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INC MANIFESTO

The INC is the international umbrella organization for the nut and dried fruit industry. Representing over 85 per cent of the world's commercial value of "farm gate" value of trade in nuts and dried fruits, it is the leading international organization on health, nutrition, statistics, food safety, and international standards and regulations regarding nuts and dried fruit.

The mission of the INC Sustainability Working Group is to stimulate and facilitate the global nut and dried fruit industry's ability to speak about its contributions to sustainable growth. This sector employs millions of people across the globe and is expected to produce 11.2 million metric tons (in-shell basis) of tree nuts, 50.3 M MT of peanuts, and 3.2 M MT of dried fruits in 2021/2022.

We believe that all actors throughout the supply chain –including growers, processors, traders and retailers– can take action to tangibly improve and communicate how the nut and dried fruit industry has an impact on sustainability and contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The nut and dried fruit industry:

- supports and promotes the use of sustainable practices that preserve natural resources, e.g. improving water management techniques, reducing green-house gas emissions, increasing the use of precision farming, optimizing soil management practices, and enforcing the use of ethically sourced products;
- optimizes the use of resources and supports circular economies, e.g. using renewable energy, reducing food waste, using by-products, and opting for sustainable packaging;
- contributes to the economic wellbeing of producers and their communities;
- and responds to consumer demand for a healthy diet.

To help the nut and dried fruit sector to accelerate its sustainability journey, the INC has identified three objectives:

1. SAFETY-NET: monitoring sustainability policies to ensure regulations are achievable and commercially feasible,
2. KNOWLEDGE-SHARE: increasing the understanding of sustainability challenges and opportunities through communication, awareness and partnerships,
3. POSITIVE-MESSAGING: disseminating the improvements the sector is implementing, including the health benefits of nuts and dried fruits.

The INC recognizes that there are economic and non-economic barriers that fall outside the scope of the industry. However, there are actions that companies can implement directly within their own operations to tackle areas such as:

- regenerative and climate-smart agricultural practices,
- zero-waste and clean energy solutions,
- invest in research, digital technologies and innovation,
- strengthen human rights, decent work and income opportunities,
- promote healthy and nutritious foods,
- emphasize the importance of traceability, as a mechanism to increase supply chain visibility, improve quality control systems and reduce risks.

We call for industry support to:

- ensure collaboration with industry peers and other stakeholders for a coherent policy,
- promote sustainable practices across the supply chain and make it easier for consumers to choose healthy and sustainable foods,
- put forward sustainability commitments that are tangible, quantifiable and measurable if possible.