

# Responsible Down Standard International Working Group

## Small Farm Groups Modules

May 24, 2018

### Agenda:

- Introductions, Announcements, and Housekeeping
- Updates
- Review of Small Farm Groups Module

### What is a “Small Farm?:

- Farms where the waterfowl are owned by individuals or households, rather than by companies. The animals are raised for personal or local consumption, rather than for commercial slaughter or export.
- Small farms (households) shall generally not have more than 100 waterfowl at one time.
- Typically the birds will go into one area during the day such as a field or park.

### Small Farm Group Identification:

- Farms where the waterfowl are owned by individuals or households, rather than by companies. The animals are raised for personal or local consumption, rather than for commercial slaughter or export.
- Small farms (households) shall generally not have more than 100 waterfowl at one time.
- Regional
- Homogenous production practices
- Determined by collector (working with the CB)

### Small Farm Group Risk Assessment

- Whether collectors collect from non-RDS regions as well

- Level of legal enforcement
- Volume of down sold from a region
- Size of the area in question
- Typical seasonal timing of live-plucking and/or force feeding
- Level of legal enforcement and local legislation
- Common practices in the region
- Results from previous audits in the area (if any)
- Third party information (if available)
- Proximity to areas where force feeding or live plucking are happening
- Level of control on the collector
- Number of collectors

Risk Levels: Base, Medium, and High

### **Small Farm Group Audits:**

*From Appendix B:*

B3.2 At a minimum, all areas shall be visited by an auditor, with interviews of households with waterfowl to confirm conformity with the requirements of the standard.

**Base** – base level of audit days

**Medium** – at least 1.5x base level of audit days

**High** – at least 2x base level of audit days

Collectors travel around from village to village and will buy or trade for the feathers collected by the small farm groups.

### **Small Farm Groups Module:**

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
G1	The small farmer group shall consist of a homogeneous group of members with regard to their agricultural production, geographical location and economic situation.	Smallholder farms shall be located in one defined geographical area. The defined geographical area shall be identified with a list of villages. As a guideline the Certification Body can set a limit of maximum 100 waterfowl per household at one time.	MAJOR
G2	Used or recycled down is not accepted for the RDS.	Only down or feathers from birds raised on the small farm can be sold or traded as RDS inputs.	MAJOR
G8	During farm visits by the Certification Body the findings of the Certification Body shall not significantly differ from the statements of the collector and the documentation of the small farmer group.	During the farm visits the Certification Body shall get the impression of a well-functioning small farmer group.	CRITICAL MAJOR

### **Small Farm Groups Module – Documentation:**

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
G3	The following documentation on the small farmer group shall be available: clearly defined map that shows the villages under certification collector(s) estimated number and type of waterfowl per village statements from collectors as listed below under G4 quantity and type of down and feather products delivered by collectors	Collectors shall be issued unique identification numbers.	MAJOR
G5	Collectors shall provide documentation on: map with villages they source down and feather from quantity of feathers and down delivered.		MAJOR
G7	The scope certificate holder shall have procedures indicating actions to be taken in instances of non-compliance with the standard, sanctions and exclusion of members.		MAJOR

### **Small Farm Groups Module – Training & Acknowledgment:**

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
G4	Registered collectors shall have access to and be knowledgeable on the standard.	Small collectors collecting from households shall be registered by the final collector as an approved RDS collector and they shall be aware of the RDS requirements.	MAJOR
G6	Collectors shall meet the following requirements and sign a statement undertaking: that they only deliver down and feather under certification from the villages in the small farmer group. down and feather under certification shall be separated and identified. that they report as soon as possible to the certificate holder any practices non-compliant to this standard.		MAJOR

### **Small Farm Groups Module – Criteria Not Applicable:**

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F5.3	A written feeding plan shall be available ensuring that the nutritional requirements of the waterfowl are being met.	Template to be created	RECOMMENDATION MINOR Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups
F7.1	A documented veterinary health plan (VHP) should be developed in consultation with a veterinarian.	Include detailed measures (F7.2)	RRECOMMENDATION MINOR Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups
F7.3	The farm personnel should follow the measures described in the VHP.		RECOMMENDATION Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups
F7.4	A veterinarian shall pay regular visits at the farm to check on the health condition of waterfowl. If the veterinarian observes any waterfowl is not in a state of well-being sufficient and immediate measures shall be taken.	Veterinarian shall visit at least once in each growing season. Members of smallholder farmer groups can be excluded from this requirement at the discretion of the certification body.	MINOR Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups
F7.5	Results of veterinary visits and follow up actions if necessary should be recorded.	Members of smallholder farmer groups may be excluded from this requirement.	RECOMMENDATION Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups
F7.12	Records on administration of veterinary medicinal products or any intervention, mortality rate, number of limping, injured and euthanized waterfowl (reasons and methodology) should be maintained for at least three years or for the length of their validity, whichever is longer.		RECOMMENDATION Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups

### **Small Farm Groups Module – Criteria Not Applicable:**

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F8.2	Appropriate hand washing facilities and toilets should be available for all personnel working on or visiting the farm.		RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i>
F8.3	An effective written policy on control of visitors, vehicles and materials should be available, known by the responsible personnel and implemented.	The site should have a biosecurity plan for preventing the transfer of disease between farms. A written policy is required for operations with more than five employees. For farms with five or less employees, it is sufficient for the inspector to interview the farmer. <i>Create a template Biosecurity plan.</i>	RECOMMENDATION <b>MINOR</b> <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i>
F8.4	Foot brush/disinfectant or barrier footwear systems should be provided at the entrance of the farm.		RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i>
F9.1	Responsible personnel shall be trained on good practices for handling of waterfowl. Training records shall be kept for at least five years or for the length of their validity, whichever is longer.	A written plan is required for operations with more than five employees. For farms with five or less employees, it is sufficient for the inspector to interview the farmer. <i>New Record templates to be created for mortality, lameness, etc.</i>	MINOR <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i>

### Suggested Changes:

- When it is required for the farmer to write documents, it is difficult because most of the time the farmers do not even know they are being audited. It should remain “Not Applicable” for this reason.
- One change would be that we (Textile Exchange) collect more data on the small farm group audits.

### Questions:

- Is there anything we should adapt or review for the small farm module?
  - Is there scope for the veterinary visits to be applicable to small farm groups without the burden of documentation?

### Actionable Items:

## Small Farm Groups Module – Outcome-based:

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F5.1	Waterfowl shall be provided with a supply of clean, fresh and safe drinking water.	Water shall be provided in such a way that animals can drink without undue competition (drinking space allowance per waterfowl; sufficient number of drinking points and water flow rate). An automatic refill system is preferred. If watering is done manually, it should be done and checked on a regular basis (minimum 2 times a day). <i>Small Farmer Groups shall ensure that waterfowl have access to drinking water.</i> <i>Guidance for testing, if necessary</i>	MAJOR
F5.2	Waterfowl shall be provided with sufficient food to meet their nutritional needs and maintain them in good condition.	Feed shall be available during daylight hours, ad libitum feeding regime (feed is continuously available for the animal), feed to be provided at all times in such a way that animals can eat and drink without undue competition (sufficient feeder space allowance per waterfowl), equal spread of feeding facilities giving waterfowl enough space when eating and drinking. Food should be checked at least twice daily to ensure there is adequate food. Whenever possible, the use of feed from genetically modified sources should be avoided. <i>Small Farmer Groups shall ensure that waterfowl have access to adequate quantities of food.</i> <i>Guidance that birds should not go without food for more than 8 hours.</i>	MAJOR

Most of this criteria can be observed and are mostly outcome based.

## Small Farm Groups Module – Outcome Based:

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F6.7	Except for brooding under a heat lamp up to four weeks of age, a minimum of eight hours of <b>darkness reduced lighting</b> at night and eight hours of light during the day shall be provided.	<i>Small Farmer groups shall ensure that waterfowl have normal lighting patterns.</i>	MINOR
F6.17	Temperature shall be controlled in the housing of hatchlings.	At day one, temperature shall be at body temperature of hatchlings. After 20 days this shall be adjusted to outside temperature during daytime. <b>Add guidance for accepted temp range.</b> <i>Small Farmer Groups shall ensure that animals are not exposed to dangerous fluctuations in temperature.</i>	MAJOR
F7.6	The farmer should behave as a good caregiver, by checking the wellbeing of the waterfowl at least twice a day.	<b>Add guidance for what is covered during the wellness checks.</b> <i>Small Farmer Groups shall ensure the wellbeing of their waterfowl.</i>	RECOMMENDATION MINOR
F8.1	Accommodation for waterfowl shall be regularly and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according a cleaning policy. <b>Reword to be more outcome based.</b>	At a minimum cleaning shall happen between flocks. <i>Small Farmer Groups shall ensure clean bedding and shelter for their animals.</i>	MINOR

They will typically have a smaller house within the farm where the chicks live.

An easy question to ask the workers is “Where do the birds go when it gets cold?”

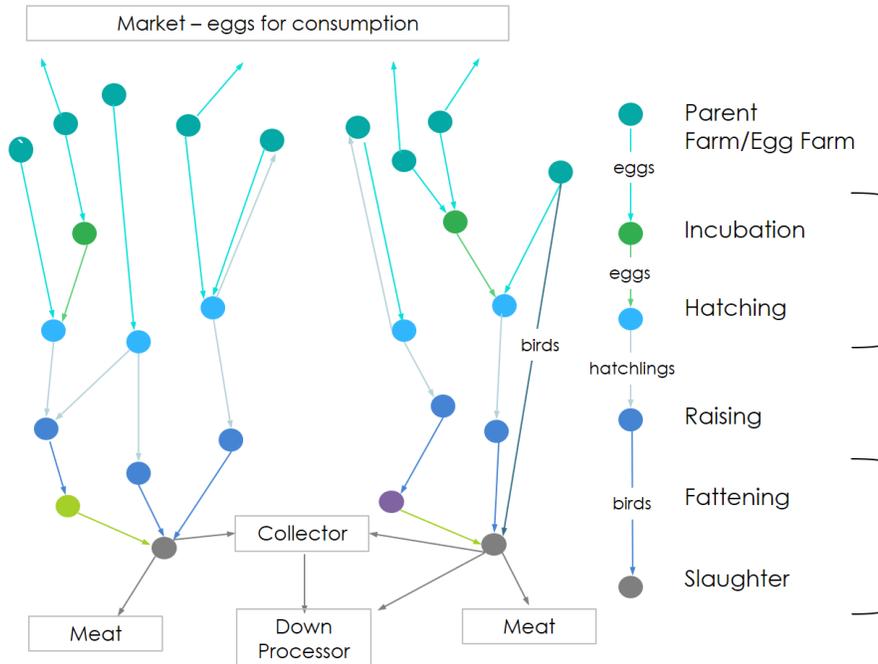
The farmers do have to see the birds at least twice a day to let the birds out in the morning and close them in at night.

## Other Small Farm Models:

These small farms do not fit into the certification’s current system.

### Small Farm Model:

There are cases where these farms are quite small but is not necessarily used for local consumption.



### **Poultry Market:**

There are these smaller household farms where there might be 300-400 birds and then they are brought into the poultry market and slaughtered in that poultry market. There is no way currently to audit those farms because there are so many and they are small.

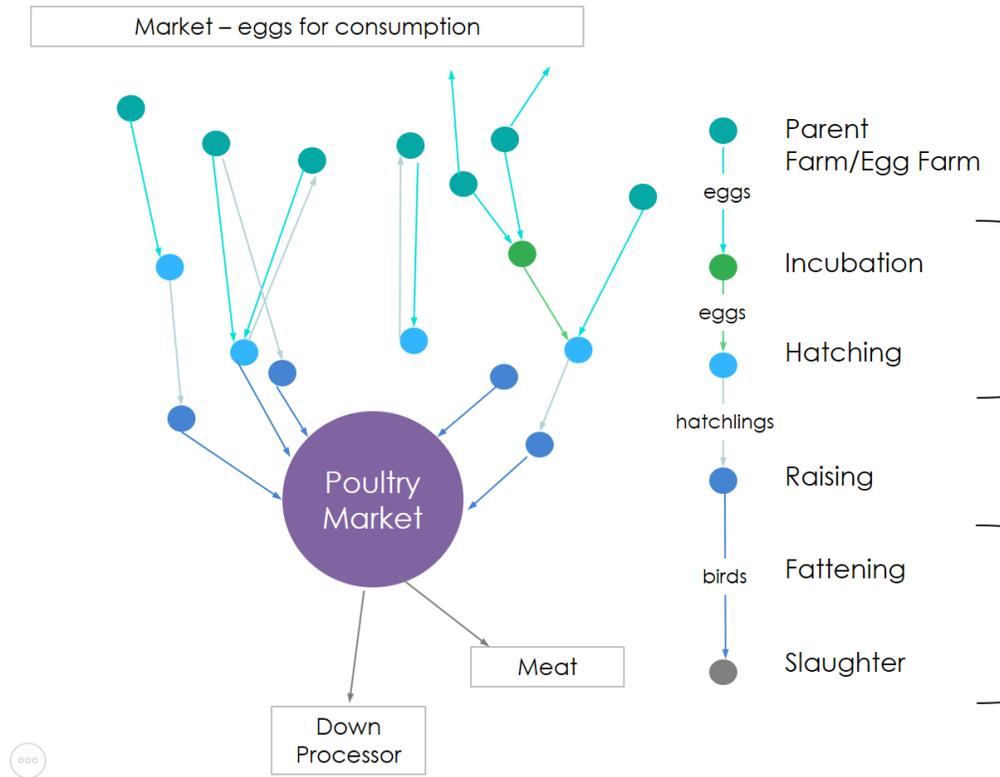
#### **Suggested Changes:**

##### **Is there interest in us working towards a strategy to certify this structure?**

- Create an internal control system where it is managed by the down processor.
- Come up with a list of the farms and a sampling auditing methodology. It would be a step between the contract farm and the small farm module where there would be an internal control system and reduce the number of audits.

#### **Question:**

- Do we know how good the record keeping is of poultry markets?
  - It is most often the case that they do not have strong record keeping in place. They may be limited to the number of farms they can source from just by region and the fact that other farms might be too far away. It is a question we should pose to those with more experience.
- If they do not have good records can we influence traceability in the long term?
  - One way we approach these new opportunities is come up with a structure and do an audit and then based on that information we decide how to move forward.



### Sector Meetings:

- ~~Animal Welfare: May 18<sup>th</sup> 9am – 10:30am cst.~~
- Suppliers: May 25<sup>th</sup> 8am – 9:30am cst.
- Brands/Retailers: May 31<sup>st</sup> 9am – 10:30am cst.

### Reminders:

- Have you signed the RDS IWG Charter?
- Do we have your permission to be publically listed?

- ❑ **Any other questions or feedback:**  
[ResponsibleDown@TextileExchange.org](mailto:ResponsibleDown@TextileExchange.org)

**Thank you!**