

# Independent Assurance Statement

## Introduction and Engagement

Charoen Pokphand Produce Co., Ltd. (hereafter 'CPP') commissioned TÜV NORD (Thailand) Ltd. (hereafter 'TUVT') for Sustainability Assurance Engagement. TÜV NORD (Thailand) Ltd. conducted the independent assurance of CPP's sustainability report (hereinafter 'the Report'), which includes "limited assurance" of CPP's sustainability information for the applied reporting period. This assurance engagement was conducted against the Global Reporting Initiative Standards and AA1000AS (2008) Protocol (Type 2, Moderate Level). TUVT also performed Assurance, based on AccountAbility Principles Standard AA1000AP (2018) and AccountAbility Stakeholder Engagement Standard AA1000SES (2015) and ISO 14064 Part 3: Greenhouse Gases: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions (ISO, 2006). The remote verification was conducted in May 2020. In addition, desk review was carried out for other sites which are parts of report boundary. CPP opted for external assurance for the calendar year 2019. The Report covers CPP's sustainability information for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

## Scope, Boundary and Limitations of Assurance

The scope of the assurance includes the economic, environmental and social indicators in the report as per the Core disclosures required by GRI Standards. In particular, the assurance engagement includes the following:

- Verification of the application of the Report content, principles as mentioned in the GRI Standards, and the quality of information presented in the Report over the reporting period;
- Review of the policies, initiatives, practices and performance described in the Report;
- Review of the disclosures made in the Report against the requirements of the GRI Standards and AA1000AS (2008), with a Type 2, moderate level of assurance;
- Verification of the reliability of the GRI Standards Disclosure on economic, environmental and social (disclosures are tabulated below)
- Specified information was selected based on the materiality determination and needs to be meaningful to the intended users;
- Confirmation of the fulfilment of the GRI Standards; 'in accordance' with the Core criteria, as declared by the management of CPP.

The reporting boundary is based on the internal and external materiality assessment. The reporting aspect boundaries are set out in the Report covering the sustainability performance of four (4) main business units; Seed Processing, Chemical Fertilizer, Organic Fertilizer, and Research Centre (in line with Company's Annual Report 2019), comprising;

- 1) **Charoen Pokphand Produce Co. Ltd**  
**Office:** 89 AIA Capital Center 32 Fl., Rachadapisek Bangkok 10400  
**Seed Processing Plant:** Phatthana Nikhom Sub-District, Phatthana Nikhom District, Lopburi Province  
**Chemical Fertilizer Plant:** Pak Chan Sub-District, Nakhon Luang District, Ayutthaya Province  
**Organic Fertilizer Plant:** Kham Phran Sub-District, Wang Muang District, Saraburi Province  
**Research centre:** Salaengphan Station Wang Muang District, Saraburi Province  
**Research centre:** Sawankhalok Station Sawankhalok District, Sukhothai Province
- 2) **C.P.P. Fertilizer Co. Ltd**  
**Office, Seed Processing Plant and Fertilizer Plant:** F-5, Zone A, Thilawa special economic zone, Dagon-Thilawa road, Kyauktan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
- 3) **C.P. Seeds (Vietnam) Co., Ltd.**  
**Office and Seed Processing Plant:** Lot I-4 Road No.1 Dinh Quan Industrial zone, La Nga District, Dong Nai Province, Vietnam
- 4) Charoen Pokphand Seeds (India) Pvt., Ltd.  
**Office:** 4th Floor, Srinidhi Landmark, Opp. New Thippasandra Post Office, New Thippasandra Main Road, HAL III Stage, Bangalore-560075, Karnataka, India.  
**Seed Processing Plant:** Door No. 5-133, Billanapalli Road, Meerjapuram Village, Nuzvid Mandal, Krishna District-521111 Andhra Pradesh, India

**Research centre:** 5-127, Excellent research and innovative center Opp.Porus Chemical plant, Akkireddygudem ,Musunuru Mandal,Krishna District-521213 Andhra Pradesh, India

Our engagement did not include an assessment of the adequacy or the effectiveness of CPP's strategy or management of sustainability related issues. During the assurance process, TUVT did not come across the limitations to the scope of the agreed assurance engagement. No external stakeholders were interviewed as a part of the sustainability engagement for the reporting period.

## Verification Methodology

This assurance engagement was planned and carried out in accordance with the GRI Standards and AA1000AS (2008). The Report was evaluated against the following criteria:

- Adherence to the principles of Stakeholder inclusiveness, Materiality, Responsiveness, Completeness, Neutrality, Relevance, Sustainability context, Accuracy, Reliability, Comparability, Clarity and Timeliness; as prescribed in the GRI Standards and AA1000AS (2008);
- Application of the principles and requirements of the GRI Standards for its "in accordance with Core" criteria.

During the assurance engagement, TUVT adopted a risk-based approach, concentrating on verification efforts on the issues of high material relevance to CPP's business and its stakeholders. TUVT has verified the statements and claims made in the Report and assessed the robustness of the underlying data management system, information flows and controls. In doing so:

- TUVT reviewed the approach adopted by CPP for the stakeholder engagement and materiality determination process. TUVT performed limited internal stakeholder engagement to verify the qualitative statements made in the Report;
- TUVT verified the sustainability-related statements and claims made in the Report and assessed the robustness of the data management system, information flow and controls;
- TUVT examined and reviewed the documents, data and other information made available by CPP for the reported disclosures including the Disclosure on Management Approach and performance indicators;
- TUVT conducted interviews with key representatives including data owners and decision-makers from different functions of the Company during the site visit;
- TUVT performed sample-based reviews of the mechanisms for implementing the sustainability related policies, as described in CPP's Sustainability Report;
- TUVT verified sample-based checks of the processes for generating, gathering and managing the quantitative data and qualitative information included in the Report for the reporting period.

## Opportunities for Improvement

The following is an extract from the observations and opportunities for improvement reported to the management of CPP and are considered in drawing our conclusions on the Report; however, they are generally consistent with the Management's objectives.

Opportunities are as follows:

- The sources of methane emission could be considered following; plantation

## Conclusions

The Report was prepared based on the GRI Standards Reporting Principles and Standard Disclosures 'in accordance' with the GRI Standards Core option. In our opinion, based on the scope of this assurance engagement, the disclosures on sustainability performance reported in the Report along with the referenced information provides a fair representation of the material aspects, related strategies, and performance indicators, and meets the general content and quality requirements of the GRI Standards Core option.

- Disclosures: TUVT is of the opinion that the reported disclosures generally meet the GRI Standards reporting requirements for 'in accordance'- Core reporting criteria. Organization refers to general disclosure to report contextual information about an organization while the Management Approach is discussed to report the management approach for each material topic.
- Topic Specific Standard: TUVT is of the opinion that the reported specific disclosures for each material topic generally meet the GRI Standards reporting requirements for 'in accordance'- Core reporting criteria.

The requirements below material aspect were verified by the assurance team:

Material Issues	GRI Disclosure Number
Approach to stakeholder engagement	GRI 102-43
Energy consumption within the organization	GRI 302-1
Water withdrawal	GRI 303-1 (2016)
Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	GRI 305-1
Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions	GRI 305-2
Waste by type and disposal method	GRI 306-2
Average hours of training per year per employee	GRI 404-1
Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews	GRI 404-3
Types of injury and rates of injury, occupational diseases, lost days, and absenteeism, and number of work-related fatalities	GRI 403-2 (2016)

On the basis of the procedures we have performed, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the information subject to the Type 2 moderate level assurance engagement was not prepared, in all material aspects, in accordance with the GRI Standards "Core option" sustainability reporting guidelines, or that the sustainability information is not reliable in all material respects, with regards to the reporting criteria.

TUVT did perform any assurance of procedures on the prospective information, such as targets, expectations and ambitions, disclosed in the sustainability information. Consequently, TUVT draws conclusion on the prospective information. This assurance statement has been prepared in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Type 2 moderate level assurance engagement with respect to sustainability related data involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the sustainability information. It does include detailed testing of source data or the operating effectiveness of processes, internal controls and consequently they do enable us to obtain the assurance necessary to become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a Type 2 moderate level assurance engagement.

TUVT has evaluated the Report's adherence to the following principles with respect to the requirements of the GRI Standards.

**Stakeholder Inclusiveness:** Stakeholder identification and engagement is carried out by CPP on a periodic basis to bring out key stakeholder concerns as material aspects of significant stakeholders. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

**Materiality:** The materiality assessment process has been carried out, based on the requirements of the GRI Standards, considering aspects that are internal and external to the Company's range of businesses. The Report fairly brings out the aspects and topics and its respective boundaries of the diverse operations of CPP. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

**Responsiveness:** TUVT believes that the responses to the material aspects are fairly articulated in the report, i.e. disclosures on CPP's policies and management systems including governance. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

Impact: CPP has adequately captured the impact of its business on the community and environment and has taken several measures to reduce the impact.

Completeness: The Report has fairly disclosed the General and Specific Standard Disclosures, including the Disclosure on Management Approach, covering the sustainability strategy, management approach, monitoring systems and sustainability performance indicators against the GRI Standards, 'in accordance with the Core option. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

Reliability: The majority of the data and information was verified by TUVT's assurance team at CPP's office on the factory's premises and found to be accurate. Further desk review of web-based data was carried out for all other sites mentioned above. Therefore, in accordance with the GRI Standards and AA1000AS (2008) for a Type 2, moderate level assurance engagement, TUVT concludes that the sustainability data and information presented in the Report is reliable and acceptable. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

Neutrality: The disclosures related to sustainability issues and performances are reported in a neutral tone, in terms of content and presentation. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

TUVT expressly disclaims any liability or co-responsibility for any decision a person or entity would make based on this Assurance Statement. The intended users of this assurance statement are the management of CPP. The management of the Company is responsible for the information provided in the Report as well as the process of collecting, analyzing and reporting the information presented in web-based and printed Reports, including website maintenance and its integrity. TUVT's responsibility regarding this verification is in accordance with the agreed scope of work which includes non-financial quantitative and qualitative information (Sustainability Performance – environmental and social indicators) disclosed by CPP in the Report. This assurance engagement is based on the assumption that the data and the information provided to TUVT by CPP are complete and reliable.

## TUV's Competence and Independence

TUVT is an independent, neutral, third-party providing sustainability services, with qualified environmental and social assurance specialists. TUVT states its independence and impartiality with regard to this assurance engagement. In the reporting year, TUVT did not work with CPP on any engagement that could compromise the independence or impartiality of our findings, conclusions and recommendations. TUVT was not involved in the preparation of any content or data included in the Report, with the exception of this Assurance Statement. TUVT maintains complete impartiality toward any people interviewed during the assurance engagement.



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**AA1000**  
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Date: 30 May 2020  
Place: Bangkok, Thailand  
Project Reference No: TUVN/ CPP/SA/2019