

Sustainable Commodities and Landscapes Forum

Towards nature positive: How business can adapt to regulatory pressure, protect livelihoods, and take an integrated approach to climate, nature and biodiversity

31st October – 1st November, 2023 | Amsterdam



Plantation



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Day 1 – Tuesday 31st October

09.00-09.30 Climate risk, supply chain resilience and sustainable sourcing: What does leadership look like now, and by 2030?

From extreme weather events to the pandemic, global conflict, and rising inflation, commodity markets have endured extreme volatility over recent years. In this opening session we'll hear from C-Suite executives on how business can build supply chain resilience and mitigate climate risk through sustainable sourcing strategies. We'll assess:

- What does leadership look like in practice, and how will this evolve by 2030?
- How to ensure accountability, alignment and buy-in across executive teams and business operations
- How to better communicate the impact and opportunity in sustainable sourcing and supply chain resilience
- What can leading brands do to drive industry shifts, incentivise the laggards and lift the floor?

09.30-10.15 Do we have carbon tunnel vision? How to ensure a holistic approach to sustainable and responsible procurement

Climate action has taken centre stage in sustainability and hundreds of companies have made pledges to achieve net zero by 2050. Decarbonisation is undeniably a crucial step for business. But are headlines and pressure on climate driving too narrow an approach to sustainable sourcing? A procurement strategy focused on emissions alone ignores the interlinkages to biodiversity loss, poverty, water resources, and other areas key to the wellbeing of people and the planet.

In this session we'll discuss how we can avoid carbon tunnel vision and pursue net-zero goals with a holistic approach to procurement. Our panel will discuss:

- What is carbon tunnel vision and is it really (negatively) impacting corporate decision making?
- How to use incoming due diligence legislation as an opportunity to drive a more rounded and balanced strategy
- What does a holistic approach to sustainable procurement look like in practice?
- How procurement professionals can drive transformation in agriculture, and the incentive structures required to make it happen

10.15-10.45 Break

10.45-11.15 EU Deforestation Regulation: In-depth insights into the latest policy changes and what they mean for sourcing practices, in the EU and beyond

Recently, the EU policy landscape has been the source of much debate, acclaim, critique, confusion, and of course its fair share of controversy. The new EUDR, banning the import of goods linked to deforestation, has been hailed by some as a "breakthrough for forests". Others have been highly critical of the legislation, particularly around the issues of farmer data privacy. An Indonesian Ambassador even asked if the EUDR constitutes a new form of colonization.

In this session, we'll take a deep dive into this critical piece of EU legislation. We'll assess the global implications for business and actors on the ground, and hold a frank discussion on:

- How will evolving legislation within the EU fit into the global legislative landscape, specifically in producer countries?
- What policies and practices must business have in place to remain compliant and keep ahead of the legislative curve?
- How will the EUDR impact EU and non-EU businesses? And how will it impact the farmers, local communities and on-the-ground actors at the very start of supply chains?
- The possible unintended consequences of incoming policy, and how these can best be addressed

For more information please contact Hanna Halmari at hanna.halmari@innovationforum.co.uk

11.15-11.45 Beyond compliance, how can business react to ensure incoming policy drives an impact on the ground?

Compliance is one thing, but how can business ensure that legislation actually delivers a positive impact on the ground? Is the legislation set up to drive sustainable transformation, or will it create supply chain chaos?

In this session, our panellists will debate how business can avoid the unintended consequences and ensure new legislation doesn't become a check box exercise but helps deliver the transformation necessary. We'll discuss:

- What a proactive business response to incoming legislation looks like
- How to conduct effective and efficient due diligence that is comprehensive and transformative
- The tools and technologies that can drive efficiencies and cost-savings on the route to compliance, and beyond

11.45-12.30 Financing the transition: How can investors drive agricultural transformation on the route to net-zero?

With an estimated \$125trn of investment needed globally to decarbonise the economy, the transition will require unprecedented levels of both public and private finance. Private climate finance is on the rise as financial institutions managing trillions of assets commit to their own net-zero goals. But how far and how fast are these commitments translating into action and delivering change on the ground? And how can the financial sector play their part in driving genuine transformation in agriculture?

In this session we'll hear from the investor perspective and address:

- How serious are investors? Are we really talking about agricultural transformation, or just a bit of ESG?
- Where are the major opportunities for investors on the road to net zero, and how can new and emerging finance mechanisms enable the transition?
- Carrot vs stick: Are we seeing enough of either?
- Performance metrics: How can investors better measure, monitor and understand impact?

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.10 Breakouts

<i>Forests</i>	<i>Farmers</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>Tech/Innovation</i>
Forest positive production: How can brands accelerate action to deliver on 2030 goals?	Only farmers can change farming: So, how do we ensure farmers are placed at the heart of food system transformation?	Sustainable soil health: The leading practices that deliver for farmers and drive resilience on-the-ground	Tackling management challenges: Sharing business experiences on driving internal change and budget
SBTs: How will the latest Forest, Land-use and Agriculture Guidance (FLAG) impact how you manage your Scope 3?	Inclusive carbon markets: How to ensure farmers benefit from carbon credit generation schemes	Regeneration from farm to forest: What are we learning from pilots to take regenerative practices to scale across sourcing contexts?	Traceability and transparency in soy supply chains: What does a pragmatic approach to compliance AND impact look like?

15.10-15.40 Break

15.40-17.20 Breakouts

<i>Forests</i>	<i>Farmers</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>Tech/Innovation</i>
Forget palm oil, forget soy, forget beef: How brands can move beyond a commodity approach to tackling deforestation	Closing the gap: What are the practical multistakeholder solutions to empower women and boost living income across supply chains?	From commitments to action: How are leading companies delivering – and measuring – their biodiversity action plans?	Supply chain carbon: How to map, measure and manage Scope 3 emissions data
Demonstrating progress: How to measure, monitor and verify commitments to protect and restore forests	Climate risk and resilience: How brands can support smallholder farmers in climate adaptation strategies	How nature tech can deliver transparent, trustworthy and scalable nature-based solutions	Farmer data as currency: How can we ensure farmers benefit from the commoditization of agricultural data?

17.20-18.30 Networking drinks

Day 2 – Wednesday 1st November

9.00-09.30 Climate-smart landscapes: How will the landscape approach fit into the roadmap to net-zero?

Siloed supply chain initiatives alone will not be enough to get us to net zero. Their limitations could only be compounded by competition amongst business to reach their own climate targets and 'claim' carbon reductions and removals within supply sheds. The landscape approach could provide at least part of the solution. But to date, progress in this area has been slow.

In this session, we'll assess how the landscape approach is evolving and how it will fit into the roadmap to net zero. We'll assess what frameworks, finances and incentives are required to get beyond pilots, and discuss:

- What can business do to align key players across landscapes, including finance, government and key supply chain actors?
- 2030 is just around the corner. How can business scale landscape initiatives at the speed required to achieve climate targets?
- Case studies, practical examples and lessons learned from the most successful existing initiatives

9.30-10.15 Science-based targets for nature: How business can integrate biodiversity and nature into climate action plans

Nature, climate, and community can no longer be addressed through separate lenses. Biodiversity loss, climate change, and human rights are all interconnected and a nature positive approach, which aims to restore species and ecosystems, must tackle all three in unison.

In this session, we'll assess how leading companies have integrated nature into their climate strategies and broader sourcing practices. We'll take a look at:

- What does nature-positive actually look like on the ground? Practical examples of nature-positive production being applied across sourcing contexts
- How can companies prepare to set SBTs for nature? What do other realistic KPIs look like for biodiversity and what tools exist to monitor and verify impact?
- How can brands engage supply chains actors and farmers in nature-positive production
- How can business get beyond pilots, to drive a nature-positive approach at scale?

10.15-10.45 Break

10.45-11.45 Whose carbon is it anyway? How current - and evolving - carbon accounting frameworks will shape climate strategy

Recently, carbon accounting frameworks and methodologies have undergone a series of changes. Who can count what, when, where and how is highly complex business. But it also has a massive influence on how business determine climate strategy and which interventions are prioritised.

In this session, our panel of experts will assess how carbon accounting frameworks will continue to evolve and how companies can get to grips with the latest guidance. We'll discuss:

- How do carbon accounting frameworks impact business strategy?
- How can we align on a more harmonised approach across frameworks, to avoid challenges surrounding data fatigue, double-counting and inconsistencies in data collection?
- What role do removals and reductions play in the road to net-zero? How to integrate these into your climate strategy

11.45-12.30 Offset markets, blue carbon, biodiversity credits: What are the most credible solutions to address unavoidable emissions?

It is clear that emissions reductions should be at the core of any company's climate action plan. But it is also clear that a functional carbon market is necessary to tackle emissions now and help direct finance to credible conservation efforts.

From avoidance credits to removal credits, blue carbon to REDD+ projects, navigating the diverse and complex array of options can be baffling. Recent reporting around the credibility of voluntary carbon markets has only added to this confusion.

In this session, our experts will lay out in plain terms the current state of play in carbon markets. They'll assess how brands can navigate all the options at their disposal and discuss:

- What does the future hold for the voluntary carbon market?
- How can brands assess what is credible and what is not?
- Action or distraction: Will biodiversity credits drive progress or delay real action?
- Carbon removal, conservation and community resilience: Is blue carbon the key to deliver at scale?

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-14.15 Technology, traceability, and transparency: How brands can substantiate sustainability claims with better data

Trustworthy, auditable, and transparent data is crucial to back up your sustainability claims and avoid the risk of greenwash. Supply chain traceability is key here, but given the complexity of multi-layered global supply chains, building a granular view of suppliers and vendors is extremely challenging. A significant transparency gap remains, especially when it comes to suppliers beyond Tier 1. In this session we'll take a look at how brands can collect better data throughout the supply chain. We'll discuss:

- How the latest tools and technologies are enabling real time supply chain visibility
- How can business measure, monitor and verify supply chain claims? What level of data granularity do we need?
- How to incorporate data into procurement systems and decision making
- How to translate complex data to stakeholders in a credible, meaningful and digestible way

14.15-15.00 Sustainability disclosure and reporting standards: What's next in materiality, harmonisation and the evolution of ESG

A flurry of mandatory reporting requirements are coming into effect, from the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive to the SEC's climate disclosure rule. In this session we'll assess the global sustainability reporting landscape, what this means for business, and how brands can proactively prepare for incoming mandatory disclosure. We'll discuss:

- How will materiality continue to evolve and what are the practical implications for business and finance?
- How brands can ensure they have the right data, in the right place, at the right time
- How are investors interpreting corporate disclosure, and how are they incorporating emissions data into decision making?

15.00-15.45 **Green vs greenwash vs greenhush: What does the future hold for consumer engagement on sustainable commodities?**

Communicating sustainability has never been easy, especially when it comes to 'sustainable commodities'. Still, engaging consumers and ensuring they can make informed decisions at the checkout is an integral piece of the sustainability puzzle. The complex nature of these claims has often led to disputes around accuracy, and accusations of greenwash are commonplace. However, brands are now under increasing pressure to choose their words carefully. The risks of reputational damage, litigation, and fines are also growing as standards get tougher and new regulation around greenwashing is passed.

In this session we'll have a candid conversation around how brands should navigate the global crackdown on greenwashing. Our panel of experts will debate:

- How can brands communicate the nuance of their sustainability efforts, but avoid a reputation for greenwash? Is there a risk of greenhushing?
- Definitions, standards, and certifications: How can the complexity of 'sustainable commodities' be communicated effectively by brand marketers?
- What terminology should brands be using? Should we be communicating 'net-zero'?

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