



Experiences with Sustainability Certification

ISCC Joint North & South America Technical Committee Meeting – June 24, 2015, Miami

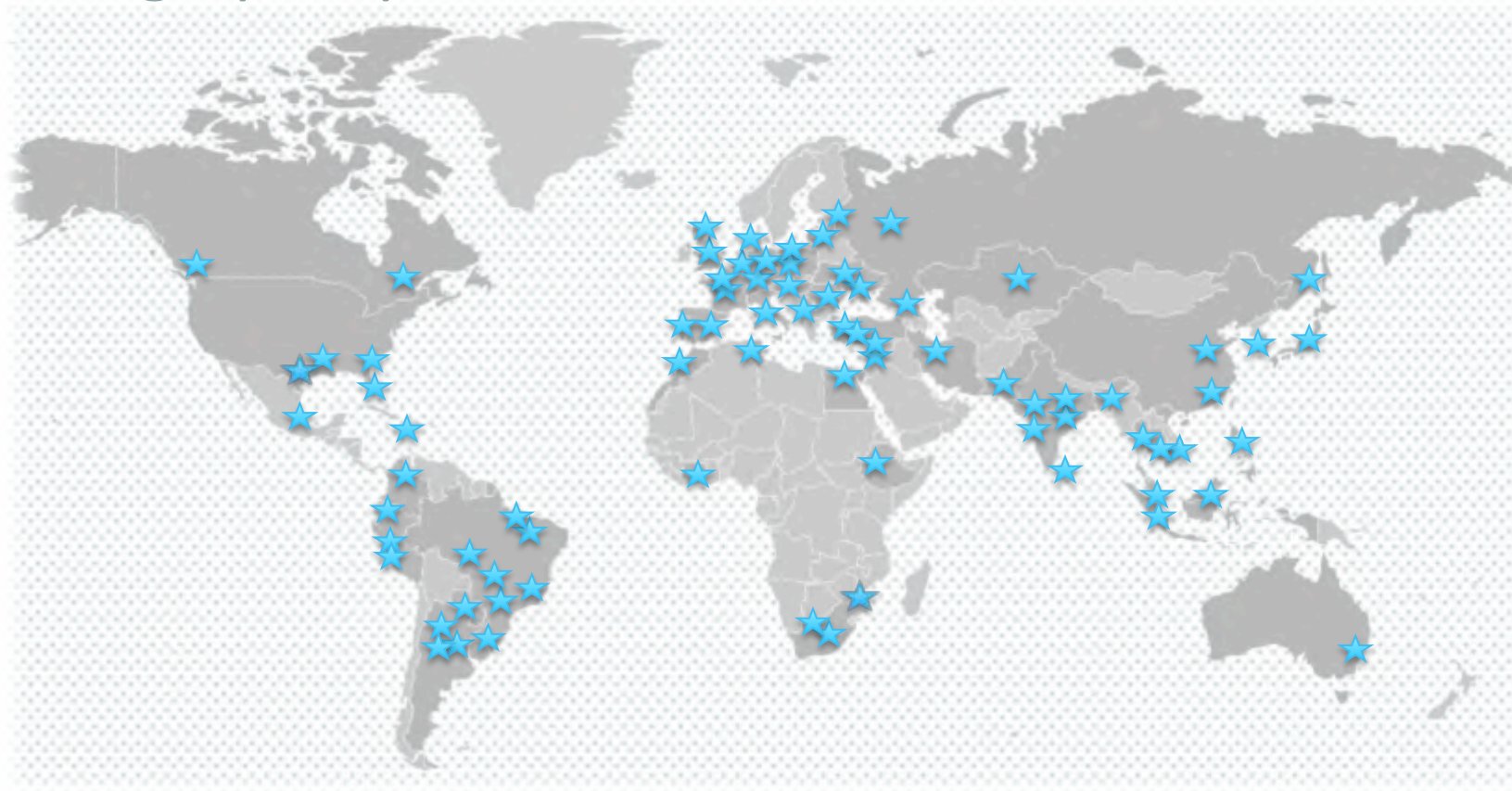
Outline

- Control Union background and services
- The Alberta Crops Sustainability Certification Pilot Project
- Findings: Strengths and Weakness – ISCC related criteria
- Opportunities.

Who are we.....

- Control Union is a global network of inspection and certification operations.
- Privately held and based in the Netherlands
- Established in 1920 in Rotterdam
- +50 countries with more than 3,000 employees

Geographic presence with +100 offices



Some highlighted certification programs per area

- Agriculture & Food



- Food safety



- Energy + Environment



The Alberta Sustainability Certification Pilot Project

- Assess level of readiness for Alberta growers to meet today's sustainability demands.
- Volunteers from four commissions



The Alberta Sustainability Certification Pilot Project

- Province of Alberta = 255,541 square miles (661,848 square km)



What were we looking for?

- Levels of readiness
- Agricultural practices leaning towards sustainable practices
- Direct evidence or clear understanding of information / documentation needed. Do you keep such documents? Are they readily available? Do you understand the principles behind the questions?
- Resources whether regional, provincial and or industry = tools

Findings:

- Strengths
 - Soil management
 - Precision farming and high rate of technology employed.
 - Newer equipment with guidance systems



- Quad tractors – reduction in soil compaction
- Very little custom applications needed - own applications

Findings:

- Strengths
 - Precision farming and high rate of technology employed.
 - Planting – larger crop rotation with more crops, flax, pulse, canola, barley, oats, rye, wheat ...
 - Periodic soil testing – every 2-3 years
 - Strong interest in sustainable agricultural
 - Agro-chemicals – majority of *major musts* in compliance



Findings:

- Strengths - others
 - Legal compliance - land ownership and land-delineation
 - Financial stability and GHG – farmers are recording information related to each unit of production.

Findings:

- Weaknesses
 - Health and safety – documentation of safety training, emergency procedures. Signage and posting needed. Although all had some first aid kits others have PPEs lying around.



Findings:

- Weaknesses
 - Bio-diversity – land-use change, no clear rules on conversion



- Waste management -

Findings:

- Weaknesses –others that require more assistance
 - Waste management – planning and disposal need to be improved.
 - Record keeping – a lot of information is simply not documented.
 - Labor conditions – agreements with labor and implied agreements with no documented arrangements.
 - Water management – planning and regulations

Opportunities:

- Multi-crop – same farmers supply into numerous supply chains.
- Only standard that has a level of integrity via 3rd party audits
- Commissions have strong interest in engaging their growers and looking for resources and tools to enable them to further improve their sustainable practices via documentation and local/regional/provincial code.

Thank you for your attention.

