retention (Ziegler et al., 2009; Hua et al., 2022). Additionally, practices such as cover cropping, nitrogen-fixing intercropping, and conservation tillage further enhance soil carbon levels, contributing to climate resilience and sustainable latex production.

By prioritizing biodiversity and agroforestry principles, rubber latex farmers can increase yields, enhance soil fertility, stabilize microclimates, and improve ecosystem resilience – all while sequestering carbon and reducing chemical dependency. These benefits position Moreganic®-certified latex as a sustainable, climate-smart alternative to conventional rubber farming, aligning with global environmental commitments, including the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3.1 ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

The criteria and guidance in this document ensure sustainable rubber production balances ecological integrity, ethical responsibility, and economic viability.

3.1.1 BIODIVERSITY

Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience

Rubber agroforestry systems provide a structured approach to sustainable latex production by integrating diverse plant species to improve ecosystem stability, soil health, and microclimate regulation. These systems contribute to long-term farm productivity and environmental balance by:

+ **Tailoring agroforestry models** according to plantation age, tree canopy coverage, and site-specific conditions, ensuring that species selection aligns with shade levels, maintenance capacity, and economic goals
+ **Establishing buffer zones** with native species to protect water sources and strengthen biodiversity corridors.
+ **Promoting companion planting** with crops that enhance biodiversity while remaining compatible with rubber trees in terms of canopy structure, root competition, and ecological benefits.
+ **Maintaining designated natural vegetation areas** to serve as habitat refuges for pollinators and beneficial species.
+ **Expanding agroforestry practices** by integrating multi-purpose species such as fruit trees, timber species, or nitrogen-fixing plants, based on farm-specific needs and available labor resources.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders **shall** comply with the following:

FMS 3.1.1-1 The farm **shall** develop and implement a Moreganic® Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP).

+ The MBAP shall outline clear, measurable objectives over a five-year period, progressively increasing biodiversity and agroforestry coverage based on site-specific conditions such as soil type, canopy cover, and farm size. The MBAP shall be developed using the template provided in *Annex E – Biodiversity Action Plan*.

FMS 3.1.1-2 The farm **shall** dedicate a minimum of 10% of the certified area to biodiversity enhancement within five (5) years, as set out in the Moreganic® Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP) in *Annex E – Biodiversity Action Plan.*

Entry (Onboarding) - At the initial certification audit, farms **shall** submit an MBAP with baseline mapping and a 5-year plan to reach the 10% target. Existing biodiversity areas may be counted. No prohibited chemicals are permitted from the start.

+ Progress (Year 3) - At least 5% **shall** be established and documented.

+ Target (Year 5) - The full 10% **shall** be achieved and maintained.

Eligible areas include agroforestry systems (as defined in Terms and Definitions), natural or semi-natural vegetation, conservation corridors and linear features, buffer strips, and legally protected areas.

Implementation rules:

+ Qualifying areas shall be mapped and recorded in the MBAP (sketch, GPS, or geotagged photos).

+ Linear features should be ≥3 m wide; where narrower, equivalent length may be used to meet the area requirement.

+ Riparian buffers shall be ≥5 m on each bank unless stricter national law applies.

+ The 10% biodiversity target shall be cumulative across all blocks of the certified unit.

Compliance assurance (defined):

+ Evidence of progress is required during audit (e.g., newly established/expanded areas in m^2 or ha, seedling/planting records, buffer marking, updated maps with photos, maintenance records).

+ No verifiable progress at an audit will be deemed a Major Non-Conformance; a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) shall be submitted within 30 days, with MFCS/ICS support and time-bound actions.

+ Two consecutive audits without verifiable progress will lead to certification suspension until CAP actions are implemented and verified.

+ Force majeure (e.g., flood, fire, disease outbreak) may justify a one-time extension up to 12 months, when documented and approved by the certification body.

+ Reinstatement requires verification that CAP actions are completed and progress toward the MBAP milestone is demonstrated.

FMS 3.1.1-3 The farm **shall** implement at least two (2) biodiversity enhancement measures selected from *Annex G – Biodiversity Enhancement (Normative)*. Equivalent measures may be approved by ICS/MFCS when mapped in the MBAP and evidenced as per *Annex E*.

+ Mixed-species hedgerows or perennial cover crops.
+ Pollinator-friendly plantings (e.g., native flowering species).
+ Designated refuge areas for wildlife, including shaded understory zones or nesting sites for beneficial species.

FMS 3.1.1-4 The farm **shall** maintain documentation on biodiversity measures, including:

+ Species selection and agroforestry integration records.
+ Mapping of conservation areas and biodiversity features.
+ Annual visual documentation (e.g., geotagged photos, habitat maps) to demonstrate biodiversity progress.

FMS 3.1.1-5 Biodiversity Assessment Protocol
The farm **shall** demonstrate biodiversity compliance through:

Required: Moreganic® Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP)

+ All farms must submit MBAP during Onboarding process
+ Field conditions must align with MBAP commitments at time of audit
+ Annual MBAP review and update:
    - Plantations: Formal internal review with documented updates
    - Smallholders: Review during ICS inspection or certification audit

Minimum Quality Standards for Biodiversity Areas:

+ Each mapped biodiversity area must contain at least three (3) different non-*Hevea brasiliensis* species present at the same time (trees, shrubs, vines, or perennial crops growing together)
+ Species may include trees, shrubs, perennial vines, or established cover crops.
+ Small features (hedgerows, buffer strips, pollinator plantings) may be aggregated if mapped and documented. Each claimed area must be identifiable during audit through maps, photos, or field markers

Temporary intercrops with immature rubber

Areas where bananas, cassava, or similar annual/semi-perennial crops are grown between young rubber trees (0-5 years) may count toward the 10% target, provided:

+ The intercrop is integrated with rubber planting (not a standalone field)
+ The MBAP documents permanent biodiversity features that will maintain the 10% target once rubber canopy closes and intercrops are phased out
+ At least one additional non-*Hevea brasiliensis* species is present (e.g., legume cover crop, fruit trees, or native vegetation strips)

Standalone monocrops do not qualify

Fields planted only with a single non-rubber crop species (e.g., banana plantation separate from rubber areas, annual rice fields) do not count toward biodiversity requirements

Assessment Method

Auditors shall verify MBAP implementation through (but not limited to):

- Field inspection of mapped areas
- Photographic evidence (geotagged photos of biodiversity area showing species diversity)
- Interviews confirming farmer knowledge of species and maintenance practices
- Verification that mapped areas meet minimum quality standards above
- Documented farm management records, including seedling purchase or delivery records

Area Measurement

Biodiversity areas may be measured through farmer sketch maps, pacing, or GPS where available. Approximate measurements acceptable - exact precision not required.

For group certifications, verification follows established sampling protocols as defined in Section 4.3. Guidance and Implementation Support

MBAP Development

In certain regions, particularly smallholder farming areas, the Moreganic® Field & Certification Support (MFCS) team may provide technical guidance on preparing, implementing, and reviewing Biodiversity Action Plans, including species selection suited to ecological conditions and agroforestry design based on canopy, soil, and water needs. Accepted species palettes and invasive/prohibited lists are maintained in the regional handbook. Where temporary intercrops are used (e.g., bananas in immature rubber), the MBAP shall identify the permanent features that will maintain the 10% once canopy closes.

Flexible Implementation

Farms may adapt biodiversity measures to local conditions, available labor resources, and economic constraints while meeting minimum requirements.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

The following practices are recommended to enhance biodiversity outcomes, ecosystem services, and income diversification. While not required for certification, they support continuous improvement practices.

FMS 3.1.1-G1 **Pollinator Habitat Development** + Farms may establish stingless beekeeping operations, native flowering strips, or specialized nesting areas to enhance pollination services and create alternative income streams from honey, propolis, and wax.	**FMS 3.1.1-G3** **Biodiversity Monitoring and Research** + Farms may participate in biodiversity monitoring programs, document species inventories, or collaborate with research institutions to track ecosystem health indicators and contribute to regional conservation knowledge.
FMS 3.1.1-G2 **Advanced Agroforestry Systems** + Farms may integrate timber species, essential oil crops, or medicinal plants to add long-term economic value while supporting biodiversity objectives beyond minimum requirements.	**FMS 3.1.1-G4** **Community Conservation Programs** + Farms may engage in community education initiatives, seed conservation networks, or collaborative corridor management with neighboring properties to enhance landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

Documentation Frequency

Major changes to biodiversity areas shall be recorded within 30 days and retained in farm records for audit verification.

Format and Accessibility

Records may be stored in physical or digital format. Digital records must be stored in a secure, backed-up system with restricted access rights. Geotagged photographs, maps, and monitoring records shall be stored in formats that allow long-term retrieval and audit verification.

Safeguards and Security

Farms and processors must implement reasonable measures to protect data against loss, tampering, or unauthorized access (e.g., locked filing for paper records, password-protected digital storage, and regular backups). If records are managed by an Internal Control System (ICS), the ICS is responsible for maintaining a central repository accessible during audits.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess compliance based on:

- The proportion of cultivated land dedicated to agroforestry or natural vegetation
- Evidence of biodiversity enhancement planning and activities
- Accuracy and completeness of documentation related to ecosystem protection and biodiversity development
- Progress toward MBAP goals and alignment with certification criteria

Technical Support

Where available, MFCS teams may provide technical guidance on species selection suited to ecological conditions, agroforestry design based on canopy, soil, and water needs, and preparation, implementation, and review of the Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP).

Verification Standards

Verification audits shall follow the current Moreganic® Audit Checklist and Certification Criteria.

KNOWLEDGE BOX

INCORPORATING STINGLESS BEES AND OTHER AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES INTO MOREGANIC®

Stingless bees (Meliponini) offer exceptional opportunities for low-maintenance biodiversity enhancement and income diversification in tropical agroforestry systems. Unlike European honeybees, stingless bees are native to tropical regions and require minimal intervention while providing multiple ecosystem services.

The introduction of stingless bee colonies (*Meliponini* species) within rubber agroforestry systems offers multiple environmental and economic benefits:

+ Pollination Services - Enhances productivity of companion crops such as cacao, coffee, and fruit trees, contributing to higher farm yields.
+ Additional Farmer Income - Production of high-value honey, propolis, and wax provides an alternative revenue stream, reducing financial dependence on latex.
+ Low Maintenance & High Adaptability - Unlike livestock, stingless bees require minimal land, water, and feeding inputs, making them a cost-effective biodiversity strategy.
+ Biodiversity Support - The presence of stingless bees increases ecosystem stability by enhancing the diversity of flowering plants and native species.

Source: Wang Mei Hua, Warren-Thomas & Wanger, 2021

3.1.2 PROPAGATION MATERIAL

Ensuring Genetic Diversity and Biodiversity-Positive Planting Practices

The selection and sourcing of planting material for rubber trees and companion crops ensures productive yields while supporting agroforestry systems and biodiversity enhancement. The primary requirement is ensuring non-GMO status with basic traceability.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders **shall** comply with the following:

FMS 3.1.2-1 All rubber tree propagation material (seedlings, budded stumps, or grafted plants) **shall** be:

+ Non-GMO
+ Sourced from approved suppliers including, government nurseries, research institutes (e.g., national rubber research institutes, commercial nurseries, on-farm nurseries or farmer cooperative nurseries

- Documented with source name, variety (if known), quantity, planting date, field location
- Supplier declarations confirming non-GMO status (for purchased material)

FMS 3.1.2-2 Companion Crop Propagation

All companion crops planted as part of agroforestry systems **shall** be:

- Non-GMO
- Untreated seed or planting material (no synthetic pesticide, fungicide, insecticide, nematicide coatings). Biological inoculants (e.g., Rhizobium sp., *Mycorrhizae, Trichoderma* sp., *Bacillus* sp.) and inert binders are permitted
- Sourced from on-farm (saved seed, cuttings, suckers), neighbor or community exchanges, local suppliers, government programs, ICS/group nurseries, or commercial suppliers
- Not listed as invasive or prohibited in regional LOP (List of Permitted/Prohibited Species) Documented within MBAPs.
- Supplier declarations confirming non-GMO status (for purchased material)

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Existing Plantations

Farms with established rubber trees planted before certification are not required to replant. All new plantings or replanting activities must comply with these propagation requirements.

Farmer Group Support

Farmer groups may designate collective procurement coordinators and maintain group records, provided individual farm traceability is maintained.

Emergency Provisions

In cases of disease outbreaks, natural disasters, or severe nursery shortages, MFCS may temporarily approve alternative suppliers meeting non-GMO requirements.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

The following practices are recommended to enhance biodiversity outcomes, ecosystem services, and income diversification. While not required for certification, they support continuous improvement practices.

FMS 3.1.2-G1

Secondary Crop Certification

+ Companion crops grown within certified rubber areas may be eligible for separate Moreganic® certification under applicable crop-specific standards. This allows farms to market both certified rubber and certified companion crops (e.g., coffee, pepper, fruit). Contact Moreganic for guidance on multi-crop certification scope and requirements.

FMS 3.1.2-G2

Enhanced Genetic Diversity

+ Farms may plant multiple compatible rubber clones within the same production area to reduce disease risk, improve plantation resilience, and enhance genetic diversity.

FMS 3.1.2-G3

Organic Propagation Preference

+ Where commercially available and cost-effective, farms should prioritize propagation material produced using organic nursery practices and certified organic growing media.

FMS 3.1.2-G4

Local Adaptation Research

+ Farms may participate in variety performance monitoring programs and share data with regional research institutes to inform future propagation recommendations and support regional adaptation research.

FMS 3.1.2-G5

Native Species Integration

+ Farms are encouraged to source companion crop varieties from local gene banks, indigenous seed networks, or native plant conservation programs to maximize biodiversity benefits and cultural relevance.

FMS 3.1.2-G6

Quality Assessment Protocols

+ Farms may implement enhanced quality control measures including health inspections, vigor testing, and conformance verification before field planting to optimize establishment success.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

All propagation material records must ensure traceability while maintaining practical record-keeping requirements consistent with Moreganic® documentation requirements.

Records must include:

- Source name and type (on-farm, exchange, supplier name)
- Species/variety (if known)
- Quantity and planting date
- Non-GMO declarations (for purchased material)

Farms are encouraged to monitor and report on variety performance, disease resistance, and compatibility with agroforestry systems to inform future propagation decisions and supplier recommendations.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

- Completeness of propagation records
- Evidence of non-GMO declarations for purchased material
- Compliance with untreated seeds/seedlings requirements for companion crops

3.1.3 SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Ensuring Long-Term Soil Health & Productivity

Healthy soil is essential for sustainable latex production, directly influencing tree vigor, latex yield, and long-term farm resilience. Moreganic® certification requires farms to prioritize organic nutrient management, prevent soil degradation, and implement erosion control measures to maintain productivity. These practices build long-term soil health while aligning with the biodiversity-first principles of the standard.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders **shall** comply with the following:

Soil Management

FMS 3.1.3-1 In erosion prone areas or in the presence of signs of erosion, the farm **shall** implement soil conservation practices, such as:

- Establishing compatible cover crops.
- Planting on contour lines in sloped areas to reduce runoff and enhance water infiltration.
- Constructing erosion control structures (e.g., terraces, bunds, dams, drains) where needed.

FMS 3.1.3-2 The farm **shall** maintain and control adequate drainage, especially on sloped or waterlogged plots.

FMS 3.1.3-3 The farm **shall** use natural mulching, cover crops, or on-farm residues to help retain soil moisture and reduce degradation, where applicable.

Nutrient Management

FMS 3.1.3-4 The farm **shall** document the last use of synthetic fertilizer, confirming a minimum three (3) month transition period prior to initial certification.

Recertification Requirements

For farms with lapsed certification seeking recertification, a minimum transition period of six (6) months shall be required before recertification.

Intentional cycling (deliberately letting certification lapse to use prohibited inputs, then re-certifying) constitutes fraud and will result in:

- Major non-conformance
- Certification ban of 36-60 months
- Possible referral to certification body for permanent ban

FMS 3.1.3-5 The farm **shall** use only permitted fertilizers as listed in *Annex A - Permitted Fertilizer, Soil Conditioners, and Nutrients.*

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Soil Testing

Where available, fertilizer applications should be guided by soil testing and follow recommended timing to ensure efficient uptake.

Regional Adaptation

In certain regions, MFCS teams may provide training and support to ensure appropriate nutrient management and soil protection strategies are applied according to local conditions.

Flexible Implementation

Physical barriers such as terraces and check dams may be constructed as needed based on site-specific erosion risks and topography.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

The following practices are recommended to enhance biodiversity outcomes, ecosystem services, and income diversification. While not required for certification, they support continuous improvement practices.

FMS 3.1.3-G1

Enhanced Soil Biology

+ Farms may incorporate biochar (from untreated biomass) to enhance microbial activity, increase organic matter, and support long-term soil fertility.

FMS 3.1.3-G2

Advanced Nitrogen Management

+ Farms may implement rotational intercropping with leguminous cover species (*e.g., Mucuna bracteata, Stylosanthes guianensis*) to improve nitrogen levels and suppress soil-borne pests.

FMS 3.1.3-G3

Water Management Enhancement

+ Farms may construct raised beds or swales in flood-prone zones to improve root health and drainage beyond basic requirements.

FMS 3.1.3-G4

Groundcover Optimization

+ Farms may select specialized shade-tolerant groundcover species to protect bare soil under the rubber canopy and provide additional ecosystem services.

FMS 3.1.3-G5

Knowledge Sharing Participation

+ Farms may participate in local or regional soil health workshops and contribute to regenerative practice knowledge exchanges.

FMS 3.1.3-G6

Precision Agriculture

+ Farms may implement soil monitoring systems, nutrient mapping, or precision application techniques to optimize fertilizer efficiency.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

All soil and fertilizer-related records must be accessible to auditors, MFCS, or the Internal Control System (ICS) for sampling-based verification.

Required Records

- Soil amendment and input records including type, composition, date, amount, and field location
- Soil test results and corrective improvement measures (where applicable)
- Visual assessments documenting soil conservation practices and erosion control

Non-Conformance

Failure to implement or document these practices shall result in minor or major non-conformance depending on severity and context.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

- Implementation of soil conservation practices and erosion control measures
- Compliance with organic fertilizer requirements and transition periods
- Accuracy and completeness of soil and nutrient management documentation

Visual Assessments

Auditors shall perform field inspections to identify soil conservation practices, erosion patterns, and degradation indicators.

3.1.4 PEST, DISEASE, AND CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

Ensuring Responsible Use of Chemicals and Integrated Pest Management

Certified farms and entities shall prioritize non-chemical pest and weed management methods. When chemical control is necessary, use must be justified, limited, and properly documented to minimize environmental impact and protect human health.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, farms **shall** comply with the following:

FMS 3.1.4-1 The farm **shall** prioritize Integrated Pest Management (IPM), using biological, cultural, and mechanical methods as the first line of control. Agrochemical applications may only be used when non-chemical methods are insufficient and must follow *Annex B– Permitted and Restricted Plant Protection Products*.

FMS 3.1.4-2 Farms **shall** maintain accurate records of all agrochemical use, including product name and active ingredient, quantity applied, field location, application date, and operator name.

Additional requirements for plantations and estate operations (≥100 ha): Application method, weather conditions, supplier information.

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Emergency Approval Process

For unlisted agrochemicals, farms must submit requests through the process outlined in *Annex C*, including justification, risk assessment, and mitigation measures.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Training

Where available, MFCS teams may provide training on IPM techniques, early pest identification, and safe handling protocols.

Regional Adaptations

Local pest pressures and available biological controls may be accommodated through MFCS regional protocols while maintaining core IPM principles.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

The following practices support transition toward chemical-free pest management and enhanced agroforestry resilience. While not required for certification, they support continuous improvement practices in integrated agroforestry practices.

FMS 3.1.4-G1

Enhanced Biodiversity Control

+ Farms may increase mixed cropping and plant diversity to enhance natural pest control and reduce chemical reliance.

FMS 3.1.4-G3

Comprehensive Training Programs

+ Farms may provide enhanced training on IPM techniques, early pest identification, and integrated management approaches for all field personnel.

FMS 3.1.4-G2

Advanced Cultural Practices

+ Farms may implement crop rotation, infected material removal, and canopy density management to reduce disease pressure.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

Chemical inputs records may be maintained through Internal Control Systems (ICS), MFCS field support, farm-level logbooks, or digital traceability systems where available. Records must be accessible to auditors and certification bodies for verification.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audits will assess compliance based on substance usage, application frequency, justification, and alignment with IPM goals. Field inspections will verify IPM implementation and chemical storage practices.

Verification sources

Auditors may review farm-level records, ICS documentation, MFCS records, or digital systems where available.

Ensuring Quality and Traceability from Tree to Collection

Proper harvesting and post-harvest handling practices are essential for maintaining latex quality, ensuring traceability, and supporting fair pricing mechanisms throughout the supply chain.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, farms **shall** comply with the following:

FMS 3.1.5-1 Harvesting Records

The farm **shall** maintain harvesting records including:

- Daily yield data by field/block
- Tapping schedules and rotation patterns
- Quality assessments and any contamination incidents

FMS 3.1.5-2 Segregation and Identificatio

All farms and collection centres **shall** ensure proper segregation of certified and non-certified latex volumes with clear identification and labelling systems.

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Tapping Best Practices

Farms are encouraged to follow sustainable tapping techniques to optimize long-term tree health, longevity, and yield stability.

Collection Centre Standards

Where multiple farms deliver to shared collection centres, clear protocols for segregation and documentation must be established.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

FMS 3.1.5-G1

Sustainable Tapping Practices

- Farms may implement enhanced tapping protocols that optimize long-term tree health and yield stability, including precise incision techniques, balanced tapping schedules, and systematic rest periods.

KNOWLEDGE BOX

WHY SUSTAINABLE TAPPING MATTERS

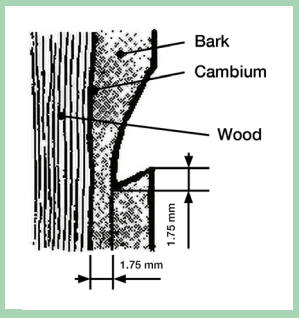
Sustainable tapping is vital to farm productivity, tree health, and long-term latex yields. Inappropriate tapping practices, such as cutting too deep or too frequently, can severely damage trees and reduce overall output.

Studies show that poor tapping or overly frequent tapping can lead to:

+ **Tapping Panel Dryness (TPD)** – Overextraction causes physiological stress, stopping latex flow.
+ **Tree Damage** – Excessive bark removal shortens productive lifespan.
+ **Yield Instability** – Irregular or improper technique reduces both quantity and quality of latex.

By following a balanced tapping schedule and using correct techniques, tappers can maintain higher yields over time while extending the productive life of rubber trees.

How the tapping incision angle should look



+ **Angle**: The tapping incision should be made at a 30°-45° angle downward.
+ **Depth**: Avoid cutting too deep; the incision should only remove a thin layer of bark to allow latex to flow without damaging the cambium.
+ **Direction**: The cut should be made in a smooth, consistent motion.

Best practice guidelines for tapping

1 **Follow a consistent tapping schedule**

- Begin tapping only after at least half the block has stems ≥ 50 cm in circumference (≈ 16 cm diameter) to safeguard bark and maximize lifetime yield.

2 **Use precise incision Techniques**

- 30°–45° angle downward, shallow cuts just enough to access latex without harming cambium.
- Follow appropriate panel rotation to prevent bark exhaustion.

3 **Allow recovery time**

- Plan rest periods during droughts or leaf fall.
- Monitor trees for signs of stress (e.g., bark hardening, flow reduction).

4 **Invest in training**

- Tappers should receive regular training on bark care, latex optimization, and sustainable harvesting techniques.

Most important

+ Consistent, controlled tapping prevents long-term tree damage and ensures stable latex yields.
+ Precision techniques reduce bark waste and extend tapping panel life.
+ Periodic rest periods improve tree recovery and maximize overall productivity.

By adopting sustainable tapping practices, tappers help increase farm profitability while preserving tree health for future harvests.

Reference: Chambon, B., Angthong, S., Kongmanee, C., Somboonsuke, B., Mazon, S., Puengcharoen, A., Martin, C., & Lacote, R. (2014). A Comparative Analysis of Farmers/farmer groups' Tapping Practices in Four Rubber Producing Regions of Thailand. *Advanced Materials Research*, 844, 34-37. DOI: 10.4028/www.scientific.net/AMR.844.34

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

Required Records

+ Daily harvesting logs by field/block with yield data and quality notes
+ Collection centre intake records showing volumes, sources, and segregation
+ Cleaning and maintenance logs for collection centre facilities

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

- Accuracy of yield reporting and traceability documentation
- Effectiveness of segregation systems at collection centres
- Compliance with premium payment requirements in contracts between farmers and collection points
- Quality control measures and contamination prevention

Field Verification

Auditors shall verify harvesting practices and inspect collection centre facilities, and review premium payment flows to farmers.

3.1.6 DELEGATED OPERATIONS

Managing Delegated Tasks and Responsibilities

When farms delegate essential tasks to subcontractors or hire personnel, oversight mechanisms must ensure compliance with Moreganic® requirements.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

FMS 3.1.6-1 Certificate Holder Responsibility

The certificate holder remains responsible for ensuring compliance with all Moreganic® requirements, regardless of whether work is performed by employees, hired labor, or service contractors.

FMS 3.1.6-2 Training and Instruction

Subcontractors performing the following operations shall receive documented instruction on safety practices and compliance requirements:

Chemical/agrochemical handling - All persons mixing, applying, or storing plant protection products or fertilizers shall receive safety training and use appropriate PPE (as per FMS 3.2-5)

Ammonia handling - All persons handling ammonia (whether at collection points or adding to cups during tapping) must receive one-time instruction on:

- Safe handling practices
- PPE requirements (gloves, avoiding inhalation)

+ Emergency response (eye/skin contact)
+ Proper storage away from certified production areas

Certified material segregation - Personnel at collection points responsible for keeping certified and non-certified materials separate must understand segregation requirements

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Contract Essentials

For group certifications, the ICS coordinates training. For individual farms supported by MFCS, training may be provided through field support programs. For casual hired labor, basic verbal instruction is acceptable.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

Required Records

+ Training records for employees and regular personnel
+ Written agreements for external service contractors (where applicable)
+ Basic oversight documentation

Records may be maintained through ICS, MFCS support, or digital systems where available.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

+ Training delivery and instruction for employees and hired personnel
+ Certificate holder oversight of delegated operations
+ Written agreements for external service contractors (where applicable)
+ Compliance of delegated operations with Moreganic® requirements

Subcontractor Verification

Auditors may interview personnel performing delegated operations and inspect their work to verify compliance with certification requirements.

3.2 ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Upholding Social Equity & Human Rights

The Moreganic® Ethical Responsibility Standard ensures that all certified farms and entities uphold fundamental human rights, promote gender equity, and support safe, fair, and dignified working conditions. These commitments align with International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, national labour laws, and internationally recognized sustainability frameworks.

KNOWLEDGE BOX (NON-MANDATORY)

ETHICS IN RUBBER FARMING

Ethical practices are central to the Moreganic® framework, ensuring that all certified entities:

- Respect human rights and provide fair wages.
- Eliminate forced labour and discrimination.
- Promote gender inclusion and community well-being.
- Uphold safe and dignified working conditions.

Rubber agroforestry creates opportunities for inclusive participation, such as women-led intercropping or community cooperatives. Investment in education, healthcare, and infrastructure builds trust and shared value.

Ethical labour practices not only enhance productivity and product quality - they foster long-term sustainability and dignity for workers and communities alike.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders **shall** comply with the following:

FMS 3.2-1 **Compliance with applicable Labor Laws and ILO Standards**

The farm **shall** adhere to applicable national labor laws and align with relevant ILO conventions, including:

- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- Elimination of forced or compulsory labor
- Prohibition of discrimination in employment

FMS 3.2-2 Fair Labor Practices

+ All certified entities shall ensure non-discrimination in hiring, promotion, pay, and training based on race, gender, religion, age, or ability.

FMS 3.2-3 Child Labor, Young Workers and Family Participation

+ **Minimum working age:** Children under the national minimum working age shall not be employed. Minimum working age defined as the highest of: (i) national law, (ii) 15 years, or (iii) completion of compulsory schooling.
+ **Young workers:** May perform non-hazardous work only, under supervision, and not at night or during school hours. Prohibited tasks include: handling agrochemicals, operating power machinery, heavy lifting, working at heights, or any other hazardous activity.
+ **Family participation:** Children and youth participating in family-owned operations is permitted when voluntary, non-hazardous in nature, and does not interfere with schooling
+ **Children of hired workers:** Children accompanying hired workers to the workplace are the employer's responsibility. Employers must ensure these children do not engage in work activities or are exposed to workplace hazards

KNOWLEDGE BOX

FAMILY PARTICIPATION VS. CHILD LABOR

Moreganic® recognizes the distinction between family farming traditions and child labor.

+ **Family-owned operations:** Age-appropriate participation by children in educational, non-hazardous activities is permitted when voluntary and does not interfere with schooling.
+ **Hired workers:** Employers must ensure that children accompanying hired workers to the workplace are protected from all workplace hazards and do not perform any work activities, regardless of family relationships.

This approach aligns with ILO conventions while acknowledging cultural practices in agricultural communities.

FMS 3.2-4 Elimination of Forced and Involuntary Labor

+ Workers shall be employed freely with the right to leave without penalty.
+ Use of bonded, coerced, or forced labor is prohibited.
+ Employers shall not:
    - Retain original personal identity documents (work permits, passports, ID cards) - workers must have access to originals at all times

- Impose recruitment fees or require workers to pay for employment
- Retaliate against workers who raise complaints or leave employment

FMS 3.2-5 **Occupational Safety and Training**

Certified farms and entities shall provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) free of charge and safety training to all workers (including temporary, seasonal, and contracted workers) at least once a year for high-risk tasks such as involving:

+ Agrochemicals (plant protection products, fertilizers, stimulants - see *Annexes A, B, J*)
+ Chemicals (fuels, disinfectants, ammonia, cleaning agents)
+ Machinery operation
+ Work at heights or other hazardous activities

KNOWLEDGE BOX

PRACTICAL SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION - SCOPE OF SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Moreganic® certification focuses on workplace safety within the farm's operational control. Safety requirements apply to on-farm activities including tapping, machinery operation, and other farm-based work.

Certification does not extend to:

+ **Worker transportation to/from the farm**
+ **Public road safety compliance**
+ **Personal transportation choices outside farm operations**

Rationale

Farms can effectively implement and control safety measures within their operational boundaries. Public safety regulations (traffic laws, transportation requirements) fall under government authority and enforcement.

This approach ensures Moreganic® maintains focus on areas where certificate holders have direct operational control and responsibility.

FMS 3.2-6 **Fair Workload and Documentation for Labor**

+ Working hours shall follow applicable national laws.
+ Hours and payments for labour shall be transparently documented for all workers, including temporary, seasonal, and contracted workers.

FMS 3.2-7 **Grievance Mechanisms**

Plantations and large operations shall maintain formal grievance mechanisms with at least two reporting channels (e.g., supervisor, worker representative, locked suggestion box, phone hotline, ICS contact). Systems must support anonymous reports, ensure confidentiality, and prohibit retaliation.

Smallholder farms shall provide workers with at least one clear method to raise concerns (e.g., direct communication with farm owner, ICS contact where applicable) with assurance of no retaliation.

DOCUMENTATION

- Plantations: Maintain grievance logs including case ID, date, issue summary, actions taken, and resolution status. Retain records for minimum 5 years
- Smallholder farms: Document significant grievances and resolutions. Retain records for minimum 5 years
- Posted information: Grievance procedures and contact information shall be communicated to workers in local language(s).

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Worker Engagement

Employers shall encourage open communication and worker representation through established grievance procedures.

Community Support

Farms are encouraged to support surrounding communities through education initiatives, healthcare access, infrastructure development, and support for women-led or cooperative enterprises.

Regional Adaptation

Where available, MFCS teams may provide guidance on implementing labor standards that comply with both local regulations and international best practices.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

The following practices support continuous improvement in worker well-being, gender inclusion, and ethical governance. While not required for certification, they demonstrate leadership in social responsibility.

FMS 3.2.1-G1

Enhanced Inclusive Participation

+ Farms may foster women and marginalized group engagement in production, intercropping, or cooperative initiatives, including access to leadership roles and income-generating activities.

FMS 3.2.2-G2

Community Education Support

+ Farms may promote education initiatives, tutoring support, or school attendance campaigns in surrounding communities while ensuring family work remains non-hazardous and education-compatible.

FMS 3.2.3-G3

Enhanced Recruitment Transparency

+ Farms may provide contracts in workers' native languages, clear benefit explanations, and visual guides or orientation sessions to strengthen employment understanding.

FMS 3.2.4-G4

Advanced Worker Representation

+ Farms may establish regular worker dialogue sessions, peer-elected grievance officers, and anonymous concern tracking systems.

FMS 3.2.5-G5

Enhanced Safety Culture

+ Farms may maintain updated safety documentation, accessible first-aid facilities, and conduct annual health and safety refresher training beyond minimum requirements.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

Farms shall maintain transparent employment records, including worker contracts, hours worked, payments, training logs, and grievance documentation. Employment-related records may be maintained through ICS, MFCS support, or digital systems where available.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

- Compliance with labor laws and ILO standards
- Implementation of non-discrimination and fair treatment practices
- Effectiveness of safety training and grievance mechanisms
- Accuracy of employment documentation and wage records

Auditors may review farm-level records, ICS documentation, MFCS records, or digital systems where available.

Worker Interviews

Auditors may conduct confidential interviews with workers to verify implementation of ethical labor practices and grievance procedures.

KNOWLEDGE BOX

FAIR LABOR PRACTICES IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY

Research by the International Labour Organization (ILO) demonstrates that fair labor practices, including better wages, safer working conditions, and effective grievance mechanisms, correlate with increased productivity and lower turnover rates.

Studies of rubber plantations in Southeast Asia implementing worker safety training and grievance systems reported significant improvements in worker satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Ethical labor practices enhance workforce stability and performance, supporting long-term farm sustainability and product quality.

For research citations and additional resources, visit **www.moreganic.com**

3.3 ECONOMIC VIABILITY

Ensuring Fair Compensation and Financial Sustainability

The Moreganic© approach ensures that rubber farming and latex production are financially sustainable while promoting fair compensation, premium market access, and economic resilience. These principles support the long-term economic health of farmers, processors, and communities while incentivizing sustainable and responsible production practices.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders shall comply with the following:

FMS 3.3-1 Certified Latex Premium

Certified natural rubber latex **must** receive a sustainability premium that rewards responsible production and guarantees farmers and other certification participants tangible incentives to meet Moreganic® standards.

Premium Requirements

- Certified farms shall receive at least 7% above the prevailing official local price published for their country or region.
- The applicable reference price source shall be specified in the regional Moreganic® Local Operating Procedure (LOP).
- Where no official farm-gate price exists, equivalent reference price shall be calculated as defined in the regional LOP.

Premium Distribution

- At least 75% of the premium shall be paid to the farmer or cooperative.
- Up to maximum 25% shall be retained by the registered collection centre (or centres) to cover certified handling, segregation, and compliance support.
- Premium allocation must be separately itemized on farmer receipts (base price vs. premium).
- Premiums shall be generated only from certified areas.

FMS 3.3-2 Transparent and Timely Pricing

- Payment (including premium) shall be made on the day of receipt or within 48 hours, or as mutually agreed in writing (e.g., weekly cycle).
- All agreed payment terms shall be documented in contracts or receipts.
- Any deductions must be clearly itemized, justified, and pre-agreed.
- Pricing formulas and premium calculations (e.g., % of reference price; DRC conversion) shall be transparent and documented and, where applicable, posted at the collection centre.

FMS 3.3-3 Financial Record-Keeping

Certified entities shall maintain complete and auditable payment records, including transaction details, payment schedules, and price calculations. Records shall be retained for at least five (5) years. Accepted payment modes: cash with signed/ thumbprint receipt, mobile money, or bank transfer with reference.

FMS 3.3-4 Premium Management for Plantations and Estate Operations

Plantations and Estate Operations designation applies when any of the two (2) following are met:

- Certified area ≥200 ha;
- FTE workers (incl. contracted tappers) ≥100;

Mandatory Premium Distribution Framework for Plantations and Estate Operations

Category	Allocation	Description
Workers	≥50%	Direct to tappers and latex collection workers through documented wage supplements, bonuses, cash payments, pension, or other benefits.
Biodiversity	5–15%	For workers engaged in biodiversity maintenance activities required by Moreganic certification (e.g., natural vegetation management, buffer zones, multi-cropping, MBAP implementation). If biodiversity targets are met, surplus above 5% may flow to Workers.
Community	5–15%	For community and infrastructure investments with documented beneficiaries independent from ownership. Priorities determined in consultation with worker representatives.
Operations	≤30%	For certification costs, training, equipment, administration, and taxes.

Transparency Requirements:

- Premium allocation policy shall be communicated to workers in local languages
- Workers shall have access to information about premium amounts and distribution
- A clear mechanism for worker feedback on premium utilization shall be established

DOCUMENTATION:

- Annual premium distribution summary showing allocations by category
- Worker payment records for premium-related benefits
- Community investment receipts with beneficiary documentation

Worker Engagement

Plantations are encouraged to involve worker representatives in premium allocation planning through committees, assemblies, or other consultation mechanisms.

PREMIUM DISTRIBUTION BY FARM TYPE

Common Principle (Cases 1 and 2)

Premium is paid by collection centre to certified Moreganic® farmers using published local/national price references. Premium split: 25% retained by collection centre (covering segregation, paperwork, compliance support), 75% to farmer (auditable via receipts). This flow is independently verified by the auditing body.

Case 1 – Smallholder farms and cooperatives:

+ Farmers receive at least 75% of the total premium
+ Collection centres may retain up to 25% to cover certified handling, segregation, and compliance support
+ Premium allocation must be documented on farmer receipts and Transaction Certificates

Case 2 – Farmers with Hired Tappers

+ Farmers receive the farmer share (75% of total premium)
+ Farmers are encouraged to share premium benefits with hired tappers but this is discretionary. This supports labor availability and higher wages without creating unauditable requirements.
+ Audits verify premium flow from collection centre to farmer through receipts

Case 3 – Large Plantations

+ Premium allocation follows mandatory framework outlined in FMS 3.3-4.
+ Audits verify worker benefit payments, community investments, and transparency requirements

Premium Verification

Collection centres must document premium distribution through receipts and Transaction Certificates showing total premium amounts and allocation percentages.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

The following practices support economic empowerment of vulnerable producers, strengthen industry attractiveness, and build long-term financial sustainability across the rubber value chain. While not required for certification, they demonstrate leadership in sustainable economic development.

FMS 3.3.1-G1 **Enhanced Financial Literacy** + Farms and cooperatives may offer financial literacy sessions to help producers understand pricing structures, contract terms, and budgeting.	**FMS 3.3.3-G3** **Market Information Sharing** + Entities may provide updated information on latex market trends and pricing to support informed decision-making and investment planning.

FMS 3.3.2-G2	FMS 3.3.4-G4
Advanced Payment Systems + Operations may implement transparent and traceable digital payment platforms that improve accessibility and reliability for smallholders.	**Tapper Incentive Programs** + Farmers are encouraged to share premium benefits with hired tappers through above-market wages or bonuses to address labor shortages and support worker retention.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD RETENTION

Premium payment records, contracts, and price calculations must be retained for five (5) years and made available for audit verification. Documentation must include clear evidence of premium distribution according to required percentages. Large plantations must additionally maintain worker committee records, benefit distribution documentation, and community investment receipts.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

+ Compliance with minimum 7% premium requirements.
+ Accuracy of premium distribution (75% farmer, 25% collection centre maximum for Cases 1 and 2).
+ Transparency of pricing mechanisms and payment timing.
+ Completeness of financial record-keeping.

Large Plantation Verification

Auditors shall additionally verify:

+ Worker committee functionality and premium policy approval.
+ Documentation of worker benefit payments and community investments.
+ Public posting of premium information and worker access to records.
+ Worker interviews confirming premium benefit receipt.

Premium Verification

Auditors shall verify that price sources match current LOP requirements, premium calculations are correctly applied, and receipts demonstrate proper premium distribution according to operation type.

KNOWLEDGE BOX

Fair Pricing Supports Sustainable Growth

A 2020 study by the ILO found that farms implementing transparent pricing systems and timely payments reported:

- A 25% increase in farmer retention
- Greater reinvestment in farm improvements
- Higher adoption rates of sustainable practices

These findings confirm that economic viability not only improves financial outcomes but also drives environmental and social sustainability.

For additional research and insights, visit **moreganic.com**.

3.4 VERIFICATION & CONTROL

The Moreganic® verification system ensures that all certified farms, collection centres, processors, and supply chain participants meet the requirements of the Moreganic® Rubber Farm Management Standard. The verification framework is designed to be transparent, practical, and adaptable, ensuring that compliance is measurable and auditable while remaining efficient and cost-effective for certified entities.

Digital traceability capabilities and relationship-based support systems reduce administrative burden while enhancing assurance, particularly in smallholder contexts where traditional audit-only approaches may be insufficient.

All certified rubber volumes must be traceable through commercial documentation at each custody transfer point, serving as verified proof of origin and Moreganic® compliance.

INVOICE-BASED TRACEABILITY SYSTEM

Where possible, commercial invoices serve as the primary traceability document throughout the supply chain, reducing the need for separate certification paperwork, while maintaining full volume reconciliation and batch tracking.

Operations shall:

- Use their normal invoicing systems with Moreganic® certification information added
- Include certification status prominently (can be stamped or printed on existing invoices)
- Reference their certification body certificate number on all certified product sales
- Maintain copies as part of normal business records
- Issue invoices sequentially with unique transaction reference numbers

Digital Traceability Systems

Where operations implement digital traceability systems (GPS mapping, blockchain, QR coding, database platforms), these systems shall:

- Provide real-time volume reconciliation at custody transfer points
- Track batch/lot movements with unique identifiers
- Prevent duplicate claims through automated reconciliation
- Generate audit trails with timestamps
- Integrate with premium payment verification (mandatory through primary processor stage)

Digital systems enhance audit efficiency and may qualify operations for streamlined verification procedures after demonstrated accuracy over consecutive audit cycles.

When Transaction Certificates May Be Issued

While not required for standard traceability, TCs may be requested in the following situations:

- Buyer contractual requirements
- Markets with specific documentation requirements or traditions
- First-time supply relationships establishing traceability systems
- Specialty products requiring additional documentation

Consult relevant Moreganic® chain-of-custody standards for additional information.

3.4.1 FARM-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

All certified rubber volumes must be traceable through commercial documentation at each custody transfer point, serving as verified proof of origin and Moreganic® compliance.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders engaged in farm-level operations shall comply with the following:

FMS 3.4.1-1 Traceability Documentation at Custody Transfer Points

Traceability shall be maintained through commercial invoices or delivery documentation when certified rubber changes custody:

- Farm to Collection Centre: Invoice issued by farm/ICS upon delivery / proof of purchase from Collection Centre.
- Collection Centre to Primary Processor: Invoice issued by collection centre upon sale
- Processor to Manufacturer: Covered under Chain-of-Custody Standard (separate document)

FMS 3.4.1-2 Required Information on Commercial Documents

All traceability documents shall include:

- Seller and buyer identification
- Volume of field latex and /or weight of certified dry rubber content
- Certification status clearly marked (e.g., “Moreganic® Certified”)
- Certification body and certificate number
- Harvest period or production date
- Unique transaction reference number
- **Integrated Operations:** For integrated operations where one entity controls multiple stages, internal transfer documentation may substitute for external invoices.

FMS 3.4.1-3 Mixed-Use Farm Requirements

For farms with multiple crops, the following separation measures shall be mandatory:

- Separate storage ensuring certified materials shall be apart from non-certified/treated materials. Mark certified areas as “Moreganic Certified”.
- No mixing or spraying of agrochemicals in certified areas. Ammonia/latex preservatives shall be handled only at marked handling point with PPE.
- Certificate holders shall keep a field map showing certified and non-certified blocks, storage/handling points, and buffers; post basic signs.

FMS 3.4.1-4 Application Restrictions

- Certified areas must be protected from chemical drift and must not overlap.
- Emergency chemical use (where allowed) follows Annex C with prior ICS approval and full records.

FMS 3.4.1-5 Record Retention Policy

Unless otherwise specified, all certification-related records shall be retained for five (5) years or since initial certification date, whichever is shorter.

- Year 1-5: Retain all records from certification start date.
- Year 6+: Maintain rolling 5-year archive.

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Risk Zone Management

Farms may use various methods to clearly separate certified and non-certified areas, including physical barriers, signage, or buffer zones appropriate to their specific layout and crops.

Storage Organization

Input storage areas may be organized using marking systems, separate buildings, or designated zones that prevent cross-contamination while maintaining operational efficiency.

Secondary Crop Status Documentation

Farms growing companion crops intended for certified processing facilities must maintain clear documentation of certification status, compliance with chemical-free management for crops intended for other Moreganic® certification, and separate harvest and delivery records for different certification statuses.

Complementary Guidelines [Non-Mandatory]

The following practices support enhanced traceability, risk management, and operational efficiency. While not required for certification, they demonstrate leadership in farm management.

FMS 3.4.1-G1

Transaction Certificates

+ Transaction Certificates (TCs) may be issued upon buyer request for specific market requirements, export documentation, or contractual obligations. TC issuance fees, where applicable, shall be transparently communicated and shall not create barriers to market access for smallholder farmers.

FMS 3.4.1-G2

Enhanced Separation Systems

+ Farms may implement advanced separation measures including color-coded storage systems, digital mapping, or automated inventory tracking to exceed minimum separation requirements.

FMS 3.4.1-G3

Risk Assessment Documentation

+ Farms may develop comprehensive risk assessment protocols that identify and mitigate contamination risks beyond minimum requirements.

FMS 3.4.1-G4

Integrated Crop Documentation

+ Farms may develop unified record-keeping systems that track both rubber and companion crop compliance within the same traceability framework while maintaining distinct product streams for processing facility coordination.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

+ Completeness and accuracy of Transaction Certificate documentation for all certified rubber volumes
+ Physical separation systems between certified and non-certified products/areas
+ Documentation of chemical usage, storage, and application restrictions
+ Field layout maps and their correspondence to actual farm conditions
+ Secondary crop certification status documentation and delivery records

Documentation Review

Auditors shall verify that traceability records are maintained for the required retention period and are accessible for inspection.

Physical Inspection

On-site verification of separation measures, storage organization, and risk zone management implementation.

3.4.2 PARALLEL PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

For the purpose of this document, Parallel Production is defined as the simultaneous cultivation or management of the same crop within the same farm or plantation. It is considered a high-risk practice for traceability and integrity, permitted only under strict conditions that respect Moreganic®'s primary goals of increasing biodiversity and improving farmer and worker livelihoods.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders engaged in Parallel Production **shall** comply with the following:

FMS 3.4.2-1 Parallel Production Applicability

Parallel Production of rubber is permitted only for (a) smallholder phased conversion and (b) plantation managed business models, under these conditions:

- Certified and non-certified blocks are mapped and marked.
- Strict segregation, certified latex shall be kept separate (dedicated/clearly color-coded containers, tanks, tools; no mixing).
- Certified latex uses only permitted preservatives (Annex H - Permitted Latex Preservatives).
- Harvest logs by block, tank/dispatch logs, and transport receipts identify status (certified / non-certified); volumes are reconciled by ICS.
- Chemical drift into certified blocks is completely prevented

Time limits & progression

- **Smallholder phased conversion:** Allowed for up to 3 years from first certification; the certified share must increase each year. After 3 years, the farm must fully convert to Moreganic certified status or maintain permanent separation of certified vs non-certified blocks.
- **Plantation operations model:** Allowed only with permanent physical separation and Chain of Custody controls; claims apply only to volumes covered by Moreganic traceability documentation.

FMS 3.4.2-2 Documentation Requirements

All production blocks shall be clearly mapped and geo-referenced, with separate records maintained for inputs, labor, and harvest volumes by certification status.

FMS 3.4.2 -3 Transaction Controls

Commercial traceability documentation (invoices, delivery notes, transaction certificates) shall only be issued for volumes from certified areas. Documentation may cover multiple certified blocks within the same operation, provided that:

- All blocks covered are certified under the same operation
- Volumes are accurately recorded and traceable to certified blocks
- No mixing with non-certified latex occurs during collection or primary processing

In certain high-risk cases, an estimated yield deduction factor (5-10%) may be applied as a safeguard against mixing risks.

FMS 3.4.2-4 Conversion Planning

Operations engaged in Parallel Production shall submit conversion plans with clear timelines and demonstrate progressive expansion of certification coverage according to the following schedules:

Smallholder Phased Conversion

Smallholder farms shall develop conversion plans showing annual progress milestones, with full conversion completed within the 3-year phased conversion period under FMS 4.2-1 conditions.

Each certified area (whether partial or full farm) must have a completed MBAP covering all biodiversity management actions for that area.

Plantation Conversion Planning

Plantation operations engaged in Parallel Production shall develop and implement a Moreganic® Conversion Action Plan (MCAP) to achieve a minimum of 10% of total plantation area under certification within three (3) years:

- **Entry (Initial certification):** Submit MCAP with baseline mapping of entire plantation, identify blocks designated for certification, and provide 3-year plan to reach 10% minimum target. Submit completed MBAPs for all initially certified areas.
- **Progress (Year 2 audit):** At least 5% of total plantation area shall be certified and documented. MBAPs completed for all certified blocks.
- **Target (Year 3 audit):** The full 10% minimum shall be achieved and maintained. MBAPs covering all certified areas (representing at least 10% of total plantation).

High-Performing Operations

Operations exceeding 25% certified area may maintain Parallel Production indefinitely without further mandatory expansion requirements, provided enhanced separation controls are maintained (FMS 4.2-6), annual MCAP progress reporting continues, and certified area percentage does not decline.

Compliance Assurance

Evidence of conversion progress shall be verified during each audit cycle. Failure to demonstrate

verifiable progress toward stated MCAP targets will be deemed a Major Non-Conformance. Missing or inadequate MBAPs for certified areas will be deemed a Major Non-Conformance.

FMS 3.4.2-5 **Enhanced Traceability for Large Plantations**

Large-scale operations (as per FMS 3.3-4) engaged in Parallel Production shall additionally:

- Implement GPS-enabled geo-referencing for all certified and non-certified blocks
- Maintain digital harvest tracking systems with block-level traceability
- Provide annual third-party verification of mass balance integrity

Yield Deduction Safeguards

Where mixing risks are elevated (e.g., shared processing equipment, adjacent block harvest), conservative yield deduction factors (5-10%) may be applied to certified volume calculations until full separation protocols are verified through audits.

Conversion Milestone Documentation

Farms shall maintain photographic evidence and dated field maps showing progressive expansion of certified areas, enabling auditors to verify conversion progress against stated targets.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

- Accuracy of geo-referenced mapping for all production blocks
- Separation of records by certification status (inputs, labor, harvest volumes)
- Commercial documentation issuance limited to certified areas only
- Premium allocation transparency and reporting to certification bodies
- Progress on conversion plans and expansion of certification coverage
- MBAP completion status for all certified areas
- MCAP milestone achievement for plantation operations

Yield Verification

Where yield deduction factors are applied, auditors shall verify the calculation methodology and application consistency.

Premium Flow Tracking

Auditors shall trace premium payments to ensure proper allocation based on certified production volumes.

MBAP/MCAP Coordination

Auditors shall verify that

+ All certified hectares identified in MCAP have corresponding MBAPs
+ MBAPs are appropriate for the specific blocks they cover
+ Annual MBAP monitoring is occurring as required
+ New blocks added through MCAP expansion have MBAPs prepared prior to certification

3.4.3 VERIFICATION SYSTEM STRUCTURE

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

To obtain and maintain Moreganic® certification, certificate holders engaged in group operations shall comply with the following:

FMS 3.4.3-1 Internal Control System (ICS) Requirements

Group certifications shall maintain an Internal Control System (ICS) with:

+ Designated ICS Manager with Moreganic certification training and authority over group compliance (see competency requirements in Section 4.5)
+ Internal inspectors at minimum ration of 1 per 50 farms (1 per 40 farms for groups >1000 farms)
+ Standardized inspection checklist aligned with Moreganic® audit criteria
+ Annual internal training, evaluation, and audit schedule covering all plots owned by group members
+ A documentation repository system accessible during audits, maintained in digital format:
    - Farm registration and mapping records
    - MBAP documentation for all group members
    - Internal inspection reports and corrective action plans
    - Training, health & safety records
    - Input use records and, where required, approval documentation
    - Transaction records
    - Premium payment records and distribution documentation

Enhanced Requirements for Large-Scale Groups (>1000 farms)

+ ICS Manager shall have formal qualifications in agriculture, quality management, or equivalent
+ Internal inspector ratio: minimum 1 per 40 farms
+ Digital documentation management system
+ Risk-based sampling approach with statistical validity

FMS 3.4.3-2 Verification Sampling

+ Minimum annual Certification Body sampling requirement minimum of 5% of farms (6% of farms for groups with new first-year members)), but no less than 10 farmers.
+ The Certification Body may exceed 5% when : (i) major non-conformances ≥20% of the sample, or (ii) credible evidence of fraud is presented and recorded in the report
+ MBAP documentation validity verification required for all group members; field verification applies to sampled farms only

FMS 3.4.3-3 Alternative Verification Support

Where formal ICS is not established, operations may utilize Moreganic® Field & Certification Support (MFCS) for verification functions including training, pre-audit assessments, and traceability documentation support.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

+ ICS functionality including manager competency and inspector qualifications
+ Internal audit schedule implementation and documentation quality
+ Sampling adequacy (minimum inspection ratios) and inspector performance
+ MFCS support documentation where alternative verification is utilized

System Effectiveness

Auditors shall evaluate the overall effectiveness of internal control systems through documentation review and interviews with ICS personnel.

Sampling Application

For group certifications, biodiversity field verification follows established sampling protocols defined in FMS 4.3-2. ⓘ

MFCS Integration

Where MFCS support is provided, auditors shall verify the coordination between MFCS activities and formal certification requirements.

3.4.4 AUDIT AND NON-CONFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

To uphold the integrity of the Moreganic® certification, all certified entities must comply with the established Ecological Integrity, Ethical Responsibility, and Economic Viability standards. Compliance is assessed through regular audits and verification processes, with any non-conformities identified requiring corrective action.

Audit Methodologies

Audits shall include document review, field inspections, worker interviews, and sampling of records and farm areas to ensure uniformity and robustness of assessments. These audits may be conducted annually or at intervals depending on certification type, risk level, or sample-based approaches for group certifications.

TYPES OF NON-CONFORMANCE

Non-conformance is classified into three levels based on severity and impact on sustainability commitments:

1. **Minor Non-Conformance**
   A deviation from certification criteria that does not pose an immediate risk to environmental integrity, labor rights, or fair pricing principles. Examples include:

   + Inconsistent record-keeping for training logs.
   + Delayed submission of required reports without evidence of intentional misrepresentation.
   + Failure to update biodiversity observations as required.

2. **Major Non-Conformance**
   A significant breach that affects compliance with one or more certification principles but can be rectified within a defined timeframe. Examples include:

   + Failure to ensure proper protective equipment or worker training on occupational health and safety.
   + Use of non-approved agrochemicals without authorization or transition plans.
   + Non-compliance with agreed pricing structures, leading to potential unfair compensation to farmers.

3. **Critical Violation**
   A severe violation that compromises the credibility of Moreganic® certification, requiring immediate corrective action or suspension. These include:

   + Confirmed cases of forced or child labor.
   + Intentional falsification of records related to fair pricing, payment, or environmental compliance.
   + Failure to maintain chain-of-custody controls, leading to mixing of non-certified latex with certified material.

Classification Principle

Non-conformances are classified based on:

+ **Reversibility**: Can it be quickly corrected? (Minor) vs. systemic issue (Major)
+ **Intent**: Unintentional oversight (Minor) vs. deliberate violation (Critical)
+ **Impact**: Affects documentation (Minor) vs. affects people/environment (Major/Critical)

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS & SUSPENSION PROCESS

Certified entities found to be in non-conformance must take corrective action within a specified timeframe:

+ **Minor Non-Conformance**
  - Corrective action must be completed within 60 days
  - Documentation of corrective measures required
+ **Major Non-Conformance**
  - Corrective Action Plan (CAP) must be submitted within 60 days
  - Implementation timeframe shall be agreed with the certification body based on the nature of the non-conformance (typically 3-6 months)
  - Progress reporting required until resolved
+ **Critical Violation**
  - May result in immediate suspension
  - Corrective measures must be taken within 30 days
  - Failure to resolve within timeframe results in decertification

Deadlines for minor/major non-conformances may be extended with documented justification (e.g., monsoon delays).

Appeals Process

Entities that disagree with a non-conformance decision have the right to appeal within 14 days of notification. Appeals shall be submitted to the certification body, which will review the appeal according to ISO 17065 requirements and make a final determination.

3.4.5 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

This section provides operational guidance for implementing the ICS requirements established in Section 3.4.3.

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

FMS 3.4.5-1 ICS Manager Competencies

The ICS Manager shall demonstrate the following competencies:

- Understanding of Moreganic® standards and audit procedures
- Farm management and agricultural knowledge relevant to rubber production
- Documentation and record-keeping capabilities
- Communication skills for farmer training and support
- Responsibility for annual internal inspector training and evaluation
- Authority to approve internal inspection forms and procedures

FMS 3.4.5-2 Internal Inspector Requirements

Internal inspectors shall meet the following requirements:

- Annual training in Moreganic® standards and audit techniques
- Local agricultural knowledge and language capabilities
- Ability to complete standardized inspection checklists
- Authority to issue non-conformance notices and corrective action plans

FMS 3.4.5-3 Conversion Period Allowances

During initial certification year:

- Documentation systems may be established progressively with full compliance required by first audit
- Training completion for all farmers required within 6 months of group enrolment
- MBAP documentation may be in draft form at initial Onboarding, with final versions required within 12 months.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Transition Protocols

MFCS and ICS functions may overlap, particularly during transition periods, with MFCS fulfilling ICS. Only one responsible system shall be documented as accountable in the certification agreement.

Documentation Standards

All verification systems must maintain records for five (5) years, including audit reports, corrective action plans, training records, and inspector qualifications.

GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Multi-Plot Farm Inspection Coverage

For farmers with multiple plots:

- ICS internal audits shall cover ALL plots registered under the farmer's certification
- However, the CB sampling percentage (5-6% of farmers) applies to the farmer as the unit, not individual plots
- Example: In a 100-farmer group where each farmer has 3 plots on average, ICS inspects all 300 plots annually, while CB samples approximately 5 farmers (inspecting all their plots during the sample visit)

Plot Inspection Approach

- ICS internal audits: 100% of all farms and all plots annually
- CB external audits: Sampling applies to farms (not individual plots)
- When a farm is sampled by CB, all plots belonging to that farm shall be inspected
- The 5-6% sampling rate refers to the percentage of total farms in the group

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess:

- ICS functionality including manager competency, inspector qualifications, and sampling adequacy (*FMS 3.4.5-1*)
- MFCS support documentation and transition planning (*FMS 3.4.5-2*)
- Supply chain system integrity including processing facility compliance, collection centre procedures, and premium payment flows (*FMS 3.4.5-3*) ⓘ

System Assessment

Auditors shall verify the effectiveness of verification systems through documentation review, representative sampling, and accountability framework assessment.

Documentation Standards

All systems must demonstrate five-year record retention compliance during external audits.

Digital Traceability Systems

Operations implementing digital traceability systems (GPS mapping, blockchain, QR coding, etc.) may be eligible for:

- Reduced sampling percentages (to 3% minimum) after demonstrated accuracy over two consecutive audit cycles
- Streamlined audit procedures focusing on system integrity rather than paper documentation

3.4.6 CARBON ACTIVITY DISCLOSURE AND MARKET SEPARATION

Certification criteria [Mandatory]

FMS 3.4.6-1 **Carbon Market Activity Declaration**

All certified operations shall complete and submit a Carbon Market Activity Declaration (Annex F) at initial certification.

This declaration establishes that operations understand Moreganic® certification may not be used to validate carbon credit programs or carbon market claims.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Marketing Restrictions

Carbon credit marketing materials, project descriptions, and buyer communications shall not reference Moreganic® certification, standards, or associated sustainability claims.

Change Notification

Material changes to carbon market participation must be reported to the certification body within 90 days using an updated Carbon Activity Declaration.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Auditors shall verify that a signed, current Carbon Activity Declaration (*Annex F*), is on file.

3.4.7 FARM MANAGEMENT RECORDS

All certified farms, collection centres, and processors shall maintain up-to-date farm management records that support traceability, transparency, and compliance with the Moreganic® Standard.

Required documentation includes:

- Land use layout showing certified and non-certified zones, chemical storage areas, and buffer zones.
- Input use logs for fertilizers and chemicals, recorded by field and date.
- Labor records, including worker contracts, training attendance, hours worked, and grievance logs (if applicable).
- Biodiversity and agroforestry documentation, including MBAPs, species lists, buffer zone maps, and monitoring updates.
- Traceability documentation, such as Transaction Certificates (TCs), ICS inspection records, volume reconciliation logs, and sales records.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Format and Support

Records may be maintained in physical or digital formats appropriate to operational capacity. Templates and guidance are provided by the Moreganic® Field & Certification Support (MFCS) or Internal Control System (ICS), as applicable.

VERIFICATION AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Audit Requirements

Verification audits shall assess record completeness, accuracy, and accessibility across all required documentation categories. Auditors shall verify that records demonstrate continuous compliance and provide adequate traceability support for certified operations.

Record Integration

Auditors shall confirm that different record systems (land use, inputs, labor, biodiversity, traceability) provide consistent and cross-verifiable information supporting overall compliance verification.

4 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Agroforestry	A land-use system that integrates the cultivation of trees with agricultural crops or livestock on the same land management unit. Note: Monoculture rubber does not constitute agroforestry for the purposes of FMS 3.1.1-2/3.1.1-3.
Audit	A systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining objective evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the Moreganic® certification criteria are fulfilled. This includes documentation reviews, field inspections, worker interviews, and site visits conducted by qualified auditors or certification bodies.
Biodiversity	The variety and variability of living macro organisms within a particular habitat or ecosystem, encompassing diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.
Buffer Zone	An area established to mitigate the risk of chemical drift, erosion, or habitat disruption between certified and non-certified zones.
Carbon Assurance Declaration	A formal commitment required from certified entities confirming that carbon benefits derived from Moreganic®-certified operations are not sold or monetized externally.
Chain of Custody (CoC)	A system of procedures and documentation that ensures the integrity, traceability, and proper handling of certified materials throughout the supply chain, including segregation, mass balance, and volume reconciliation mechanisms.
Certified Material Organization (CMO)	An entity responsible for ensuring that certified materials maintain their status throughout the supply chain, including overseeing documentation, volume reconciliation, and third-party verification.
Collection centres	Certified aggregation or storage sites that receive rubber and complementary agroforestry products (e.g., latex, cup lump, fruits, or other farm outputs) from multiple farms, farmer groups, or plantations. Collection centres are responsible for premium distribution to farmers, physical segregation of certified material, volume reconciliation, and transaction documentation through either manual Transaction Certificates or digital traceability systems.
Complementary Guidelines (Non-Mandatory)	Recommended practices within the Moreganic® standard that are not required for certification but support continuous improvement and may be referenced during audits.

Deforestation	The conversion of natural forests to other land uses, including agriculture, plantation, or infrastructure, whether human-induced or not, as defined by the FAO or relevant national legislation
Deforestation-Free	A status indicating that a production area has not been deforested since the relevant legal cut-off date (e.g., December 31, 2020 for EUDR), based on verified geolocation coordinates, land-use history, and satellite imagery where applicable.
Drift Risk	The potential for chemical substances (e.g., fertilizers, pesticides, particularly synthetic or otherwise disallowed inputs, applied on adjacent or non-certified areas to move into certified areas through wind, runoff, or leaching.
EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation)	A European Union regulation requiring companies placing specific commodities (including rubber) on EU markets to demonstrate that products are deforestation-free, legally produced, and traceable to the plot of land where they were grown, with verified geolocation coordinates and supply chain documentation.
Farm Management Records	Required documentation that certified farms must maintain to demonstrate compliance, including land-use maps, input logs, training records, biodiversity plans, and traceability documentation (See Section 3.5).
Farmers	Individuals or households who own or manage smallholdings of rubber trees (*Hevea brasiliensis*) and complementary crops cultivated under agroforestry systems.
Field Layout / Risk Map	A visual representation showing the arrangement of certified, non-certified, and marginal areas (e.g., forests, ponds, or unproductive zones), along with chemical storage areas, buffer zones, and biodiversity features on a farm.
Forest	Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. This definition aligns with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). In jurisdictions with stricter national forest definitions, the more stringent definition shall apply.
Geolocation	The use of geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) to identify the physical location of farm plots, used in traceability systems and to support EUDR compliance.

GMO (Genetically Modified Organism)	An organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques. The use of GMOs is prohibited under this standard.
Growers	A broader category encompassing both farmers and larger-scale agricultural entities that cultivate latex-yielding trees alongside complementary agroforestry crops. Growers may operate individually, as part of a farmer group, or within an organized cooperative structure. Farmers are considered a subset of growers.
Habitat Corridor	A connected strip of natural or semi-natural vegetation that links separate areas of habitat, allowing wildlife movement, pollinator access, and gene flow between ecosystems. In rubber landscapes, habitat corridors may include vegetated buffer zones, riparian strips, or interplanted agroforestry rows that are at least 3 meters wide and free from chemical inputs.
Internal Control System (ICS)	A structured monitoring and support system used by cooperatives or group certifications to ensure that all group members comply with the Moreganic® certification criteria.
In-Conversion Status	A transitional phase in which a farm is shifting from non-certified to Moreganic®-certified operations.
ISO	International Organization for Standardization.
Latex	Natural rubber latex produced by *Hevea* species. Throughout this standard, "latex" refers to rubber latex unless otherwise specified.
Latex Yield	The volume of natural latex obtained from rubber trees *(Hevea brasiliensis)*, typically measured per tapping cycle or per hectare per year.
Mass Balance	A Chain of Custody model that tracks the quantity of certified material entering and leaving a system, ensuring that certified output claims never exceed verified certified inputs. This model allows operational flexibility—such as shared processing equipment—provided that: • Certified input and output volumes are proportionally tracked through verifiable documentation • Certification claims are made only for the certified share of production • The system prevents over-claiming or double counting of certified volume through reconciliation and audit controls Physical segregation of certified material is not required under this model, provided that cleaning protocols between certified and non-certified runs are documented and verified where applicable.

Mixed-Use Farm	A farm that cultivates both certified rubber and non-certified crops (e.g., durian, palm, rice) within the same landholding. Certification is granted for the rubber area only, provided risk mitigation is in place.
Moreganic® Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP)	A structured plan within the Moreganic® certification framework that sets out actions to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity on certified farms and plantations.
Moreganic® Field & Certification Support (MFCS)	The technical assistance and oversight team providing support to famers / farmer groups and transitioning farms. MFCS may perform ICS-like functions where formal systems are not yet in place.
Non-Conformance	A failure to meet one or more requirements of the Moreganic® standard. Non-conformances are classified as Minor, Major, or Critical depending on their severity (*See Section 4.4*).
Parallel Production	The simultaneous cultivation or management of the same crop (e.g., rubber or a complementary agroforestry crop) under different production regimes within the same farm, grower group, or plantation, with strict segregation and traceability requirements as defined in Section 3.4.2.
Plantation Operations	Commercially managed rubber estates exceeding the smallholder threshold, typically with hierarchical management structures, permanent or contracted labor, and integrated production systems. Plantation operations may also integrate complementary or secondary crop production under rubber tree cover and are required to maintain internal control systems (ICS) to ensure compliance with this Standard.
Primary processors	Entities that carry out primary processing of rubber and, where relevant, complementary crops originating from certified farms. This includes activities such as coagulation, drying, stabilization, or equivalent handling of secondary products prior to secondary processing. Primary processors may operate farm-based facilities (on-site) or centralized facilities (off-site) and must comply with traceability and quality control requirements.
Producer	Any entity directly engaged in cultivating rubber trees and / or primary processing of raw latex.
Risk Mitigation Measures	Actions taken to reduce or eliminate the risk of contamination, deforestation, or non-compliance, including buffer zones, designated storage areas, and chemical zoning.

Rubber Trees	*Hevea* species, primarily *Hevea brasiliensis*, cultivated for natural rubber latex production
Sustainability Metrics	Quantitative or qualitative indicators used to assess performance in environmental, social, and economic areas. These may include biodiversity indicators, yield benchmarks, fair compensation ratios, and audit compliance scores.
Smallholder Farmer	A farmer or household cultivating a limited area of land (typically ≤50 hectares) primarily using family labor, with minimal reliance on hired or permanent staff. Smallholders often manage diverse or intercropped systems and operate independently or as part of organized groups supported by internal monitoring systems.
Traceability	The ability to track the origin, processing, and movement of certified rubber through every stage of the supply chain, from farm to final product, ensuring transparency and compliance with Moreganic® standards.
Traders	Legal or natural persons who purchase, aggregate, resell, or export rubber and/or complementary agroforestry products without substantially altering their physical form. Traders may operate at local, regional, or international levels and are required to maintain Chain-of-Custody (CoC) documentation in compliance with this Standard.
Transaction Certificate (TC)	A formal document that verifies the certified status, quantity, and origin of rubber sold or transferred between supply chain entities. Each TC is issued by or under the authority of the certification body and serves as a traceability and volume reconciliation record throughout the certified supply chain.
Value-Added Product Producers	Enterprises engaged in secondary processing and manufacturing of intermediate or finished goods from rubber and/or complementary agroforestry crops (e.g., consumer goods, industrial products, or food and wellness items).

5 ANNEXES

This section contains supporting annexes that form part of the Moreganic® Rubber Farm Management Standard. Normative annexes are enforceable; informative annexes provide guidance or templates.

ANNEX OVERVIEW

Annex	Title	Type
A	**Permitted Fertilizers, Soil Conditioners, and Nutrients**	Normative
B	**Permitted and Restricted Plant Protection Products**	Normative
C	**Emergency Chemical Use Approval Process**	Normative
D	**Permitted Value-Added Rubber Products**	Normative
E	**Moreganic Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP) Template**	Normative
F	**Carbon Market Activity Declaration Form**	Normative
G	**Biodiversity Enhancement**	Normative
H	**Permitted Latex Preservatives and Additives**	Normative
I	**Audit Guidance and Non-Conformance Classification**	Normative
J	**Document Control and Revision Policy**	Normative
K	**Regulatory & Organic Alignment**	Informative
L	**End-of-Life Tree Management**	Informative

A PERMITTED FERTILIZERS, SOIL CONDITIONERS, AND NUTRIENTS

[Normative]

A.1 PERMITTED INPUTS TABLE

Name of Fertilizer, Soil Conditioner and Nutrient	Description, Compositional Requirements and Conditions for Use
Animal manure (farmyard manure, poultry litter, pig manure)	Animal manure and bedding that has undergone decomposition. Natural deposition from livestock grazing between rubber trees is permitted and does not require composting.
Wood ash	From untreated wood only. Use sparingly to avoid soil pH issues.
Soft ground rock phosphate	From recognized agricultural suppliers for agricultural use. Use based on plant needs.
Aluminum-calcium phosphate	From recognized agricultural suppliers for agricultural use. Use limited to basic soils (pH > 7.5).
Potassium sulphate (K_2SO_4)	Permitted only when extracted through physical processes from natural mineral sources. Chemical synthesis or chemically modified forms are not allowed.
Calcium carbonate (agricultural lime)	Natural limestone sources only. Use for pH adjustment when acidic conditions observed.
Magnesium carbonate/Dolomitic lime	Natural magnesian limestone only. Use for pH adjustment and magnesium supplementation.
Magnesium sulfate (Epsom salt)	Natural mineral sources only. Use based on visible deficiency symptoms or MFCS guidance.
Gypsum (calcium sulfate)	Natural mineral sources only. Use for soil conditioning and structure improvement.
Micronutrients	From natural mineral sources only. Those derived from nitrates or chlorides prohibited. Use based on deficiency symptoms or MFCS recommendation.

A.2 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Legal Compliance

All inputs must comply with national regulations. For purchased mineral inputs, suppliers should provide documentation of heavy metal compliance where required by law.

Documentation

Record input sources, approximate application dates, and field location. For purchased inputs, retain receipts or supplier information.

MFCS Support

Where available, MFCS agronomists may provide guidance on appropriate input selection and application rates based on local soil conditions, climate, and observed plant needs.

A.3 REGIONAL INPUT APPROVAL

Regionally available inputs not listed may be used if they:

- Meet the requirements of recognized international or national organic certification standards (e.g., EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848, USDA National Organic Program (7 CFR Part 205), Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS), or equivalent).
- Comply with national safety regulations. This refers to compliance with applicable laws and standards on chemical composition, contamination thresholds, heavy metals, and environmental or worker safety as defined by national authorities in the country of use.
- Are approved by MFCS team or certification body

B PERMITTED AND RESTRICTED PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

[Normative]

To ensure consistency with the Moreganic® principles of Ecological Integrity, the following plant protection substances are categorized for use in certified latex operations. These substances support integrated pest management (IPM) and biodiversity-focused practices while minimizing environmental harm and chemical dependency.

B.1 PERMITTED SUBSTANCES

	Name	Function	Conditions and Notes
✓	Azadirachtin (from Azadirachta indica)	Insecticide	Natural origin - cold-pressed or aqueous extracts preferred
✓	Beeswax	Pruning agent	For bark care in rubber trees and other perennials
✓	Lecithin	Fungicide	All crops, including rubber
✓	Plant oils (e.g., *Azadirachta indica* [neem], *Simmondsia chinensis* [jojoba], *Brassica napus* [canola])	Insecticide, fungicide, acaricide, bactericide	Must be from natural cold-pressed or steam-distilled plant sources
✓	Micro-organisms (non-GMO)	Biocontrol	Must not be genetically modified
✓	Fatty acid potassium salt (soft soap)	Insecticide	Biodegradable, with no synthetic additives
✓	Sulphur	Fungicide, acaricide, repellent	Natural origin only

B.2 RESTRICTED USE SUBSTANCES

	Name	Function	Conditions and Notes
⚠	Lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide)	Fungicide	Use only during dormant season. Avoid watercourse contamination. Personal protective equipment required.
⚠	Plant-based waxes and oils (carnauba, etc.)	Insecticide, acaricide	Only from natural plant sources. Petroleum-derived products prohibited. Document usage.
⚠	Calcium hydroxide	Fungicide	Bark treatment only. Must not alter soil pH significantly. Not for broadcast application.
⚠	Ethephon (ethrel)	Latex stimulant	**Routine use:** Maximum 2 applications per panel per year (standard tapping). **High-frequency use** (e.g., slaughter tapping): Allowed only with an approved tapping plan, covering dosage, frequency, and monitoring schedule. All applications must be recorded with date, block ID, dose, operator, and purpose.

B.3 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

All synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and growth regulators not specifically listed above are prohibited, including but not limited to:

	Name
✕	Organophosphates and carbamates
✕	Synthetic pyrethroids
✕	Neonicotinoids
✕	Glyphosate and other synthetic herbicides
✕	Synthetic growth hormones and stimulants (except ethephon under restrictions)

B.4 LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

National Regulations

All permitted and restricted substances must comply with national and local regulations regarding application limits, registration requirements, and safety standards. Where national standards are more restrictive than this list, national requirements take precedence.

Documentation Requirements:

- Permitted substances: Record application dates, rates, and target pests
- Restricted substances: Additional justification, approval documentation, and monitoring records required

Regional Approval

Unlisted substances may be considered if they meet the requirements of recognized international or national organic certification standards (e.g., EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848, USDA National Organic Program (7 CFR Part 205), Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS), or equivalent), and receive certification body approval before use.

Emergency Use

Temporary use of unlisted substances requires immediate notification to certification body and must be phased out within 90 days with corrective action plan.

This annex is enforceable under relevant pest management sections and forms part of the certification audit process.

C EMERGENCY CHEMICAL USE APPROVAL PROCESS

[Normative]

C.1 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS DEFINED

Emergency chemical use may be considered only for:

- Sudden disease outbreaks threatening crop survival
- Severe pest infestations not controllable by permitted methods
- Extreme weather-related plant stress requiring immediate intervention

Emergency use does not include routine pest management, preventive applications, or productivity enhancement.

C.2 APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Primary Authority

Scheme owner holds final approval authority for all emergency chemical use.

Support Roles

- MFCS teams (where available) provide technical assessment and recommendations
- Operations without MFCS access submit requests directly to certification body
- Local agricultural advisors may provide technical input when MFCS unavailable

C.3 REQUEST PROCESS

Farms must submit Emergency Chemical Request including:

- **Emergency description**: Nature of threat and urgency timeline
- **Failed alternatives**: Permitted methods attempted and results
- **Proposed substance**: Specific chemical and application method
- **Affected area**: Location, size (hectares), and crop stage
- **Risk mitigation**: Buffer zones, application timing, protective measures

C.4 REVIEW AND DECISION

Response Timeline

Moreganic provides decision within 48 hours of complete request submission.

Decision Options:

- **Approve with conditions**: Specific application requirements and monitoring
- **Approve alternative**: Suggest different permitted substance or method
- **Reject**: Insufficient justification or alternative solutions available

C.5 POST-EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Within 7 days of application, farms must submit:

- Actual quantities and methods used
- Any observed impacts or complications
- Corrective measures implemented
- Timeline for returning to approved substances

C.6 EMERGENCY USE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL

Extreme Circumstances Only - Communication impossible due to natural disasters or infrastructure failure.

Requirements:

- Notify Moreganic and certification body within 48 hours
- Provide complete justification and documentation
- Single occurrence tolerance - repeated unauthorized use results in major non-conformance

C.7 MIXED-USE FARM REQUIREMENTS

For farms with both certified and non-certified areas:

- Synthetic substances stored only in designated non-certified areas
- Physical separation and clear marking of storage areas
- No preparation or application equipment used in certified areas
- Buffer zones maintained between certified and non-certified plots

D PERMITTED VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

[Normative]

D.1 RECOGNIZED LATEX PRODUCT CATEGORIES

The Moreganic® certification system recognizes the following latex-based products as Permitted Value-Added Products, provided they meet all relevant chain-of-custody (CoC), labelling, and composition requirements:

+ Natural rubber mattresses
+ Gloves
+ Footwear
+ Adhesives

D.2 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

+ Products must contain Moreganic®-certified latex.
+ Processing methods must be compatible with Moreganic® ecological and ethical principles
+ Complete chain-of-custody documentation from certified latex to final product
+ Compliance with Moreganic® labelling and disclosure requirements

D.3 NEW LATEX PRODUCT APPLICATION PROCESS

D.3.1 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS APPLICANTS SHALL SUBMIT TO THE MOREGANIC® CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY:

+ Product composition report detailing percentage of Moreganic®-certified latex and all other materials
+ Processing method descriptions highlighting critical control points that maintain Moreganic® integrity
+ Chain-of-custody documentation demonstrating latex traceability throughout processing

D.3.2 REVIEW PROCESS APPLICATIONS SHALL BE REVIEWED WITHIN 30 WORKING DAYS THROUGH A COORDINATE PROCESS INVOLVING:

+ Moreganic® standards authority - final approval decision and standards compliance
+ Certification Bodies (CB) - technical feasibility and audit requirements assessment
+ MFCS - operational implementation and field support considerations

The review may result in:

- Approval of the product for Moreganic® certification, subject to any conditions
- Request for clarifications if further information is needed
- Denial of certification if requirements are not met

D.3.3 APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Final approval for new product categories rests with Moreganic®, ensuring consistency with certification principles and long-term strategic objectives.

D.3.4 ONGOING COMPLIANCE

- Material composition or processing changes require pre-approval from Moreganic®
- Annual verification of compliance with certification requirements
- Adherence to current Moreganic® labelling standards

D.4 COMPLEMENTARY AND SECONDARY CROPS

Rubber plantations may cultivate complementary crops (intercropping) and secondary crops without affecting latex certification, provided such activities comply with Moreganic® biodiversity and chemical use requirements. Certification covers latex production only; other plantation outputs are not covered under this standard.

Note: Future standards for rubber timber, seeds, and other rubber plantation outputs may be developed separately.

E MOREGANIC BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (MBAP) TEMPLATE

[Normative]

E.1 MBAP SUMMARY & TARGETS (REQUIRED)

FARM INFORMATION

Field	Entry
Farmer Name	
Farmer ID (traceability)	
Farm/Block ID(s)	
Baseline Year (YYYY)	

AREA BREAKDOWN

Select measurement unit:

- ☐ Hectares (ha)
- ☐ Rai
- ☐ Other: _____

Field	Entry (ha)	Entry (rai)
Total Farm Area		
Rubber Cropping Area		
Non-rubber Area (auto: Total − Rubber)		
Current Qualifying Agroforestry/Habitat Area:	_____ ha (_____ %)	_____ rai (_____ %)

5-Year Biodiversity Target

Field	Entry (ha)	Entry (rai)
Year-5 Target (choose one): ☐ 10% (Minimum) ☐ 15% (Enhanced)		
Target AF/Habitat Area by Year 5:	_____ (Total × 0.10 or 0.15)	_____ (Total × 0.10 or 0.15)
Gap to Create/Protect:	_____ (Target − Current; 0 if negative)	_____ (Target − Current; 0 if negative)
Current Qualifying Agroforestry/Habitat Area:	_____ ha (_____ %)	_____ rai (_____ %)

Quick Reference Guide

Hectare farmers

- 10% = 1,000 m² per hectare
- Examples: 5 ha farm = 0.5 ha biodiversity (5,000 m²) I 20 ha farm = 2 ha biodiversity

Rai farmers

- 10% = 160 m² per rai
- Examples: 30 rai farm = 3 rai biodiversity (4,800 m²) I 100 rai farm = 10 rai biodiversity

Conversion reference: 1 hectare = 6.25 rai I 1 rai = 0.16 hectares

Site Features

Field	Entry
Water/Riparian Present	☐ Yes ☐ No

Evidence Track Selection

- ☐ Smallholder Track (sketch maps, visual assessment acceptable)
- ☐ Plantation Track (GPS data, technical monitoring systems)

E.2 FIVE-YEAR BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (REQUIRED)

No.	Habitat / Action	Location (Block/GPS)	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Primary Indicator(s)	Evidence Ready
1								☐ Area (ha) ☐ Length (m) ☐ Survival % ☐ Species count	☐
2								☐ Area (ha) ☐ Length (m) ☐ Survival % ☐ Species count	☐
3								☐ Area (ha) ☐ Length (m) ☐ Survival % ☐ Species count	☐

No.	Habitat / Action	Location (Block/GPS)	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Primary Indicator(s)	Evidence Ready
4								☐ Area (ha) ☐ Length (m) ☐ Survival % ☐ Species count	☐
5								☐ Area (ha) ☐ Length (m) ☐ Survival % ☐ Species count	☐

Instructions

- Select 1-2 primary indicators per action that best measure progress
- Record annual targets/achievements in Year columns (e.g., “50m buffer established”, “300 seedlings planted”, “2.5 ha”)
- Check “Evidence Ready” when photos/receipts are available

E.3 ANNUAL MONITORING LOG (REQUIRED)

Year	AF/Habitat Area Achieved (ha; %)	Survival/Condition Notes	Photos Updated	Non-Compliance (Minor/Major)	Corrective Action & Due Date
Baseline	___ ha (___ %)	n/a	☐		
Y1			☐		
Y2			☐		
Y3			☐		
Y4			☐		
Y5			☐		

Optional Enhancement

NDVI/remote sensing data may be recorded in Survival/Condition Notes for operations with technical capacity.

E.4 EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS (REQUIRED)

SMALLHOLDER TRACK EVIDENCE

Evidence Type	Minimum	Attached
Farm/Block polygon (hand-drawn sketch or GPS file)	1	☐
Geotagged photos (N/E/S/W farm views)	4 baseline	☐
Action photos (progress at milestone years)	2 per action (Y1 + Y3 minimum)	☐
Seed/seedling/source documentation	1 per planting action (cooperative confirmation acceptable)	☐

PLANTATION TRACK EVIDENCE

Evidence Type	Minimum	Attached
Farm/Block polygon (GeoJSON/KMZ format)	1	☐
Geotagged photos (N/E/S/W farm views)	4 baseline + annual updates	☐
Action photos (before/during/after documentation)	Annual per action	☐
Seed/seedling/source receipts	Per purchase order	☐
Species inventory/monitoring data	Annual	☐
NDVI or canopy cover data (optional)	Baseline + Y3 + Y5	☐

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (ALL TRACKS)

+ Photos must be dated (filename timestamp or EXIF data)
+ Maps/polygons must show certified area boundaries and biodiversity zones
+ Planting documentation may be aggregated at cooperative/collection center level for group certifications
+ Evidence must be available at time of audit; exact precision not required for area measurements

EVIDENCE STORAGE

- Physical or digital formats acceptable
- ICS/MFCS systems maintain central repository for group certifications
- Individual farms retain copies accessible during audits

NOTES & DEFINITIONS

Agroforestry/Habitat Area (AF): Sum of qualifying strips/patches/habitats inside the farm boundary meeting FMS 3.1.1-5 eligibility criteria. See Regional Handbook for approved species lists and measurement guidelines.

Qualifying Areas Must Meet

- **Minimum size** - strips ≥3 m wide and ≥50 m long, OR Patches ≥0.05 ha (500 m² / ~3 rai) OR Patches ≥0.3 rai (~500 m²)
- **Species diversity** of ≥2 non-rubber species OR native habitat (riparian/wetland/remnant)
- **Species restrictions:** No prohibited invasive species (see regional prohibited species list, where available)

Target Calculations

- **Hectares** - Target (ha) = Total Farm Area (ha) × 0.10 or 0.15
- **Rai** - Target (rai) = Total Farm Area (rai) × 0.10 or 0.15

Gap Calculation defined as Target – Current AF (use 0 if negative; no action required if already above target).

Survival % (sampling) calculated as live seedlings ÷ planted seedlings × 100. Sample 20–50 plants per planting action.

Riparian Buffer means vegetated strip along waterways; preferred first-action area. Minimum 5m each bank unless stricter national law applies.

Linear Features may use equivalent length calculation if narrower than 3m width (e.g., 100m × 2m = 200m² = 0.02 ha = 0.125 rai).

Temporary Intercrop areas with bananas, cassava, or similar crops between young rubber (0-5 years) may count toward 10% IF:

- Integrated with rubber planting (not standalone field)
- MBAP documents permanent biodiversity features for post-canopy closure
- At least one additional non-*Hevea* species present

Standalone Monocrops DO NOT Qualify

Fields with only one non-rubber crop species (e.g., separate banana plantation, annual rice fields).

Audit Verification

Auditors verify through field inspection, photographic evidence (≥2 geotagged photos per biodiversity area showing species diversity), interviews confirming farmer knowledge, and verification against minimum quality standards.

E.5 AUDITOR GUIDANCE: COMPLIANCE MAPPING & NON-CONFORMANCE CLASSIFICATION

MAJOR NON-CONFORMANCES (IMMEDIATE HALT TO CLAIMS; CAP WITHIN 30 DAYS)

Type	Examples	Trigger
Target shortfall without credible plan	<10% at Y5 and no corrective glidepath documented	Major
Clearing of native/ riparian habitat	Any conversion or damage to protected areas	Major
Use of prohibited invasive species	Species listed in regional prohibited species list	Major
Data falsification	Misrepresentation of area, geo-coordinates, or photos detected	Major
Missing MBAP entirely	No biodiversity plan exists >6 months after certification	Major

MINOR NON-CONFORMANCES (90-DAY CORRECTIVE ACTION WINDOW)

Type	Examples	Trigger
Missing required evidence	Absent polygon, insufficient photos, or missing receipts	Minor
Survival <80% without replant plan	After 12–24 months with no documented corrective action	Minor
Indicators not recorded	Gaps in F.3 monitoring table for current year	Minor
MBAP documentation outdated	No updates to plan for >12 months despite field changes	Minor
Photo documentation incomplete	<2 photos per biodiversity area OR photos not geotagged	Minor

CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS

- **Minor NC** - 90-day resolution window; certification maintained during correction period
- **Major NC** - Immediate suspension of Moreganic claims; CAP required within 30 days; implementation 3-6 months; reinstatement after verification audit

PROGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT

- First audit with Minor NC: 90-day CAP
- Two consecutive audits without verifiable MBAP progress: Automatic upgrade to Major NC
- Three consecutive years <70% of annual plan leads to certification suspension pending full compliance review

FORCE MAJEURE PROVISIONS

- Documented flood, fire, disease outbreak, or similar events may justify one-time 12-month extension
- Must be submitted to certification body with evidence within 60 days of event
- Reinstatement requires verification that affected areas are replanted/restored

GROUP CERTIFICATION SAMPLING

- MBAP documentation validity verified for all group members (desk review)
- Field verification follows standard sampling protocols (minimum 5% of farms per FMS 4.3-2)
- Non-sampled farms must maintain field readiness for spot checks or complaint-based verification

ICS/MFCS SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION:

- Auditors verify coordination between field support activities and farmer MBAP implementation
- Training records, pre-audit assessments, and technical guidance documentation reviewed
- Where MFCS provides verification functions, auditor assesses both farmer compliance AND support quality

F CARBON MARKET ACTIVITY DECLARATION

[Normative]

This form must be completed within the first year of Moreganic® certification. It must be resubmitted within 90 days of any material changes to carbon program participation.

Certificate Holder Information

Operation Name: _____

Certificate Number: _____

Date: _____

SECTION 1 - CARBON CREDIT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Are you currently participating in any program where carbon credits or carbon offsets are sold, traded, or registered with third parties?

- ☐ NO
- ☐ YES - Program name: _____

SECTION 2 - ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND COMMITMENT

I understand and agree that:

- ☐ Moreganic® certification focuses on biodiversity, farmer premiums, and transparency - NOT carbon markets
- ☐ Carbon sequestration in rubber plantations occurs regardless of Moreganic® certification status
- ☐ Moreganic® certification does NOT validate, authorize, or enhance carbon credit programs
- ☐ I will NOT provide Moreganic® certificates or documentation to carbon credit programs
- ☐ I will NOT allow carbon programs to reference Moreganic® certification in their materials
- ☐ I will NOT make “carbon negative” or “carbon neutral” claims based on Moreganic® certification
- ☐ I will notify my certification body within 90 days if I join a carbon credit program or if carbon programs request Moreganic® documentation

SECTION 3 - DECLARATION

I confirm that the information above is accurate and that I understand the restrictions on using Moreganic® certification in carbon markets.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title/Role: _____

Date: _____

G BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

[Normative]

Each selected measure must be mapped in the MBAP and evidenced with geotagged photos.

1. Hedgerows / live fences (multi-species)
2. Riparian buffers / streambank vegetation
3. Native tree/shrub patches
4. Perennial groundcovers / cover crops (managed for year-round soil cover)
5. Pollinator habitat (e.g., native flowering strips or stingless-bee boxes with forage plantings)
6. Agroforestry companion crops under rubber (≥2 non-*Hevea brasiliensis* species interplanted)
7. Windbreaks / shelterbelts (multi-row)
8. Vegetated contour / erosion-control strips
9. Wildlife refuge features (understory shade islands, nest/roost structures with protective vegetation)
10. Habitat corridor linking to neighbouring natural areas

Evidence for all measures are presented via the MBAP map and geotagged photos, as well as brief maintenance note (e.g., pruning, weed control dates).

H PERMITTED LATEX PRESERVATIVES AND ADDITIVES

[Normative]

H.1 PRIMARY PRESERVATIVES

The following preservatives are permitted for use in certified latex to prevent coagulation and maintain quality during transport and storage:

Name	Function	Conditions for Use
Ammonia (**NH_3**, aqueous solution)	Coagulation prevention, pH stabilization	Maximum 0.7% by weight. Must be technical grade or higher. Standard preservation method.
Formic acid **(HCOOH)**	Natural preservation, pH control	Maximum 0.2% by weight. Food grade only. Alternative to ammonia for certain applications.
Sodium metabisulfite ($Na_2S_2O_5$)	Antioxidant, preservation	Maximum 0.1% by weight. Food grade only. Use for extended storage periods.

H.2 SECONDARY ADDITIVES

The following additives may be used in combination with primary preservatives when necessary:

Name	Function	Conditions for Use
Tetramethylthiuram disulfide (TMTD, **$C_6H_{12}N_2S_4$**)	Vulcanization accelerator, preservation	Maximum 0.05% by weight. Use only when required for specific processing needs.
Zinc diethyldithiocarbamate (ZDEC, **$C_{10}H_{20}N_2S_4Zn$**)	Vulcanization accelerator	Maximum 0.05% by weight. Alternative to TMTD for specific applications.

H.3 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

The following substances are prohibited in certified latex:

- Formaldehyde-based preservatives
- Heavy metal-based stabilizers (mercury, lead, cadmium compounds)
- Synthetic rubber additives or extenders

+ Petroleum-based processing oils
+ Chlorinated compounds
+ Any substance not specifically listed in H.1 or H.2 above

H.4 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

H.4.1 DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

+ Record preservative type, concentration, and application date. In smallholder systems, preservative application is typically performed and recorded by the collection point. The operator responsible for preservation shall document type, concentration, date, and tank or batch ID using standard log sheets or digital systems
+ Maintain certificates of analysis for all preservatives used
+ Document source and grade of all additives
+ Keep batch tracking records linking preservatives to specific latex lots

H.4.2 STORAGE AND HANDLING

+ Store preservatives in original containers with clear labelling
+ Maintain separate storage areas for different preservative types
+ Ensure proper ventilation and safety equipment for ammonia handling
+ Follow national safety regulations for chemical storage and handling

H.4.3 QUALITY CONTROL

+ Test preservative concentrations in finished latex
+ Monitor pH levels and coagulation time
+ Verify absence of prohibited substances through periodic testing
+ Maintain cold chain when required for preserved latex

H.4.4 LEGAL COMPLIANCE ALL PRESERVATIVES MUST COMPLY WITH:

+ National food safety regulations (where applicable for food-grade latex)
+ Import/export restrictions in destination markets
+ International rubber quality standards (ISO 2000 series)

H.5 REGIONAL APPROVAL PROCESS

Preservatives not listed in H.1 or H.2 may be considered for use through the following process:

Submission Requirements

Any certified entity (processor, collection point, or farm) seeking to use an unlisted preservative shall submit a request through their Certification Body to Moreganic, including:

+ Chemical name, CAS number, and technical specification
+ Intended function and concentration
+ Evidence that the substance meets international or national organic certification standards (e.g., USDA NOP, EU 2018/848, JAS)
+ Proof of compliance with national food safety and environmental regulations, where applicable
+ Technical justification demonstrating regional necessity (e.g., climatic, microbial, storage, or transport constraints not adequately addressed by permitted preservatives)
+ Safety data sheets and certificates of analysis

Approval Authority

+ All requests for unlisted preservatives must receive written approval from Moreganic before use in certified latex
+ The Certification Body shall review submissions for completeness and compliance with national regulations, then forward to Moreganic with their technical assessment
+ Moreganic shall evaluate requests against the standard's biodiversity-first principles and food-grade safety requirements, where applicable
+ Approved substances will be added to the standard's permitted list in the next revision cycle or issued as interim guidance to all Certification Bodies

Prohibited Practice

The use of any preservatives or additives not explicitly listed in H.1, H.2, or approved through this process is prohibited and constitutes non-compliance with Moreganic certification requirements.

Contact

To submit a request for preservative approval, contact Moreganic through your Certification Body.

I AUDIT GUIDANCE AND NON-CONFORMANCE CLASSIFICATION

[Normative]

I.1 QUICK REFERENCE FOR AUDITORS

To facilitate consistent classification during field audits, the following tables provide common examples by FMS requirement:

MINOR NON-CONFORMANCE (60 DAYS TO RESOLVE)

Section 2 - Biodiversity

- MBAP missing recent (< 6 months) observation updates
- Species list incomplete but evidence of monitoring exists
- Buffer zone map outdated but physical buffers present
- Photo documentation incomplete

Section 3 - Social

- Training attendance sheets missing 1-2 signatures
- Grievance log format non-standard but system functional
- Worker contract language unclear but terms compliant

Section 4 - Traceability

- Invoice missing certificate number (but status marked)
- Harvest log dates incomplete for 1-2 entries
- Field map not posted but available upon request
- Storage labels faded but areas clearly separated

ICS Requirements

- ICS inspection delayed 2-3 weeks beyond schedule
- Inspector training records missing recent refresher
- Documentation filing system disorganized but complete

MAJOR NON-CONFORMANCE (CAP WITHIN 30 DAYS, IMPLEMENTATION 3-6 MONTHS)

Section 1 - Inputs

- Unapproved chemical found in storage (no evidence of use)
- Emergency chemical use without ICS approval

+ Chemical drift risk identified (spray equipment misuse)

Section 2 - Biodiversity

+ No MBAP exists for certified area (> 6 months after certification)
+ Required buffer zones not established
+ No evidence of annual biodiversity monitoring
+ Tree planting commitments not met for 2+ years

Section 3 - Social

+ PPE not available or inadequate for workers
+ No training provided on safety procedures
+ Wages below agreed minimum (unintentional calculation error)
+ Child labor policy not implemented

Section 4 - Traceability

+ No separation between certified/non-certified storage
+ Mixing risk due to inadequate controls
+ Mass balance discrepancies > 10%
+ Premium payments not documented

Parallel Production

+ MCAP conversion targets not met (no progress evidence)
+ Certified/non-certified blocks not clearly mapped
+ Harvest logs not separated by certification status

ICS Requirements

+ ICS sampling below minimum threshold (< 5% farms inspected)
+ ICS Manager not trained in Moreganic® standards
+ Internal audit schedule not followed (multiple farms missed)

CRITICAL VIOLATION (30 DAYS TO AVOID SUSPENSION/DECERTIFICATION)

Section 1 - Inputs

+ Prohibited chemical actively used in certified areas

+ Evidence of systematic chemical application in violation

Section 3 - Social

+ Forced labor identified (debt bondage, withheld wages, threats)
+ Unsafe working conditions causing injury or death
+ Child labor in hazardous activities
+ Systematic wage theft or exploitation

Section 4 - Traceability

+ Intentional mixing of certified and non-certified latex
+ Falsified harvest records or transaction documents
+ Fraudulent certificate numbers or certification status claims
+ Premium diversion (farmers not receiving payments)

System Integrity

+ Systematic fraud across multiple requirements
+ Bribery or corruption involving auditors/inspectors
+ Falsified ICS inspection reports
+ Sale of non-certified product as certified

Note: Edge cases, detailed classification guidance, and audit protocols are provided in subsequent sections of this annex. Certification bodies shall develop additional operational guidance for auditor training and quality assurance.

J DOCUMENT CONTROL AND REVISION POLICY

[Normative]

1. Purpose

Define how the Standard is revised, approved, released, and transitioned to maintain consistency, legality, and transparency.

2. Roles and ownership

- Standard Owner: Moreganic Secretariat. Maintains master text and change log.
- Technical Committee (TC): drafts revisions, reviews comments, recommends approval.
- Stakeholder Forum: producers, processors, brands, auditors, NGOs. Provides input.
- Certification Bodies (CBs): advise on audit practicality and transition impacts.
- Legal and Claims: review compliance, labeling, and market claims.

3. Versioning

- The Standard uses semantic versioning vX.y.z
- Patch (z): editorial only. No intent change.
- Minor (y): clarifications or small additions. Backward compatible.
- Major (X): new requirements or scope changes. Not backward compatible.
- Emergency notices may be issued when risk is high. They are folded into the next numbered release.

4. Triggers for revision

- Scheduled review.
- Regulatory or policy changes affecting scope or claims.
- Audit findings, disputes, or systemic nonconformities.
- Field feedback, pilots, or impact monitoring data.
- Interoperability needs with external schemes.

5. Change Requests (CR)

- Anyone may submit a CR to the Secretariat using the CR header in Templates.
- Each CR receives an ID, category, rationale, proposed text, and evidence.
- Secretariat screens for completeness within 20 working days and logs outcome.

6. Drafting and consultation

- TC prepares a Draft for Consultation.
- Public consultation: minimum 30 days for minor, 60 days for major.
- Targeted outreach to affected groups in local languages where feasible.
- TC keeps a Comment Register and records a disposition for each comment.

7. Approval

- TC submits a Final Draft to the Standard Owner with change summary, risk analysis, and transition plan.
- Standard Owner issues an Approval Decision or requests further edits.

8. Release package

- Each release includes:
- Final text and a redline vs the previous official version.
- Release Notes with summary of changes.
- Effective Date and Transition Period.
- Updated annex list and controlled document ID.
- Public Change Log entry.

9. Transition rules

- Patch: effective immediately. No transition.
- Minor: transition up to 6 months from Effective Date.
- Major: transition 12 to 18 months from Effective Date.
- Application during transition:
- New applicants are audited against the new version after 90 days.
- Existing certificate holders may use the old or new version until transition end.
- After transition end, all audits use the new version.
- Nonconformities created only by the revision are graded per Annex I with fair timelines.

10. Interpretations and guidance

- Formal Interpretation Notes resolve ambiguous text. Approved by TC Chair and logged.
- Guidance may be issued to explain intent without changing requirements.

11. Document control

- Controlled header includes document code, title, version, date, page count.
- File names use: MR-R-FMS-1_vX.Y.Z_YYYY-MM-DD.
- Superseded versions are archived for 10 years and marked Superseded.
- Translations are controlled. The English master prevails in case of conflict.

12. Review cycle

Full review at least every 24 months or earlier if needed.

13. Dispensations

Temporary deviations allowed only for documented force majeure or legal conflict.
Granted by the Standard Owner with CB input. Time bound. Publicly logged.

14. Complaints and appeals

- Complaints about the revision process go to the Secretariat.
- Appeals on approval decisions go to an independent panel designated by the Board.
- Outcomes are recorded in the Change Log.

15. Records and transparency

The Secretariat publishes the Change Log, consultation summaries, Release Notes, Interpretation Notes, and transition guidance.

CHANGE LOG ENTRY TEMPLATE

ID	Version	Type (Patch/ Minor/Major/ Emergency)	Summary of change	Affected sections/ annexes	Effective date	Transition end	Notes

CHANGE REQUEST (CR) FORM

Field	Entry
CR ID	
Date	
Requestor and affiliation	
Section(s) affected	
Current text	
Proposed text	
Rationale and evidence	
Expected audit and cost impact	
Suggested change type	[ ] Patch [ ] Minor [ ] Major
Attachments	

K REGULATORY & ORGANIC ALIGNMENT

[Informative]

K.1 EUDR COMPLIANCE SUPPORT

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) requires companies placing rubber on EU markets to demonstrate deforestation-free sourcing, legal production, and geolocation data. Moreganic® certification provides structured support for EUDR compliance through existing traceability, land-use documentation, and chain-of-custody requirements.

K.2 ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Moreganic® certification includes biodiversity requirements that go beyond most organic certification schemes. These are defined and verified through core farm-level audit criteria (see Section 3.1.1 and Annex E), and include:

- A minimum of 10% of the certified farm area dedicated to natural or semi-natural vegetation, including biodiversity corridors, riparian zones, and agroforestry features
- Integration of multi-purpose species into production systems, tailored to canopy, soil, and labor conditions
- A 5-year Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP) outlining baseline, targets, and progress documentation
- Targeted practices that support ecosystem functions, such as erosion control, pollinator habitat, or water retention, often achieved through agroforestry layout, native species, or managed buffers

These biodiversity elements are not optional, they are core to the Moreganic® Farm Management Standard and designed to align with EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) expectations for ecosystem preservation, land-use transparency, and sustainable production.

K.3 ORGANIC CERTIFICATION DISTINCTION

Moreganic® is a sustainability certification, not an organic certification. While Moreganic® requires restrictive chemical practices, organic product claims require separate certification under USDA NOP, EU Bio, JAS, or equivalent programs.

For operations holding valid organic certification, Moreganic® provides a complementary pathway that builds upon responsible farming foundations by adding biodiversity measurement, premium verification, and digital traceability, addressing the full sustainability picture that markets increasingly demand.

Guidance for operations seeking dual certification is under development and will be published when available. To take part in its development, please contact Moreganic.

L END-OF-LIFE TREE MANAGEMENT

[Informative]

L1. SUSTAINABLE USE OF RUBBER TREES

Rubber trees that have reached the end of their productive lifecycle, have fallen due to natural causes, or have been removed for replanting should not be burned. Burning releases stored carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to unnecessary emissions and reducing the long-term sustainability of latex farming.

Instead, trees should be repurposed into durable wood products, ensuring that their carbon remains stored for as long as possible, in support of circular economy principles.

Recommended uses for retired rubber trees include:

- **Timber Utilization:** Converting wood into furniture, construction materials, or biomass products to extend carbon storage.
- **Agroforestry Integration:** Using decomposed rubberwood as mulch or habitat material to enrich soil and promote biodiversity.
- **Controlled Energy Recovery:** Using wood as firewood only in high-efficiency systems that replace non-renewable fuels and meet sustainability criteria.

Certified farms are encouraged to adopt environmentally responsible disposal practices that prioritize carbon retention over burning or unmanaged decomposition.

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7 CLOSING NOTE: ORIGINS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & AN INVITATION

The Moreganic® Farm Management Standard and related documents did not begin in a policy office. The vision began on rubber farms in Thailand, in conversations with smallholder farmers, processing facility operators, and field agronomists.

Those early years of on-the-ground observation, implementation, and honest refinement shaped the core philosophy of this standard - that a sustainability certification must be practical enough to implement, transparent enough to trust, and honest enough to acknowledge where it is still learning.

Moreganic was developed over several years within an industry-based operational programme before formally constituting an independent entity in 2025. That operational history is the foundation of this standard's practical credibility, the requirements have been stress-tested against real farm conditions, real processing constraints, and real supply chain structures across multiple geographies. That transition, from internal programme to an independent system, is itself a structured process. Moreganic's governance is being deliberately designed to achieve separation between certification scheme ownership and certified product trading – a requirement of voluntary best-practice frameworks and one that evolving regulatory environments across major markets are increasingly mandating for certification schemes whose labels are used to substantiate environmental claims.

We share this openly because we believe that honesty about where a standard stands in its development is itself a form of integrity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This standard has been developed through multiple rounds of consultation with farmers, plantation managers, certification bodies, retailers, and industry stakeholders across Southeast Asia, Central America, and West Africa. We are grateful to the farm-level partners, agronomists, and supply chain operators who stress-tested early drafts against real operational conditions. Their input is embedded throughout. Any remaining gaps or ambiguities are ours to resolve in future revisions.

A NOTE ON VERSION 1.0

This is a Version 1.0 document. It is ambitious by design. Moreganic's standards are intended to address what we believe existing certification frameworks have underserved: measurable biodiversity improvement, verified farmer premiums reaching the right hands, and supply chain transparency that goes beyond logo claims. Ambition of this kind means that some requirements will be refined as implementation evidence accumulates and as the programme expands into new geographies and crops.

We have written this standard to be auditable and implementable now. We have also written it knowing we will improve it. A formal revision cycle is embedded in our governance structure. We will conduct public consultations ahead of each revision as we seek broader industry recognition and pursue alliances with aligned frameworks. We welcome technical comments, questions, and challenge from any stakeholder at any time.

CERTIFICATION AND INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION

Moreganic® certification is issued exclusively by accredited third-party certification bodies operating independently of Moreganic and any certified supply chain operator, with competence and independence verified against international or national standards and procedures. The list of approved certification bodies is maintained and published separately on the Moreganic® website, and is updated as new bodies are formally approved. No self-certification against this standard is recognised for the purposes of Moreganic® label use or supply chain claims.

CERTIFICATION SCOPE AND ORGANIC DISTINCTION

Moreganic® is a sustainability certification focused on biodiversity restoration, verified farmer premiums, and supply chain transparency. It is not an organic certification. While this standard requires significant chemical restrictions aligned with ecological integrity principles, it does not confer organic product status. Operations seeking organic product claims must pursue separate certification under USDA NOP, EU Bio, JAS, or equivalent national programmes. The requirements of each scheme apply independently.

The Moreganic® name reflects a commitment to achieve “more”: biodiversity enhancement at farm level, transparent economic benefit for smallholder farmers, and traceability from plantation to product.

Comments, technical enquiries, and partnership proposals are welcomed at **info@moreganic.com**. Public consultation processes for future standard revisions will be announced on the Moreganic® website.