



**UEBT**  
SOURCING®  
WITH RESPECT

# GUIDELINES FOR ACTIONS ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF CULTIVATED SPECIES

CALENDULA - CALENDULA OFFICINALIS

Principle 2 of the UEBT standard promotes sustainable use of biodiversity.

One key aspect of this principle is the sustainable use of the cultivated species<sup>1</sup> and the prevention or mitigation of negative impact of cultivation on other interdependent species. Criterion 2.1 focuses on these issues.

## Why this factsheet?

The focus of this fact sheet is on the sustainable use of cultivated species; however, Criterion 2.1 also covers:

- complying with regulations on trade of rare, threatened or endangered species (e.g., CITES)
- not carrying out wild collection activities in protected areas where those activities are not allowed
- not introducing invasive species or using Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

## REFERENCES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) [cites.org](https://www.cites.org)

IUCN Red List [www.iucnredlist.org](https://www.iucnredlist.org)

Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species, 2006 [griis.org](https://www.griis.org)

## A DEEPER LOOK AT CRITERION 2.1 IN THE UEBT STANDARD

Let us look at some indicators for 2.1 related to sustainable use of cultivated species and explore some additional guidance:

**2.1.14 Critical stepwise** Characteristics of the cultivation sites<sup>2</sup> are identified.



### Tips and guidance

- Carry out/commission an analysis to:
  - locate the cultivation site(s) – using GPS if possible
  - determine its size
  - identify key characteristics (e.g., non-cultivation areas, presence of relevant habitats and patches with relevant species)
  - account for land use changes over time
- Information can be gathered by commissioning or conducting studies, learnings from field experience and/or from local knowledge.
- Gather information on the cultivation sites that can be used to define practices to ensure health and yields of cultivated species and no negative impact on other species and relevant habitats.
- Make sure information gathered considers field experience, local and scientific knowledge.
- Use the UEBT Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Tool Templates to gather and report all relevant information.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> **Species:** A type of plant, animal or other biological organism having certain characteristics that differentiate it from other members of the genus.

<sup>2</sup> **Cultivation site:** Terrestrial or aquatic area where cultivation of natural raw material is taking place. **Cultivation areas:** Area that encompasses the cultivation site, but also includes areas that are adjacent and, in the vicinity, to the extent these areas may be positively or negatively affected by cultivation activities.

**2.1.15 Critical** Characteristics of the cultivated species are identified.



### Tips and guidance

- Carry out/commission an analysis to:
  - identify the varieties of the species cultivated
  - determine their yields, and their propensity to pest and diseases
  - understand their production cycle
  - identify interdependencies with other crops and species
- Gather information on the cultivated species that can be used to define practices to ensure the regeneration of cultivated species and no negative impact on other species and relevant habitats.
- Make sure information gathered considers field experience, local and scientific knowledge.
- Use the UEBT BAP Tool Templates to gather and report all relevant information.

**2.1.16 Critical** Cultivated species are rejuvenated or renovated as needed to maintain yields and plant health.



### Tips and guidance

- Ensure adequate rejuvenation and renovation of the cultivated species by following:
  - timing and modalities that consider crops' age, disease and other needs as well as agro-ecological conditions
  - practices that allow for plant health, vegetative balance, yield, and access to sunlight and oxygen
- Make sure to consider expert guidelines, local knowledge, field experience and results from the analysis of crop characteristics when defining rejuvenation and renovation practices.

**2.1.17 Critical** For new planting, including propagation, plant varieties are selected and used based on considerations such as yield; resistance against pests, diseases and drought; inputs required; product quality; genetic diversity and adaptation to local conditions.



### Tips and guidance

- Ensure that varieties used for new planting/propagation are:
  - genetically diverse
  - adapted to local conditions
  - adequate for yields
  - resistant to pests, diseases and drought
  - efficient in inputs required
  - suitable in terms of quality requirements for processing
- Use expert guidelines, local knowledge or field experience and results from the analysis of crop characteristics to select the varieties to cultivate.

### Example

#### When performance or quality needs restrict diversity

In some cases, there is some genetic diversity and use of species that are adapted to local conditions. However, the diversity may be restricted to those varieties that show the best performance. Introducing other varieties may conflict with the interest of keeping the quality of the product unchanged.

Even when full variety may not be possible in the production fields, a company may be able to set up small experimental fields where different varieties are crossed, maintained, and monitored for resilience and quality. Those performing well can then be gradually introduced in production.



**2.1.20 Critical** New plantings follow cropping patterns that take into account issues such as varietal requirements; geographical, ecological and agronomic conditions; diversification and intercropping; planting density; crop rotation; and fallow periods.



### Tips and guidance

- Ensure well-established cropping systems that follow:
  - varietal requirements
  - geographical, ecological and agronomic conditions
  - crop rotation and fallow periods
  - diversification, intercropping and planting density
- Use expert guidelines, local knowledge or field experience and results from the analysis of crop and cultivation site characteristics to define crop patterns that ensure well established cropping systems.

**2.1.21 Critical** Cultivated species are managed to ensure optimal yields and avoid conflict with other cultivated and interdependent wild species.



### Tips and guidance

- Use expert guidelines, local knowledge or field experience and results from the analysis of crop and cultivation site characteristics to identify practices to ensure optimal yields and avoid conflicts and negative impact on interdependent species and habitats.
- Implement practices such as:
  - pruning of trees according to agroecological conditions, and following applicable pruning guidelines to ensure access to beneficial organisms, air and sunlight
  - soil and water management (see Criterion 2.3)
  - considering pollinator and bird life cycles to avoid negatively affecting their populations
  - harvesting at the appropriate time and using methods for optimising quality and crop health
  - not cultivating in land that is not classified as agricultural land
  - considering weed life cycles to reduce competition with crops and need for herbicides
  - avoiding contamination or degradation of habitats, food sources, and water provision for wild animals, insects, and plants
  - resolving human-wildlife conflicts arising in cultivation sites in a way that does not harm wildlife (e.g., no animal hunting or keeping in captivity) - captive wild animals that were present on the farm before the earliest certification date are sent to professional shelters or may be held only for non-commercial purposes for the remainder of their lives; captive wild animals and farm animals are able to enjoy the 'five freedoms' of animal welfare
- Use the UEBS BAP Tools Templates to define the practices and a work plan for their implementation.

### Example

#### When wild animals enter the farm and threaten crops or people

Cultivation sites, even if located in land meant for farming, may compete for space and resources with wild animals. In some cases, wild animals enter farms to look for food and water and this is a threat to both crops and people's safety.

The solution to these types of conflicts is best solved using several strategies. These may include individual farm strategies for the protection of cultivation sites without harming animals such as natural fencing or alert systems among farmers. These will also include collective strategies in collaboration with local organizations or authorities such as restoring or expanding natural habitats where wild animals can find water, food, shelter.







LAVENDER LAVANDULA ANGUSTIFOLIA

**2.1.24 Regular stepwise** Cultivation practices are assessed for performance and impact and adjusted with a view to continuous improvement, changing conditions, and/or addressing unintended negative effects.



### Tips and guidance

- Make sure to monitor yearly the progress in the implementation of cultivation practices to ensure health and yields of cultivated species and no negative impact on interdependent species.
- Assess the yields and health of cultivated species and the status of interdependent species every three years.
- Set up monitoring systems inside your organisation or commission the monitoring to external experts (e.g., universities/researchers).
- Adjust cultivation practices when the result of your monitoring highlight unwanted negative effects on the cultivated or interdependent species or show poorer results than what was expected.
- Use the UEBT BAP Tools Templates to identify appropriate indicators for monitoring, report information on the progress and impacts, and interpret the results.

### Roles and responsibilities

Actions to ensure the health of cultivated and interdependent species over time can be carried out by:

- **Producers** People or organisations directly involved in the cultivation of plants, including farmers, farmers' groups and cooperatives.
- **Suppliers** People and organisations in the supply chain that provide natural raw material for further processing or manufacturing.

Companies buying and processing natural raw material from producers or suppliers at source can support these actions by commissioning the analysis of cultivation sites and cultivated and interdependent species, providing training to farmers on cultivation practices, making expertise available to monitor progress and impact, and covering costs to make needed improvements.

For groups of small farmers working in similar areas and with similar characteristics, support can be provided at the group level and actions can be implemented collectively.

For more guidance and training, please contact UEBT at [certification@ethicalbiotrade.org](mailto:certification@ethicalbiotrade.org) or [biodiversity@ethicalbiotrade.org](mailto:biodiversity@ethicalbiotrade.org)



### UEBT

De Ruijterkade 6, 1013 AA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands | Telephone: +31 20 22 34567 | Email: [info@uebt.org](mailto:info@uebt.org)

**Representation in** Brazil France India Madagascar Vietnam

**Connect with us** [www.uebt.org](http://www.uebt.org) | [www.linkedin.com/company/uebt](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uebt)

Published March 2022