



Louise Nicholls

Head of Responsible Sourcing MARKS & SPENCER

Louise Nicholls was part of the small team that developed Marks and Spencer's groundbreaking Plan A, a 100 point, 5 year plan to address a wide range of environmental and social issues.

She has worked for Marks and Spencer for over 20 years, initially as a Food Technologist, and then in IT and HR before developing and managing M&S leading Ethical trade programme 10 years ago. Currently her role is Head of Responsible Sourcing, with responsibility for setting strategic direction of Marks and Spencer's Food sustainability plan. On a day to day basis her team deals with issues as diverse as sustainable fish sourcing, labour and environmental standards in factories, animal welfare, food miles, genetic modification, fair trade and climate change. Louise was a board member on the Ethical Trading Initiative board 2004-2007 and has sat on Sedex board since its inception. Louise also chairs the Sedex Associate Auditor Group which developed SMETA auditing methodology. A key part of her role is interaction with a wide range of stakeholders and suppliers. In the last 12 months (2011) she has travelled to America, Africa and Europe meeting with over 1000 suppliers and local stakeholders to understand their issues and perspectives.