

Independent Limited Assurance Statement to Almarai on Their Sustainability Report 2021

To the Management of Almarai Company, Saudi Arabia

Introduction

Intertek Assuris ("Intertek") was engaged by Almarai Company ("Almarai") to provide an independent limited assurance on its Sustainability Report for 2021 ('the Report'). The Report is prepared by Almarai based on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards 'in-accordance – core' option for sustainability reporting. The assurance was performed in accordance with the requirements of International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC) International Standard on Assurance Engagement (ISAE) 3000 (Revised), Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information.

Objective

The objectives of this limited assurance exercise were, by review of objective evidence, to confirm whether any evidence existed that the sustainability related disclosures, as declared in the Report, were not accurate, complete, consistent, transparent, and free of material error or omission in accordance with the criteria outlined below.

Intended Users

This Assurance Statement is intended to be a part of the Report.

Responsibilities

The management of Almarai is solely responsible for development the Report and its presentation. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the Report so that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Intertek's responsibility, as agreed with the management of Almarai, is to provide assurance and express an opinion on the Assurance Statement based on our verification following the assurance scope and criteria given below. Intertek does not accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person or organization. This document represents Intertek's independent and balanced opinion on the content and accuracy of the information and data held within the report.

Assurance Scope

The Assurance has been provided for selected sustainability performance disclosures presented by Almarai in the Report. The reporting boundary included data and information for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 for the operations in Gulf Cooperation Council, (which includes Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait), Argentina, and United States of America in accordance with GRI Standards: Core Option. Our Scope of assurance included verification of data and information on selected disclosures reported as summarized in the table below:

General Disclosures

- Organizational Profile: 102-2, 102-3, 102-4, 102-7, 102-8, 102-13
- Strategy: 102-14
- Ethics and Integrity: 102-16
- Governance: 102-18, 102-19

Topic Specific Disclosures

Economic Disclosures

- Procurement Practices 2016: 204-1

Environmental Disclosures

- Energy 2016: 302-1, 302-2, 302-3, 302-4

- Stakeholder Engagement: 102-40, 102-42, 102-43, 102-44
- Reporting Practice: 102-46 to 102-56
- Water and Effluents 2018: 303-3, 303-4, 303-5
- Emissions 2016: 305-1, 305-2, 305-3, 305-6
- Waste 2020: 306-3, 306-4, 306-5
- Supplier Environmental Assessment 2016: 308-1

Management Approach

- Explanation of the material topic and its Boundary: 103-1

Social Disclosures

- Employment 2016: 401-1, 401-3
- Occupational Health and Safety 2018: 403-1, 403-2, 403-5, 403-9
- Training and Education 2016: 404-1, 404-3
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity 2016: 405-1
- Non-Discrimination 2016: 406-1
- Local communities 2016: 413-1
- Marketing and Labelling 2016: 417-2

Assurance Criteria

Intertek conducted the assurance work in accordance with requirements of 'Limited Assurance' procedures as per the following standards:

- International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (revised) for 'Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information'.
- International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3410 for 'Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statement'.

A limited assurance engagement comprises of limited depth of evidence gathering including inquiry and analytical procedures and limited sampling as per professional judgement of assurance provider.

A materiality level of 5% was applied. Assessment of compliance and materiality was undertaken against the stated calculation methodology and criteria.

Methodology

Intertek performed assurance work using risk-based approach to obtain the information, explanations and evidence that was considered necessary to provide a limited level of assurance. The assurance was conducted by desk review with regard to the reporting and supporting records for the fiscal year 2021. Data and information supporting the Statement were historical in nature and proven by evidence. Our assurance task was planned and carried out during March 2022. The assessment included the following:

- Assessment of the Report that it was prepared in accordance with the Sustainability Reporting Standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI Standards - in accordance "Core" option).
- Review of processes and systems used to gather and consolidate data.
- Examined and reviewed documents, data, and other information made available digitally.
- Conducted virtual interviews with key personnel responsible for data management.
- Assessment of appropriateness of various assumptions, estimations, and thresholds used by Almarai for data analysis.
- Review of sustainability disclosures on sample basis for the duration from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 was carried out remotely through virtual interactions and screen sharing tools.
- Appropriate documentary evidence was obtained to support our conclusions on the information and data reviewed.

Conclusions

Intertek reviewed selected sustainability disclosures provided by Almarai in the Report for the reporting period from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021. Based on the data and information provided by Almarai, Intertek concludes with limited assurance that there is no evidence that the sustainability data and information presented in the Report is not accurate, complete, consistent, transparent, materially correct, and thus is a fair representation of sustainability disclosures in line with the identified material topics and is in accordance with the sustainability reporting standards of the GRI Standards to the best of our knowledge.

Intertek's Competence and Independence

Intertek is a global provider of assurance services with a presence in more than 100 countries employing approximately 44,000 people. The Intertek assurance team included Certified Sustainability Assurance Professionals, who were not involved in the collection and collation of any data except for this Assurance Opinion. Intertek maintains complete impartiality towards any people interviewed.

For Intertek Assuris



Sumit Chowdhury, Verifier
Technical Manager-Sustainability
Intertek Assuris



Wesley Chen,
Vice President (Sustainability, Quality & Safety)
Intertek Assuris

22nd March 2022

No member of the verification team (stated above) has a business relationship with Almarai Company, its Directors or Managers beyond that is required of this assignment. No form of bribe has been accepted before, throughout and after performing the verification. The verification team has not been intimidated to agree to do this work, change and/or alter the results of the verification. The verification team has not participated in any form of nepotism, self-dealing and/or tampering. If any concerns or conflicts were identified, appropriate mitigation measures were put in place, documented and presented with the final report. The process followed during the verification is based on the principles of impartiality, evidence, fair presentation and documentation. The documentation received and reviewed supports the conclusion reached and stated in this opinion.