



World Castor Sustainability Forum

WORLD CASTOR SUSTAINABILITY FORUM (WCSF)

BYE-LAWS

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Introduction of SEA

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India was formed in 1963 to help and foster the development and growth of Solvent Extraction Industry in India. At present the Association is having 875 members including about 350 working solvent extraction plants having combined oilcake/oilseed processing annual capacity of about 30 million tons.

The Association is an all-India body to solvent extractions industry and premier vegetable oil Association in the country having wide representative membership consisting of processors of Rice bran, Oilcakes, Minor Oilseeds and Soybean.

Introduction of WCSF

India produces about 1.7 to 2.00 million tonnes of castor seed and meets more than 90% demand for castor oil thereby enjoying a dominant position in the World Castor Scenario. India's exports of Castor oil and derivatives are estimated above Rs. 9000 crores (US\$ 1.2 billion) per annum. The global castor derivatives market estimated to be over US\$ 4.0 billion is highly dependent on India.

WORLD CASTOR SUSTAINABILITY FORUM (WCSF) facilitates the development of a sustainable and traceable supply chain of castor while improving the economic, social, and environmental performance of the castor supply chain. Improve productivity and sustainability in the castor supply chain in India and the world, thereby enhancing economic self-sufficiency and livelihoods of smallholder producers. WCSF covers the following

1. Promotion of gender equality and women empowerment in agriculture.
2. Worker's welfare, safety, and support for enabling environment for fair wages.
3. No child labours.
4. Improved productivity and reduction in the cost of cultivation.
5. Training and capacity building of farmers on sustainable and modern farm practices.
6. Promote intervention around soil health management, efficient water use, and water conservation.
7. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and Safe use of Crop Protection Products (CPP).

In the last 8 years, through the SEA Castor Model Farm Project of more than 50,000 castor farmers are trained on GAPs and sustainable practices. Average productivity in model farms has increased and is 50% higher than the non-project farmers year on year. From 68 model farms in the year 2016-17 to 408 model farms in the year 2023-24, the project has ripple effect on even non-project farmers as they started adopting the best practices of the project thereby enhancing their productivity and overall production of castor seed in the country.

Mission of WCSF

WCSF commits to fostering environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and social equity within the castor industry. By promoting good agriculture practices, WCSF aims to elevate the

quality and sustainability of castor production, ensuring a thriving ecosystem, fair livelihoods for farmers, and responsible sourcing for global markets.

Grounded in transparency, innovation, and community engagement, WCSF seeks to be the benchmark for sustainable castor production in India, driving positive impact across the value chain and advancing towards a greener, more equitable future.

Vision of WCSF

We aspire for WCSF to become the foremost model of excellence in the castor supply chain, emphasizing the utmost importance of environmental responsibility, social accountability, and economic viability.

Objective of WCSF

World Castor Sustainability Forum (WCSF) facilitates the development of a sustainable and traceable supply chain of castor while improving the economic, social, environmental and agricultural performance of the castor supply chain to Improve productivity and sustainability in the castor supply chain in India, thereby enhancing economic self-sufficiency and livelihoods of smallholder producers/farmers along with the co-operation within the sustainable and traceable supply chain and open discourse with all its stakeholders and members.

Scope:

World Castor Sustainability Forum (WCSF) shall include the following:

- (a) Policies for the development and certification of Castor products as notified by the SEA.
- (b) Sustainability Standards for Castor supply chain.
- (c) Accreditation of certification bodies.
- (d) Certification of Castor products through Certification Bodies.

Roles and Responsibilities of SEA and WCSF

1. The SEA will
 - a. Oversee all the activities such as finalizing the formation of standards and monitoring and approval of certificates of the WCSF program.
 - b. Review and approve the certification agency and audit agency as guided by the WCSF Governing Council .
2. The WCSF will
 - a. Analyze and build out the principles and criteria for the sustainable production and use of castor seeds, oil and derivatives.
 - b. Facilitate the implementation and improvement of sustainable practices in the demo projects developed.
 - c. Provide solutions to empirical problems to the application and verification of sustainable practices for castor by overseeing the management, procurement, trade, logistics, and traceability processes and systems.

- d. All discourse of the WCSF's activities and progress to all stakeholders, members, and to a broader public.

Governance

Governing Council

There will be 11 members in the governing council. SEA (Solvent Extractors' Association of India) will facilitate elections to form the governing council. The governing council is the governing body of WCSF. It determines the policies and programs of WCSF and directs their implementation and conduct. The Governing Council is empowered to take all steps necessary to fulfill its function. The governing council is the ultimate decision-making body for all WCSF actions, including development, membership, and certification, etc. WCSF Secretariat and Advisory council will work under the guidance of the Governing council. The governing council shall be represented by farmers, crushers, derivative manufacturers, buyers, intermediaries, and other stakeholders. The chairman leads the governing council, with support from its members.

WCSF Secretariat

The WCSF Secretariat has been created as the representative body for the WCSF. The WCSF Secretariat members will be recruited and appointed by the governing council. The number of members will be decided by the governing council.

Advisory Council

The Advisory council comprises members from different sectors like Farming, Experts from Castor Supply Chain, Educational Institutions. Processing Industries, NGOs, and certification bodies.

Roles and Responsibilities of Different Councils:

The structure accommodates three distinguished councils with specific roles and responsibilities for the effective operation of the SEA.

Governing Council Responsibilities:

1. Approval of new member joining.
2. Selection of WCSF Secretariat and Advisory council members.
3. Final decision making on any proposal/ activity of WCSF.
4. Overseeing the functioning of the WCSF Secretariat.
5. Strategize and fix targets for a year.
6. Develop action plan for the next 5 years.
7. Governing Council Members Will Hold Meeting Once In Every 3 months.

Advisory Council Responsibilities

1. Advisory Council members will participate in the annual meeting.
2. Provide the governing council advice and recommendations for the development of WCSF.
3. Technical support to the WCSF Secretariat to implement the projects and proposals by the Governing council.
4. Offer technical support and guidance to the WCSF Secretariat.

WCSF Secretariat Responsibilities:

1. Verification of new members applications.
1. Selection of certification body and propose to the governing council for approval.
2. Revision of Standard and proposal to the governing council for approval.
2. Implementation of decisions and proposals issued by the governing council.
3. Engage with stakeholders.
4. Extend support to members.
5. Marketing and client relationship.
6. Propose innovation and improvement of the functioning of WCSF related activities to the governing council.
7. To call and Submit a Quarterly report to the Governing council.

Annual Governing Council Meeting:

Under the purview of SEA an Annual General Assembly Meeting will be conducted to discuss the matters mentioned below and not limited to the below mentioned agenda, to better the WCSF standard and achieve the Mission, Vision and Objectives of WCSF standard.

1. Selection of executive and advisory council members.
2. Discussion on pressing issues pertaining to WCSF.
3. Decision making based on the executive and advisory council members suggestions and proposals.
4. Financial disclosures.
5. Discussion on development and improvement of the standards and activities of WCSF to cater the demands of the current and future market.
6. Standardize and finalize the WCSF standard to equate it with global requirements.
7. Hold elections to appoint members to the governing council every two year.

Participation of members from all three councils in the annual council meeting is mandatory. A minimum of 50% of the council members from each council should participate in the meeting. The annual general meeting will touch upon topics that interests the stakeholders, certified entities, and members. The annual meeting will be held at least once every Calander year, but a need-based annual general meeting might be organized to discuss pressing matters. The Chairman of the SEA Castor Council and Executive Director shall be the ex officio members of the Advisory Council.

Advisory Council Meeting:

The advisory council will meet as when required to discuss the concerns of the governing council and the WCSF Secretariat to formulate a technical solution and address the concerns. Advisory meetings could be held twice a year to check the general roles and responsibilities of the advisory council. Formulate internal policy to comply with national and international regulations.

WCSF Secretariat Meeting:

The WCSF Secretariat shall meet on a quarterly basis to address the concerns and discuss the implementation end to further the agenda of the WCSF, and work to fulfill the action plan proposed by the governing council. Discuss internal policy to implement the national and international regulations on WCSF.

Election of Council Members:

Nine members of the Governing Council shall be elected by the Ordinary members of the WCSF while 2 members of the associate members will be eligible for the post of members of Governing Council for a period of two years in a scheduled system to secure consistency. The Governing Council will have the right to fill up any casual vacancy in place of any outgoing council member for whatever reason for the balance tenure of the Council.

Memberships

1. Ordinary Membership:

Any individual, firm, or company that adopts the WCSF code and committed to sustainability cause developed by WCSF. Ordinary members have voting rights to elect the council Members.

2. Associate Membership:

Any person, company, society, or association engaged in trade, commerce, or industry or otherwise interested in the aims and objectives of the association shall be eligible to become an Associate of the association i.e., Crusher/ICS, Trader, derivative manufacturer, international trader, international end user and various sectors such as Castor Growers, Castor oil Processors or Traders, Consumer Goods Manufacturers, Retailers, Financial institutions, Environmental/nature conservation NGOs, Social/developmental NGOs. Two associate members will be elected to the governing council. However all the associate members will have the right to be access to all the activities of the WCSF.

3. Honorary Membership:

The Chairman and Governing Council hold the authority to nominate any individual, firm, or company to be recognized as an Honorary Member for a period of two year.

Membership procedure (eligibility)

Any Farmer, Crusher/ICS, Trader, derivative manufacturer, international trader, international end user and various sectors such as Castor Growers, Castor oil Processors or Traders, Consumer Goods Manufacturers, Retailers, Banks and investors, Environmental/nature conservation NGOs, Social/developmental NGOs willing to promote and to improve productivity and sustainability in the castor supply chain in India, thereby enhancing economic self-sufficiency and livelihoods of smallholder producers/farmers are eligible to become a member of the WCSF program.

1. To become a member of the WCSF program one needs to get registered on the WCSF online/ offline platforms and choose the type of membership based on the requirements and suitability of the individual or a group or an organization.
2. The acceptance as a new member of WCSF will be in effect after proper verification and approval of their application by the governing council of WCSF.

3. Members will pay an annual membership fee. The governing council determines the amount of the membership fee and all other dues of the Members.

For more details visit: www.sustainablecastor.org

Admission Fee (One Time):

1. Ordinary Membership

- For all Indian members: INR 50,000/-
- For all International members \$1000 (USD)

2. Associate Membership

- For all Indian members: INR 25,000/-
- For all International members: \$500 (USD)

Annual Membership charges:

1. Ordinary Membership

- For all Indian members: INR 1,00,000/-
- For all International members \$2000 (USD)

2. Associate Membership

- For all Indian members: INR 50,000/-
- For all International members: \$1000 (USD)

Roles and responsibilities of members

- The protocols given in the WCSF apply to all the members.
- All members must act with integrity concerning their acts in sustainable castor production or business.
- Members will have to maintain transparency in terms of the reporting and claims about the production, procurement, and uses of sustainable castor. There shall not be discrepancies or misleading reporting.
- All members must adhere to the principles given in the sustainability standard for the production and supply.
- Members are accountable for ensuring that their organization's commitment to the WCSF objectives is supported by suitable resources.
- Members are urged to promptly settle disagreements directly with other member organizations or through the WCSF mediation committee if disagreements arise regarding how this code of conduct is applied by other members.
- Members who are found to have violated the protocols of the WCSF after a thorough investigation shall be investigated and further action be taken.

Code of Conduct:

This Code of Conduct serves as a guiding framework for all stakeholders involved in the World Castor Sustainability Forum, fostering a culture of sustainability, responsibility, and collaboration towards a common vision of a thriving and equitable castor industry.

1. **Promotion of WCSF Principles:** Stakeholders are encouraged to promote the principles and objectives of WCSF within their respective spheres of influence. By advocating for sustainability and responsible practices, stakeholders contribute to the broader adoption of WCSF standards and the advancement of the sustainable castor industry in India.
2. **Compliance with Laws and Regulations:** Participants must comply with all relevant laws and regulations, both nationally and internationally. Non-compliance may result in sanctions or removal from WCSF certification.
3. **Compliance and Accountability:** Stakeholders involved in the WCSF program must adhere to the standards set forth by WCSF. Compliance ensures the integrity of the standard and fosters trust within the industry.
4. **Conflict Resolution:** WCSF provides mechanisms for resolving disputes and grievances in a fair, transparent, and timely manner. Stakeholders are encouraged to address conflicts through constructive dialogue and mediation, to achieve mutually beneficial solutions.
5. **Commitment:** Stakeholders need to commit to implementing and upholding compliance with regard to the WCSF.
6. **Continuous Improvement:** Continuous learning and improvement are fundamental to the ethos of WCSF. Stakeholders are encouraged to adopt innovative practices, technologies, and methodologies that enhance sustainability outcomes and drive positive impact.

Breach of Code:

In case of a breach of the WCSF Code of Conduct, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken under established policies and procedures. This may include warnings, retraining, suspension, termination, or legal action, as warranted by the severity of the breach. Members accept that the ultimate consequence for disregard of this Code, or the bylaws and statutes of the WCSF may be exclusion from the organization. WCSF Secretariat Members who violate the Code will be replaced following an investigation.

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