

# **MSCI ACWI IMI Food Revolution ESG Select Index**

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## **1 Introduction**

The MSCI ACWI IMI Food Revolution ESG Select Index (the 'Index') aims to represent the performance of a select set of companies associated with the development of new products and services focused on improving the way food is produced and consumed.

## 2 MSCI ESG Research

MSCI ESG Research provides in-depth research, ratings and analysis of the environmental, social and governance-related business practices of thousands of companies worldwide. It consists of an integrated suite of tools and products to efficiently manage research, analysis and compliance tasks across the spectrum of ESG factors.

The Index uses company ratings and research provided by MSCI ESG Research. In particular, this index uses the following three MSCI ESG Research products: MSCI ESG Ratings, MSCI ESG Controversies Score and MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research. For details on MSCI ESG Research’s full suite of ESG products, please refer to: <https://www.msci.com/esg-investing>.

### 2.1 MSCI ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Ratings provides research, analysis and ratings of how well companies manage environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities.

MSCI ESG Ratings provides an overall company ESG rating - a seven-point scale from ‘AAA’ to ‘CCC’. In addition, the product provides scores and percentiles indicating how well a company manages each key issue relative to industry peers.

For more details on MSCI ESG Ratings, please refer to: <https://www.msci.com/esg-ratings>.

### 2.2 MSCI ESG Controversies Score

MSCI ESG Controversies provides assessments of controversies concerning the negative environmental, social, and/or governance impact of company operations, products and services. The evaluation framework used in MSCI ESG Controversies is designed to be consistent with international norms represented by the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the UN Global Compact. MSCI ESG Controversies Score falls on a 0-10 scale, with “0” being the most severe controversy.

For more details on MSCI ESG Controversies Score, please refer to: <https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/acbe7c8a-a4e4-49de-9cf8-5e957245b86b>.

## 2.3 MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research

MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR) aims to enable institutional investors to manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and restrictions reliably and efficiently.

For more details on MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, please refer to [http://www.msci.com/resources/factsheets/MSCI\\_ESG\\_BISR.pdf](http://www.msci.com/resources/factsheets/MSCI_ESG_BISR.pdf).

### 3 Constructing the Index

The Index is constructed by selecting stocks from the MSCI ACWI Investable Market Index (IMI) ('Parent Index') based on rules explained in the following sections.

The Index selects companies which are assessed to have high exposure to the following business activities –

- Sustainable and responsible farming including nutritional supplements,
- Plant-based meat substitutes and agricultural technology,
- Food delivery technology,
- Biosecurity and zoonotic disease mitigation

#### 3.1 Selected Universe

##### 3.1.1 Relevance Score

Stocks in the Parent Index that have a Relevance Score of 25% or more are included in the Selected Universe. For details of calculation of Relevance Scores, please refer to the MSCI Thematic Relevance Score Methodology document<sup>1</sup>.

##### 3.1.2 GICS<sup>®2</sup> sector and sub industry filtering

Further, stocks mapped to the following GICS<sup>®</sup> sub industries are excluded from the Selected Universe.

GICS <sup>®</sup> Sector	GICS <sup>®</sup> sub industry
Consumer Staples	Personal Products

##### 3.1.3 ESG Controversy Score

ESG Controversy Score = 0 ('Red Flag' companies) – Companies involved in very severe business controversies as defined by the MSCI ESG Controversies Methodology are excluded from the Selected Universe.

Missing ESG Controversy Score – Companies not assessed by MSCI ESG Research's MSCI ESG Controversy Scores are excluded from the Selected Universe.

<sup>1</sup> Please see

[https://www.msci.com/eqb/methodology/meth\\_docs/Relevance\\_Score\\_Calculation\\_Methodology.pdf](https://www.msci.com/eqb/methodology/meth_docs/Relevance_Score_Calculation_Methodology.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> GICS<sup>®</sup>, the global industry classification standard jointly developed by MSCI and S&P Global.

### **3.1.4 ESG Rating**

ESG Rating = 'CCC' – Companies having an MSCI ESG Rating of 'CCC' are excluded from the Selected Universe.

Missing ESG Rating – Companies which are not rated by MSCI ESG Research for an MSCI ESG Rating are not excluded from the Selected Universe.

### **3.1.5 Business Involvement in Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)**

Companies that have an industry tie to genetic engineering through production or ownership are excluded from the Selected Universe.

## **3.2 Weighting scheme**

Stocks included in the Index are weighted by the product of Relevance Score and their float adjusted market capitalization. The weights are then normalized to 100%. Additionally, constituent weights are capped at the issuer level to mitigate concentration risk in the Index. The issuer weight in the Index is capped at 5%.

## **4 Maintaining the Index**

### **4.1 Semi-Annual Index Review**

The Index is reviewed on a Semi-Annual basis in May and November to coincide with the May and November Semi-Annual Index Reviews of the Parent Index, and the changes are implemented at the end of May and November. In general, the pro forma index is announced nine business days before the effective date.

During the Semi-Annual Index Review, the Selected Universe is updated.

In general, MSCI uses Relevance Score data as of two business days prior to the rebalancing date for the Semi-Annual Index Review.

In general, MSCI uses MSCI ESG Research data (including MSCI ESG Ratings, MSCI Climate Change Metrics, MSCI ESG Controversies Scores and MSCI Business Involvement Screening Research) as of the end of the month preceding the Index Reviews. For some securities, such data may not be published by MSCI ESG Research by the end of the month preceding the Index Review. For such securities, MSCI will use ESG data published after the end of month, when available. This approach aims to capture timely updates to ESG Ratings of the constituents and coincides with the rebalancing of the relevant MSCI Parent Indexes.

### **4.2 Ongoing event-related maintenance**

The general treatment of corporate events in the Index aims to minimize turnover outside of Index Reviews. The methodology aims to appropriately represent an investor's participation in an event based on relevant deal terms and pre-event weighting of the Index constituents that are involved. Further, changes in Index market capitalization that occur as a result of corporate event implementation will be offset by a corresponding change in the Variable Weighting Factor (VWF) of the constituent.

The following section briefly describes the treatment of common corporate events within the index.

No new securities will be added (except where noted below) to the index between Index Reviews. Parent Index deletions will be reflected simultaneously.

<b>EVENT TYPE</b>	<b>EVENT DETAILS</b>
<b>New additions to the Parent Index</b>	A new security added to the Parent Index (such as IPO and other early inclusions) will not be added to the Index.
<b>Spin-Offs</b>	All securities created as a result of the spin-off of an existing Index constituent will be added to the Index at the time of event implementation if the spin-off security is also added to the Parent Index. Reevaluation for continued inclusion in the Index will occur at the subsequent Index Review.
<b>Merger/Acquisition</b>	For Mergers and Acquisitions, the acquirer’s post event weight will account for the proportionate amount of shares involved in deal consideration, while cash proceeds will be invested across the Index.  If an existing Index constituent is acquired by a non-Index constituent, the existing constituent will be deleted from the Index and the acquiring non-constituent will not be added to the Index.
<b>Changes in Security Characteristics</b>	A security will continue to be an Index constituent if there are changes in characteristics (country, sector, size segment, etc.) Reevaluation for continued inclusion in the Index will occur at the subsequent Index Review.

Further detail and illustration regarding specific treatment of corporate events relevant to this Index can be found in the MSCI Corporate Events Methodology.

The MSCI Corporate Events methodology book is available at: <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>.

**The following sections have been modified since January 2022:**

- Introduction
- The set of relevant words and phrases
- Calculating the stock relevance score

**The following sections have been modified effective December 1, 2022:**

- Section 3 has been updated to reference the MSCI Thematic Relevance Score Methodology
- Section 4 has been updated to reflect the data cutoff date for Relevance Scores

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