



# Welcome to the ISCC FSS Add-On Webinar

ISCC System GmbH

ISCC FSS Add-on Webinar, 12 June, 2025

# Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Laura Mack (FSS Team, Welthungerhilfe)**  
Senior Policy Advisor
- **Q&A and Wrap-up**



# THE FOOD SECURITY STANDARD ADD-ON

ISCC WORKSHOP | JUNE 12, 2025



# AGENDA

**01**

WHAT IS DUE DILIGENCE?

**02**

INTERNATIONAL DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

**03**

WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

**04**

THE FOOD SECURITY STANDARD

**05**

THE FSS IN PRACTICE



# WHAT IS DUE DILIGENCE?



# WHAT IS DUE DILIGENCE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



The idea behind “supply chain due diligence” is that companies are assumed to bare responsibility for what happens in their supply chains.



Supply chain due diligence helps businesses identify risks related to human rights and environmental matters in their supply chains and take measures to mitigate or avoid them in the future.



The main process elements are the identification of risks, the implementation of preventative and remedial measures, as well as having documentation and reporting systems.

# HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE IN FIVE STEPS

A PRODUCER'S PERSPECTIVE



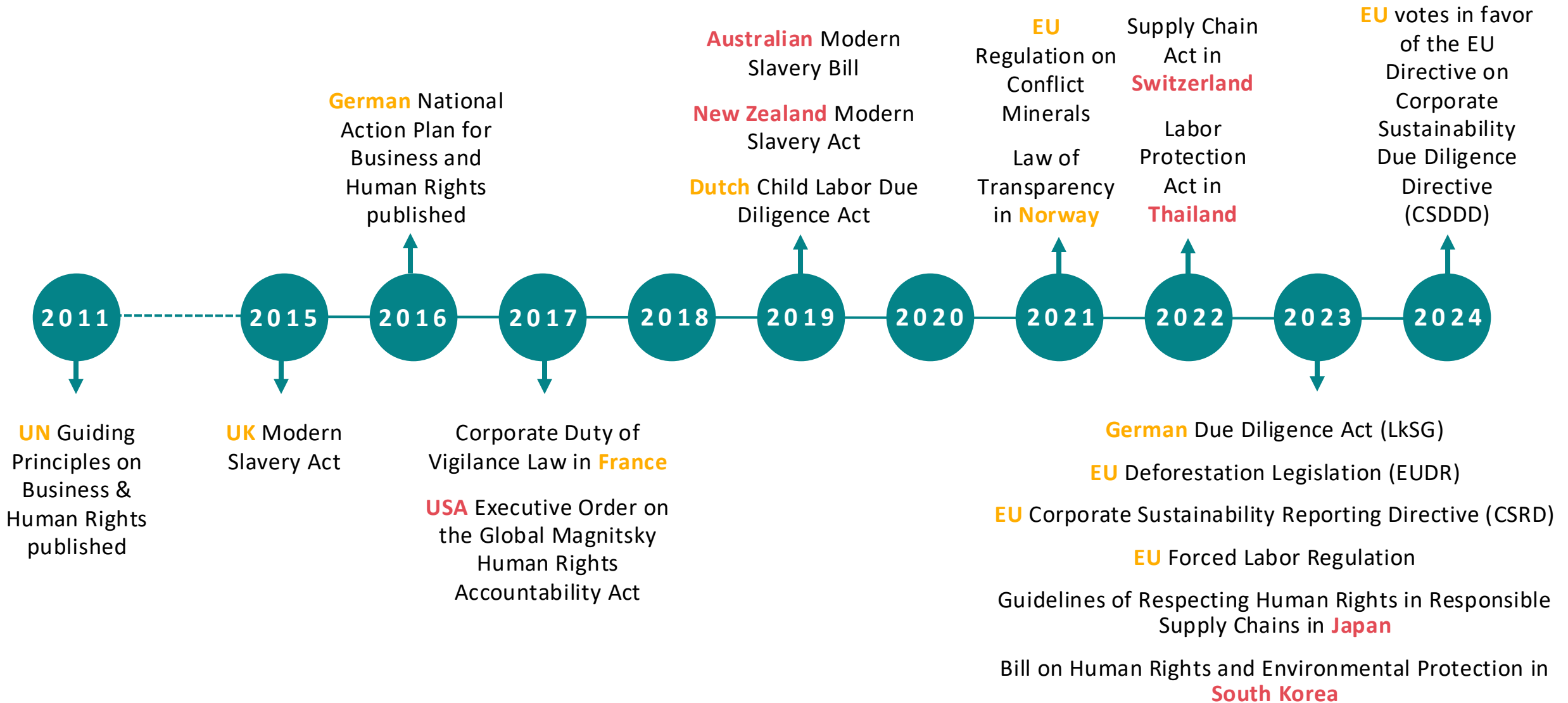


# INTERNATIONAL DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS





# LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS



# CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE DIRECTIVE (CSDDDD)

- **Prevent violations of human rights and environmental standards** along the “chain of activities” → by taking appropriate measures and minimizing risks.
- Supply chain due diligence must be carried out on new and existing, **direct as well as indirect suppliers.**
- Companies have a **duty of care.**
- Failure to comply → **finances & civil liability**



- Products made from **cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soy and wood**.
- Relevant raw materials and relevant products may only be placed on the EU market, made available on the EU market or exported from the EU if they are...

## 1. DEFORESTATION FREE

- "Deforestation-free" means that the production areas have not been deforested after December 31, 2020.

## 2. PRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGISLATION

- The "relevant legislation" includes **workers' rights and human rights** protected by international law.

## 3. COVERED BY DUE DILIGENCE DECLARATION



→ Companies have a **duty of success**.

# THE ROLE OF CERTIFICATIONS

RELIABLE INFORMATION AS PART OF THE RISK-BASED APPROACH FOR EU COMPANIES



## ABSTRACT RISK ANALYSIS

- EU companies analyse their suppliers/producers. According to risk index on human rights in the country (among others), those suppliers need to be checked for concrete risks with an on-site audit

## CONCRETE RISK ANALYSIS OF A SUPPLIER

- The company must check whether the identified risks apply to the individual supplier
  - obtain specific information on the supplier's human rights situation
- Human rights-based certifications like the FSS can demonstrate producer's compliance

Certification systems provide concrete information and offer a trustworthy data basis for compliance with EU regulations

## IMPORTANCE OF CERTIFICATION FOR REPORTING

- The certified supplier can be classified as "low risk" or "lower risk"
- Continuous monitoring of certification may qualify as a **preventive measure**



**Certifications as safe harbor for producers is not acknowledged by legal authorities. Certification can always only be a part of a due diligence strategy but do not exempt the company from actively doing their due diligence.**



# WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?



# HUNGER IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

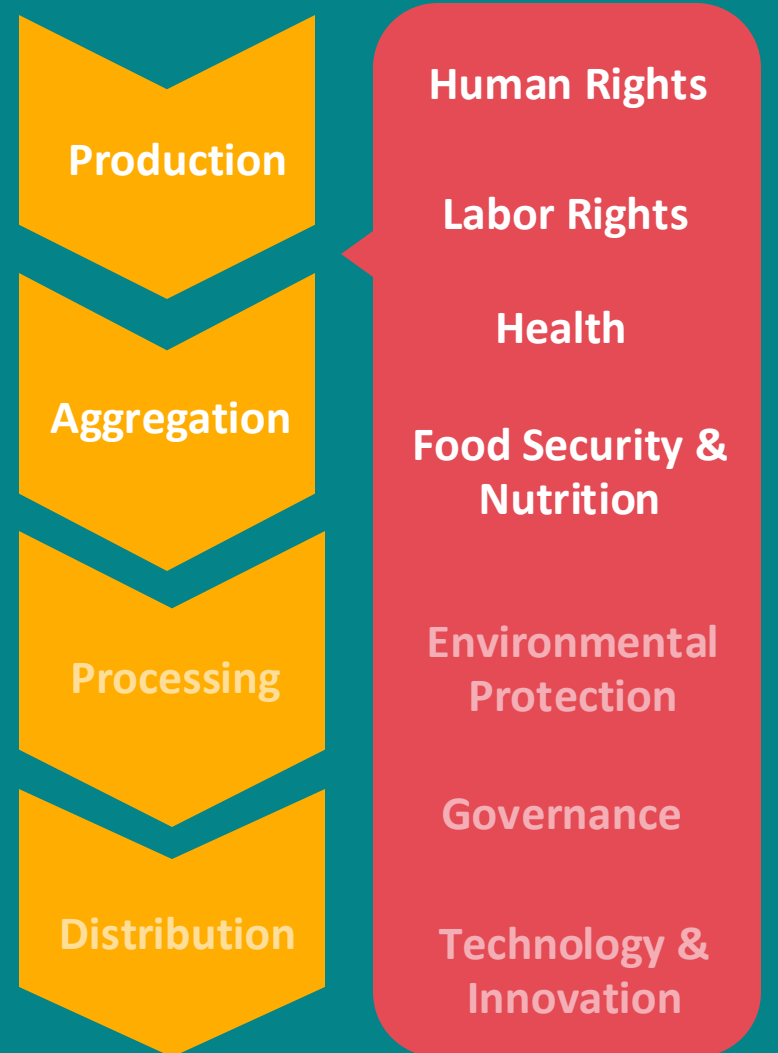
RISKS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAIN



Approximately **1 in 10** people suffer from chronic hunger globally.

That's more than **733 million people** & that number is only growing.

Source: FAO / United Nations



# WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

## THE FIVE PILLARS



### ACCESS

People have sufficient resources to produce and/or purchase food.



### AVAILABILITY

There is a reliable and consistent source of quality food.



### STABILITY

People's ability to access and utilize food that remains stable and sustained over time.



### UTILIZATION

Knowledge and basic sanitary conditions to choose, prepare and distribute food.



### CROSS-CUTTING RIGHTS

Women's rights - Gender Equality - Nutrition awareness - Complaint and grievance mechanisms - Training and capacity building – Education - Food safety monitoring



# THE FOOD SECURITY STANDARD





# ADD-ON: THE FOOD SECURITY STANDARD (FSS)



YOUR INSTRUMENT FOR DEMONSTRATING YOUR COMMITMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE AND UPCOMING EU REGULATIONS

- **ISCC FSS add-on** certification **minimizes costs and efforts** for producers. Verification takes place together with the annual ISCC audit
- Human rights based
- FSS was legally reviewed by the law firm Cattwyk: Suitable tool for risk-based reporting on EUDR, CSDDD, Forced Labour Regulation
- Applicable to all types of agricultural products, production sizes, and countries.



MANAGED BY



CO-FINANCED BY

With support from



# THE 5 PILLARS AND 17 PRINCIPLES



## STABILITY

1. Apply good governance & respect the rule of law
2. Respect national food security & development strategies
3. Mitigate natural & human-made disaster risks



## ACCESS

4. Ensure market access & contribute to local development
5. Safeguard long-term farm profitability & fair business conduct
6. Respect labor rights & ensure good working conditions
7. Provide training & capacity building
8. Offer social safety nets



## AVAILABILITY

9. Respect land rights
10. Respect water rights & ensure that water quality & availability are maintained or improved
11. Implement sustainable agricultural practices



## UTILIZATION

12. Provide a setting for the safe utilization of food
13. Guarantee good nutrition



## CROSS CUTTING ELEMENTS

14. Provide complaint & grievance mechanisms
15. Respect women's rights & ensure gender equality
16. Raise awareness for nutrition & support child education
17. Assess & monitor local food security

BASED ON THE UNITED NATION'S GUIDELINES TO THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD

# HOLISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS ADD-ON TO EXISTING CERTIFICATION SCHEMES



- ✓ Quality
- ✓ G.A.P.
- ✓ Occupational Safety
- ✓ Worker's Rights

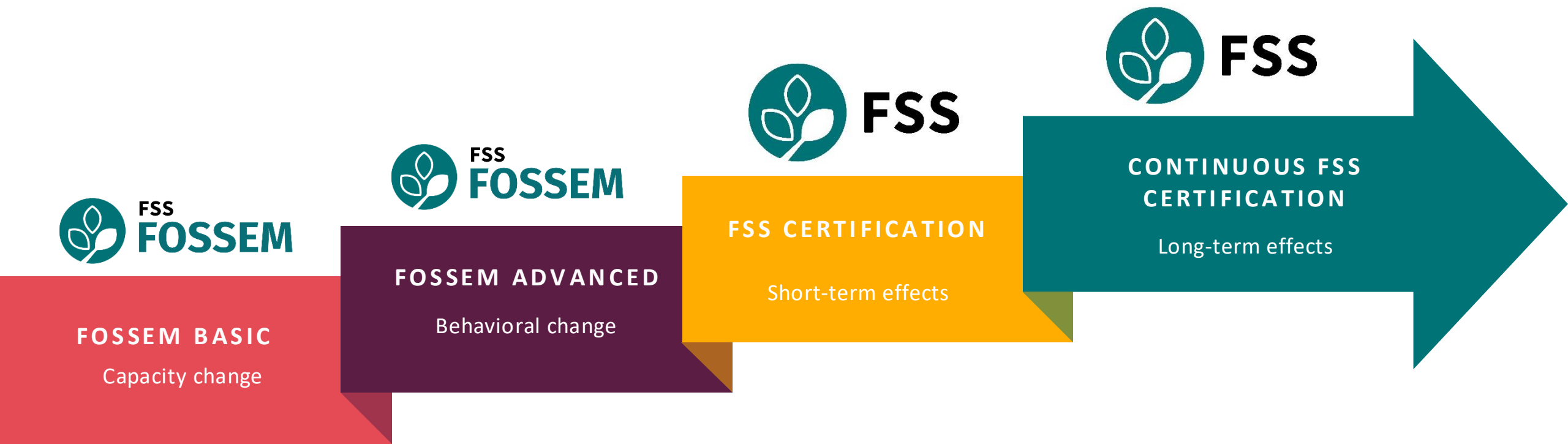
✗ Food Security/Holistic Human Rights Framework

- ✓ Social Security and Fair Wages
- ✓ Health Care
- ✓ Impact on Food Security
- ✓ Access to Food

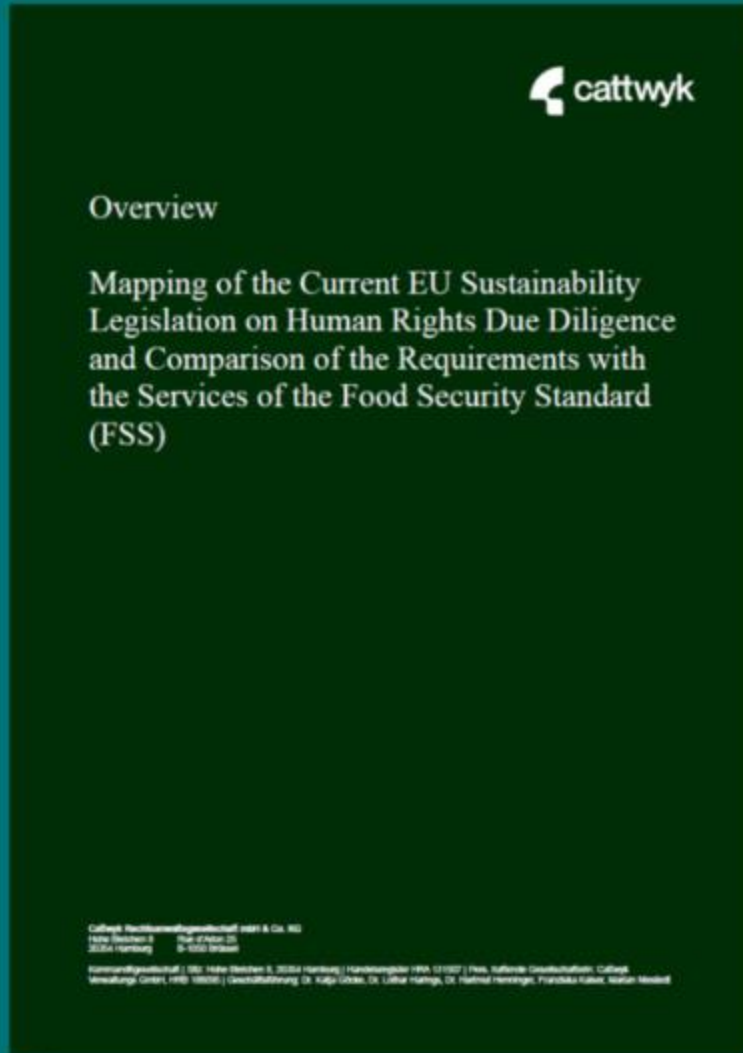
✓ Holistically include Human Rights Framework including Human Right to Food

# FOOD SECURITY SENSITIVE MANAGEMENT (FOSSEM) FSS

EVIDENCE OF YOUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE AND YOUR DUTY OF CARE







“

A certificate such as the FSS, which verifies certain protected legal positions through an on-site audit by an independent auditor, provides a relatively high guarantee that an abstractly identified risk does not actually exist. Risk analysis resources can then be focused on other suppliers with a higher risk profile, in line with the principle of risk prioritisation common to all European sustainability legislation.

”



“

In the context of the EUDR, FSS certification can lead to the assumption of "negligible risk" with regard to the legal positions covered (human rights, FPIC, protection against unlawful land expropriation), allowing the relevant products to be placed on the market.

”

Legal Mapping 2025, Cattwyk

*“According to Art. 10 para. 2 lit. n EUDR, existing information from certification systems can be taken into account when determining a “negligible risk”, the identification of which is required for placing relevant products on the market or making them available. Audits and certificates are also explicitly a risk mitigation measure according to Art. 11 para. 1 lit. b EUDR. A FSS certificate is suitable for determining a “negligible risk” within the meaning of Art. 10 para. 1 EUDR with regard to the legal positions reviewed, as the FSS verifies compliance with a number of legal positions as part of an audit and as part of follow-up audits.”  
(Legal Mapping 2025, Cattwyk)*



**The EUDR allows certification systems, like the FSS certificate, to determine "negligible risk" for products based on audits that verify compliance with legal requirements.**



## NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT (NAFSA) TOOL

- Identifies potential human rights risks by country, with a particular focus on the right to food based on publicly available data.
- Defines a risk level for eight categories that determine the social context as well as a national risk level for initial prioritization.



## QUICK ASSESSMENT TOOL (QAT)

- Determines specific risks to food security at local level using a structured questionnaire
- Survey of smallholder farmers, workers and stakeholders.
- Implements cost-effective food security monitoring.



## FSS AUDIT PROCEDURE TOOL (CHECKLIST)

- Provides a complete audit checklist - including criteria, indicators and guidance for review.
- Used to develop an improvement plan for monitoring and reporting.



# NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT TOOL (NAFSA)

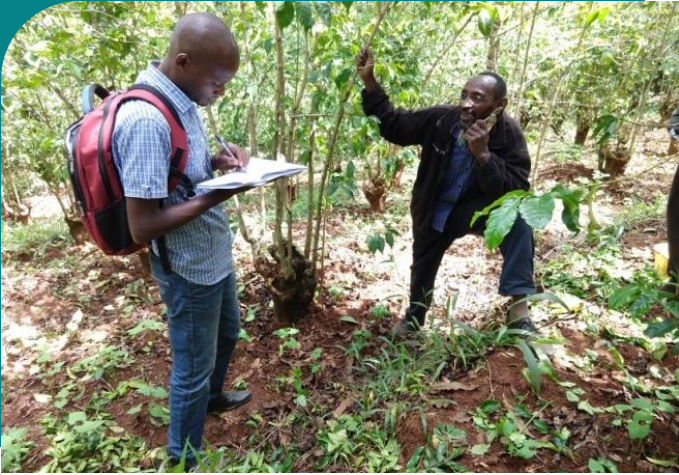


Country

1.   Level of Food Insecurity	6/7 Questions	High Risk
2.   Access to Water	1/2 Questions	High Risk
3.   Level of Human Development	2/4 Questions	Increased Risk
4.   Occurrence of Disasters	3/3 Questions	Increased Risk
5.   National Development Strategies	3/3 Questions	Increased Risk
6.   Functioning Governments	2/2 Questions	High Risk
7.   Human Rights	4/4 Questions	Moderate Risk
8.   Labor Rights	2/2 Questions	Increased Risk

- Self-learn tool to learn about potential human rights risks by country, with a particular focus on the right to food
- Based on publicly available data.
- Calculates a risk level for eight categories that determine the social context as well as a national risk level for initial prioritization.

# THREE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF INTERVIEWS



## FARM

- Farm management
- Workers/ smallholder farmers

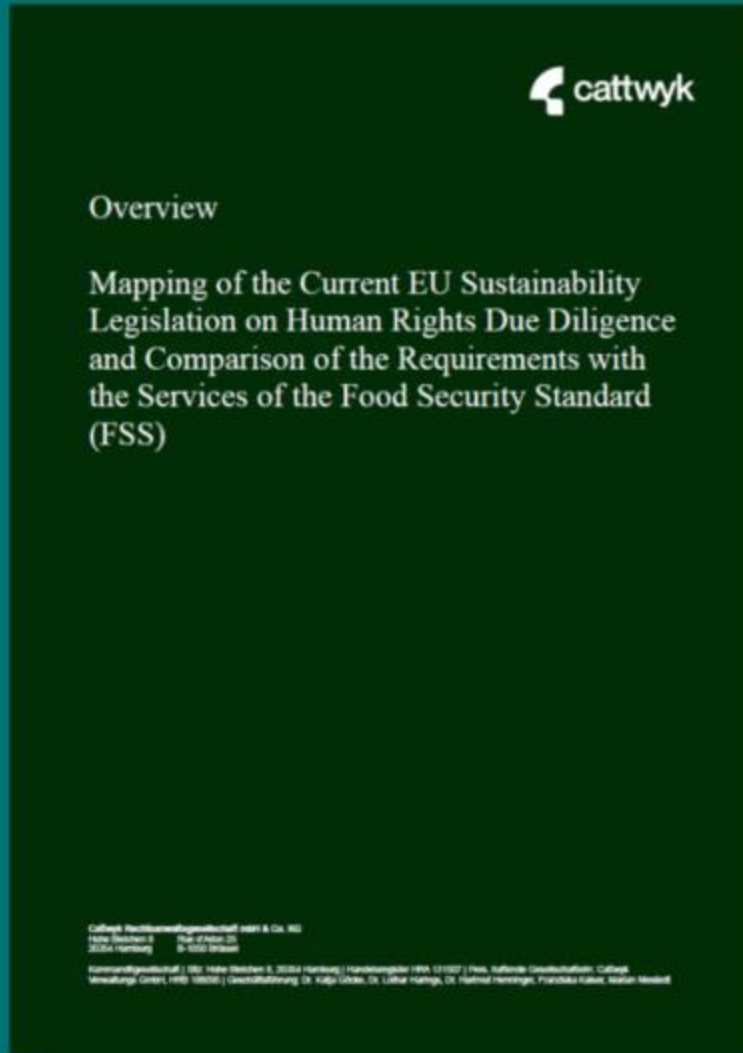


## COMMUNITY

- A teacher/director from school
- The communities' head, or leaders from a community organization
- A doctor or a nurse from the local clinic or health center

## DISTRICT

- An officer responsible for food security and nutrition
- An environmental or social NGO working in highest risk category (from NAFSA tool)



“

Unlike other standards, FSS certification requires interviews with various stakeholders, including suppliers, employees and other affected parties. Through this triangulation of interview results, FSS certification achieves a high level of verifiable information that goes beyond an isolated impression taken during the audit appointment.

”

# THE AUDIT PROCEDURE TOOL: FSS CHECKLIST

THE FSS CONSISTS OF FIVE PILLARS, 17 PRINCIPLES, 35 CRITERIA AND 93 INDICATORS



**Table 1:** Overview of FSS Pillars, Principles and Criteria

Pillar		Criteria
STABILITY		
Principle	1. Apply good governance and respect the rule of law	<p>1.1 All parties involved in the agricultural operation and related activities shall comply with applicable national, regional and local laws and regulations and ratified international treaties.</p> <p>1.2 All parties involved in the agricultural operation and related activities shall be committed to respecting human rights in all operations and transactions.</p>
	2. Respect national food security and development strategies	<p>2.1 The farm management/group manager shall endorse national strategies with regard to food security and these strategies shall not be contradicted by any business activities.</p>
	3. Mitigate natural and human-made disaster risks	<p>3.1 Natural and human-made disaster risks shall be mitigated and procedures shall be in place to ensure a proper response to emergencies.</p>



Specific to the FSS is a clear verification guidance and a document list to assess compliance

# THE FSS IN PRACTICE





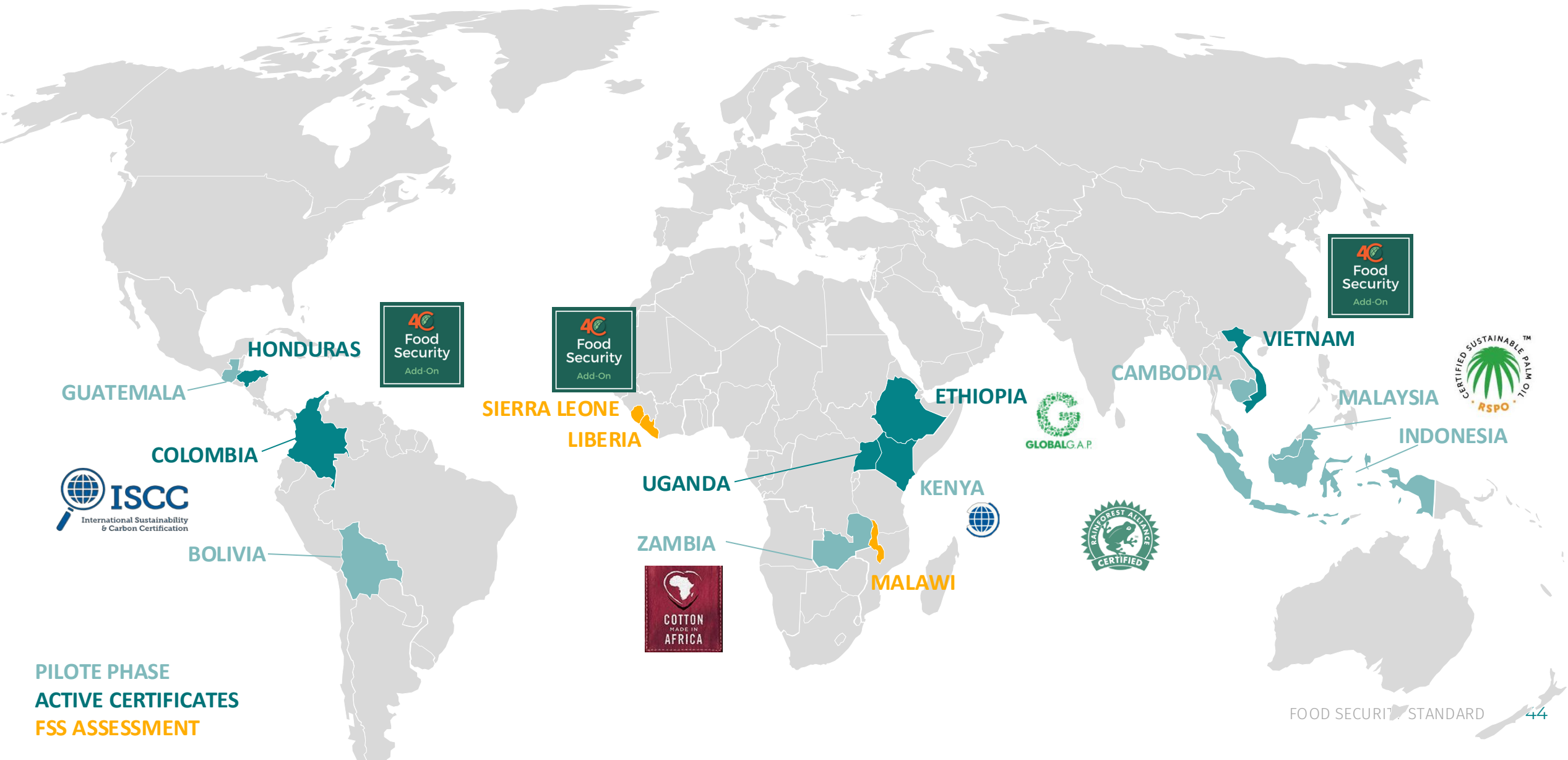
# GREMCA'S JOURNEY TO BECOMING CERTIFIED WITH THE ISCC FSS ADD-ON





# FSS IN PRACTICE

ACTIVE CERTIFICATES & PILOT PHASE



PILOTE PHASE  
ACTIVE CERTIFICATES  
FSS ASSESSMENT

# HOW TO GET CERTIFIED: PREPARATION

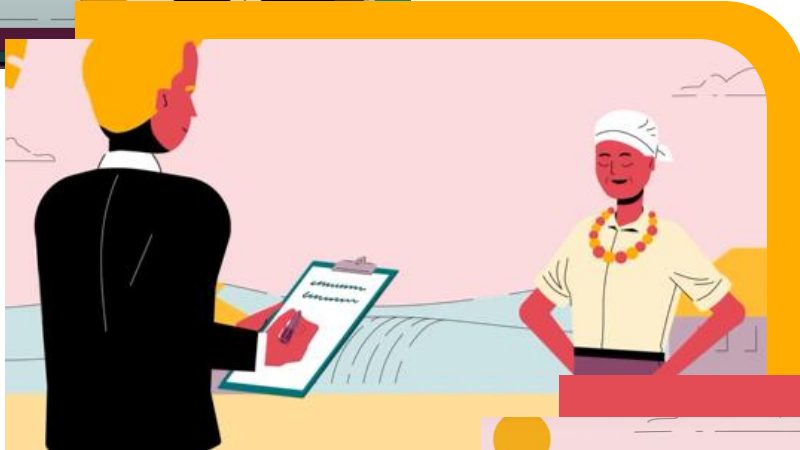


- As a producer you can prepare for the audit with the FSS toolbox. The FSS Team can guide you through this process:
  - Identify the level of risk for food security of your country
  - Familiarize with the FSS requirements of the checklist
  - Inform your staff about the audit and confidential interviews
  - Gather all relevant documents

# HOW TO GET CERTIFIED: THE AUDIT/ASSESSMENT



- Document Review



- Interviews are conducted with several actors (using QAT and Audit Procedure Tool)



- Operation site inspections to check FSS criteria such as for field, canteen, bathrooms, storage ...

# TAKING FOOD SECURITY MEASURES

LEVEL OF FOOD INSECURITY



## INDICATOR

is being assessed based on  
verification guidance



## FINDINGS

show that indicator/  
verification guidance  
is not yet complied  
with



PREVENTIVE/  
CORRECTIVE MEASURES  
are developed with guidance  
of FSS Team and other  
stakeholders



## INDICATOR COMPLIED



## RISKS IDENTIFIED FROM THE ASSESSMENT

Workers don't have access to **clean drinking water** at farm

no documented evidence on monitoring of impacts on water availability within areas of influence of farm operation.



## MEASURES TAKEN

Installed water filter system for portable water for workers and make sure they can drink it whenever they need

Defined area of influence and consult stakeholders of surrounding communities on water availability

-> Build a canal





## RISKS IDENTIFIED FROM THE ASSESSMENT

Farm provides meals to workers but provides only two kinds of very basic food every day

No policy or safe environment at work for breastfeeding mothers which is important for the nutrition of a child



## MEASURES TAKEN

Provide diverse meal plan for workers

Trainings for workers and smallholders on nutritious food

Farm develops a policy /include regulation into contracts and provides room and sufficient breaks for breastfeeding mothers





## RISKS IDENTIFIED FROM THE ASSESSMENT

No sufficient toilets at the farm for workers

All Agricultural chemicals were stored at the same place and not locked away.

Farm had open fire kitchen without chimney



## MEASURES TAKEN

Added three restrooms in different locations of the farm

Separated space for liquid and solid agricultural chemicals and equipment

Installed chimney on the kitchen roof

# BENEFITS OF USING THE FSS-TOOLS WITHIN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



- **Assessment and monitoring** of the food security situation and the status of the fulfillment of the right to food **within time and cost-effective assessments**.
- **Continuous improvement:** enables to **document progress** and develop action plans to pave the way to food security for difficult contexts.
- **Prioritization of risks:** Although compliance with the holistic approach of the right to food is the ultimate goal, by **prioritizing risks**, the focus can be put on the most urgent measures.
- **Customized action plans:** The specific situation is taken into account and addressed through **customized measures**.
- **Demonstrate commitment:** can **demonstrate the projects efforts** towards responsible practices and respect for human rights.
- **Support from the FSS Team** within trainings and working sessions.



# QUESTIONS?





# Thank you!

ISCC System GmbH

Hohenzollernring 72, 50672 Cologne, Germany

[www.iscc-system.org](http://www.iscc-system.org)

