

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SCOPE 3 REPORTING GUIDANCE

Designing Effective Continuous Improvement Projects to Track and Report Progress Against Scope 3 Emissions Reduction Goals and Science-Based Targets

For companies in the food and agriculture value chain, finding solutions to support farmers in building greater resilience to climate impacts while delivering on urgent goals to reduce emissions by mid-century is more important than ever before.

Using Field to Market's Continuous Improvement Accelerator To Advance Climate Action

At the start of a new decade, the food and agriculture industry faces unprecedented challenges from climate related impacts. Farmers are squarely at the center of this challenge—as a source of greenhouse gas emissions and the sector most at risk from increasingly volatile weather. Yet farmers are also key in contributing solutions to the climate crisis by maximizing the potential of healthy soils to sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

As Field to Market members navigate an evolving landscape for how to credibly account for and disclose emissions reductions and the potential for carbon removals, greater clarity is needed across the industry on an efficient, scientifically-sound method to both measure and report impact.

[New guidance](#) is available to support project administrators in utilizing aggregated data collected from Continuous Improvement Projects to track and report progress against Scope 3 emissions reduction goals and science-based targets. The member-only resource provides timely insights on how to account for land-based emissions and carbon removals.

This executive summary highlights the guidance's actionable recommendations to support your projects in designing effective continuous improvement strategies to realize and account for emissions reductions and meet requirements of leading carbon accounting methodologies.



[Explore the full Scope 3 Guidance Document](#)

What Are Scope 3 Emissions?

For companies in the food and agriculture value chain, finding solutions to support farmers in building greater resilience to climate impacts while delivering on urgent goals to reduce emissions by mid-century is more important than ever before. While many companies have for some time estimated and reported greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from company facilities, vehicles and purchased electricity (i.e., Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions), many are increasingly recognizing the importance of also measuring, disclosing and working collaboratively to reduce upstream emissions outside of their direct control (Scope 3).

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol defines Scope 3 emissions as all indirect emissions (not included in Scope 2 which are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions. Scope 3 can be split into upstream activities such as farming and business travel, and downstream based on how a company's products are used and disposed.

How Are Scope 3 Emissions Measured and Reported?

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol is the main reference that member companies report following in the development of the Scope 3 emissions inventory and annual emissions reporting. Data collected through Field to Market's Continuous Improvement Projects can be used to account for project-level emissions reductions when the project is designed and implemented as recommended.

There are several commonly utilized carbon accounting assessment and reporting programs. The programs most frequently referenced by Field to Market members are:

- Greenhouse Gas Protocol
- Gold Standard
- ISO 14064 - International Standard for GHG Emissions Inventories and Verification
- Quantis
- Science-Based Targets Initiative
- CDP
- The Sustainability Consortium's THESIS
- Walmart's Project Gigaton



How Can You Leverage the Continuous Improvement Accelerator to Reduce and Report Scope 3 Emissions?

There are two main goals related to Scope 3 emissions reporting that can be accomplished using the Fieldprint Platform Greenhouse Gas Emissions Metric and the Process-Based Standard underpinning Field to Market's Continuous Improvement Accelerator. One is to develop baseline measurements for U.S. commodity crop production within the supply base. The other is accounting for project-level interventions using the Fieldprint Platform and then incorporating those reductions into the corporate-level GHG emissions inventory.

You can accomplish these goals utilizing the following steps:

1 **Design and implement an Innovation Project enrolled in Field to Market's Continuous Improvement Accelerator**

Field to Market members can utilize the Process-Based Standard that underpins the Alliance's [Continuous Improvement Accelerator](#) to design and implement projects that meet the requirements for baselining and reporting against Scope 3 reduction targets.

2 **Collect farmer data and calculate emissions reductions utilizing the GHG metric and Soil Carbon estimation tools offered in the Fieldprint® Platform**

Innovation Projects enrolled in the Continuous Improvement Accelerator are well positioned to meet recommendations of key carbon accounting and reporting programs through the Continuous Improvement Plan. Through this process, projects specify planned practice interventions, baseline methodology and impact allocation across project sponsors. Once growers are recruited, companies can use the Fieldprint Platform to collect annual field-level data and calculate aggregate metric scores for emissions reductions utilizing the GHG metric and carbon removals utilizing the optional Soil Carbon estimation tool through COMET Planner.

3 **Analyze data and utilize Field to Market's Claims to demonstrate improvement and/or layer on any additional program-specific verification as required by the selected carbon accounting methodology.**

The most relevant claims for Scope 3 reporting are: Measurement Claim (e.g., First Year Baseline Emissions for a Project), Trends Claim (directional improvements from Baseline) and Impact Claim (demonstrated improvement over time). Many carbon accounting programs recommend third-party verification. Projects should use verifiers that are approved under the framework that they report into to be sure that they meet requirements.

Key Considerations for Designing Effective Continuous Improvement Projects

Continuous Improvement Projects seeking to demonstrate emissions reductions and communicate progress against science-based targets can dive deeper on each of the following steps in the full [Scope 3 Reporting Guidance](#):

- Given the complexities of commodity supply chains, define clear boundaries for a **supply shed** in which a project will aggregate results, including consideration of volume requirements and sourcing practices.
- Create clear agreements or **contracts** with participating farmers acknowledging rights to allocate environmental impact of emissions reductions and/or carbon removals.
- Set a clearly defined **baseline** against which emissions reductions will be reported.
- Identify a locally relevant suite of conservation practices, also commonly referred to as **interventions**, that will lead to emissions reductions or sequester carbon.
- Design an **incentive** strategy to encourage farmer adoption of selected intervention and ensure retention within the project over time.

Explore these steps in depth and learn more about how you can use Field to Market's [Process-Based Standard](#) to measure and report against your organization's emissions targets in our [Scope 3 Reporting Guidance document](#).

