



**Farm  
Sustainability  
Assessment**  
BY SAI PLATFORM



**Regenerating  
Together  
Programme**  
BY SAI PLATFORM

# Building Resilience Through Verified Sustainable Agriculture

HOW CRISP MALT USES SAI PLATFORM'S  
FARM SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT AND  
REGENERATING TOGETHER FRAMEWORK



## STAKEHOLDERS



**785**

Farms in FSA Farm Management Group, Poland



**15% Gold | 85% Silver**

FSA 3.0 FMG Performance level, August 2025

**200**

Farms in Field Forward ABC Grower Group, East Anglia



**48,100 ha**

Total farm area in Field Forward pilot

## CONTACT

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# Introduction



Crisp Malt is a long-established British maltster supplying brewers and distillers globally. The long-term resilience of its raw material supply chain is both a commercial priority and a core sustainability commitment. Central to that commitment is the belief that meaningful, lasting change happens at farm level, through relationships, knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.

To support this ambition, Crisp Malt uses two of SAI Platform's Industry Solutions:

- the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) in Poland, and
- the Regenerating Together framework (RT framework), applied through Crisp Malt's own programme, Field Forward, in the United Kingdom.

Each scheme serves a distinct purpose and responds to a different supply chain context. Together, they reflect how SAI Platform's approaches share a common foundation around farmer engagement, continuous improvement and verified progress, while remaining flexible to be shaped by the realities of supply chain ecosystems.

This case study explores the implementation of both schemes, and what they reveal about Crisp Malt's approach to building a supply chain that is both credible and grower led.



# PART ONE: FSA IMPLEMENTATION IN POLAND

## A Verified Demonstration of on Farm Sustainability



Crisp Malt has operated an FSA Farm Management Group (FMG) since its initial implementation under FSA 2.1, in partnership with the Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Food in Poland. The group transitioned to FSA 3.0 at the end of 2023, with formal third-party verification completed in August 2025.

### HOW THE FSA WAS IMPLEMENTED

The FMG, comprises 785 farms delivering malting barley to the Bydgoszcz malting plant. Farms span 11 provinces across Poland, with additional farms in Czechia and Slovakia, and operate diverse production systems including cereals, root crops, seeds and livestock. The programme is coordinated by a dedicated agricultural sustainability manager and experienced agronomist, who leads implementation, coordinates farmer engagement and acts as the primary interface between the group and the FSA.





*"By measuring the progress of sustainable farming practices through the FSA, we can demonstrate how our farmers are significant contributing to more sustainable supply chains."*

- Crisp Malt

## WHAT THE FSA DELIVERS

For Crisp Malt, the FSA provides something specific and valuable: a verified, comparable picture of where farms in the group currently stand. That data enables Crisp Malt to demonstrate the sustainability performance of its Polish supply chain to customers, credibly and to a globally recognised standard, while also giving the group itself a clear basis for identifying priorities and tracking improvement over time.

The August 2025 FSA 3.0 verification achieved 15% Gold and 85% Silver across the group, outcomes that reflect both the existing strength of the supplier base and the effectiveness of the engagement process in driving consistent performance.



## FARMER ENGAGEMENT

Internal assessments and structured visits to farms across the group, have been central to how priorities are identified and shared. These have included seed variety consultation and certified seed supply, field visits and crop consultancy, information campaigns on FSA 3.0 requirements, and identification of GHG emission sources and measurement approaches. Group training sessions, drawing directly on findings from internal audits, have covered topics from sustainable barley cultivation to soil health and biodiversity.

The approach is deliberately built on partnership rather than prescription. Crisp Malt has invested in long-term, trust-based relationships with its suppliers, a condition that has proven essential to data quality, farmer engagement and durable improvement. One concrete example: the adoption by multiple farms of soil nitrogen measurement prior to sowing, enabling precision fertiliser application and directly reducing both input costs and GHG emissions intensity.

## OUTLOOK

Crisp Malt's ambition is to source malting barley exclusively from farms within the FSA group, and in time to extend the scope of verification to other crops processed at Bydgoszcz, including winter wheat.



## PART TWO: RT FRAMEWORK IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

# Field Forward: A Regenerative Roadmap Built with Farmers



Field Forward is the UK malting industry's largest sustainable agriculture initiative. Developed and owned by Crisp Malt in close partnership with its ABC Grower Group, it is built on the foundations of SAI Platform's Regenerating Together framework.

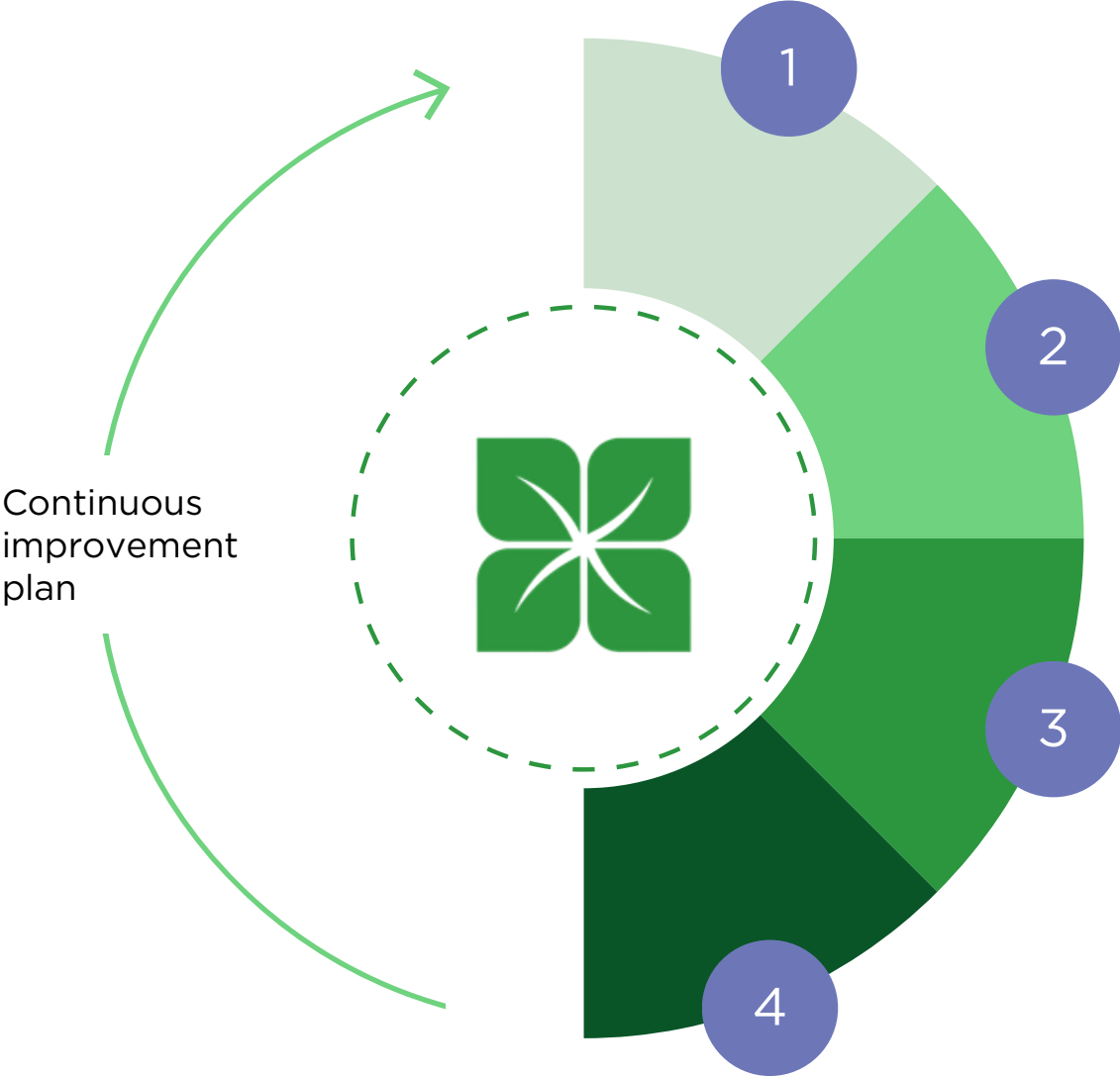
The ABC Grower Group is a 20-year partnership between Crisp Malt and two grain merchants, Adams & Howling and H. Banham Ltd, comprising 200 farms within 40 miles of Crisp Malt's two Norfolk malting sites. Across East Anglia, thirty-nine farms are collaborating, collecting data, applying a context analysis, setting targets and building a practical roadmap for the group's regenerative transition.

Farmers in the group benefit from three-year rolling contracts, providing the security that supports long-term investment in land management. The Field Forward pilot collected data from each of these 39 farms across a total area of 48,100 hectares, including 8,500 hectares of malting barley.





# The Regenerating Together Framework



- 1 Context Analysis
- 2 Outcome Selection
- 3 Practice Adoption
- 4 Monitor and Assess Progress

SAI Platform’s Regenerating Together framework offers a global definition of and an aligned approach to regenerative agriculture that aims to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, improve soil health, support biodiversity, and optimise water resource management, while supporting farmer livelihoods in a just transition.

The RT framework implementation process emphasises the need to understand local contexts and farmer needs when implementing regenerative agriculture.

| Impact Areas | Qualities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Soil health  | <br>Enhance soil structure, fertility, and biological activity, promote nutrient cycling, water retention, and carbon sequestration, leading to resilient and productive ecosystems                               |
| Water        | <br>Ensure optimal water use, reduce runoff and pollution, and enhance water retention in soils, maintain a balanced water cycle and support long-term sustainability for agriculture and surrounding ecosystems |
| Biodiversity | <br>Promote the diversity of species and ecosystems above and below ground, support pollination, pest control, and genetic resilience, while preventing habitat loss and invasive species                        |
| Climate      | <br>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sequestration, while enabling farms to adapt to climate change, supporting resilience in farming systems and communities                                |

**Table 1:** The qualities of the four impact areas of SAI Platform’s Regenerating Together framework





# WHY THE REGENERATING TOGETHER FRAMEWORK

Whilst the FSA provides a roadmap for assessment and improvement across all three pillars of sustainable agriculture, the RT framework enables farmers to identify and focus on the most important outcomes for soil health, biodiversity, water and climate at their farm.

Field Forward uses the RT framework’s four-step process to build a structured, outcome-led continuous improvement plan, tailored to the specific environmental context of East Anglian arable farming and shaped at every stage by the farmers themselves.

It is not a programme imposed on growers; it is one that Crisp Malt and its merchants have built together with growers, with the aim of making sustainability a natural part of how the group operates.

The RT Framework’s implementation process emphasises the need to understand local contexts and farmer needs when implementing regenerative agriculture:

- Step 1: a context analysis to identify key material criteria of a production system,
- Step 2: the prioritisation of outcomes based on the context analysis,
- Step 3: the selection of practices to achieve improved performance against prioritised outcomes,
- Step 4: the development and implementation of continuous improvement plans to monitor and report progress.

# Step 1 Context Analysis

The context analysis drew on farm-level surveys, agronomist input, and national datasets from DEFRA's MAGIC Map to assess environmental risks across the group against the RT Framework's 12 material criteria. The results were collated and managed through Map of Ag, a UK agritech platform connecting farms and supply chains through trusted data sharing. This generated a dashboard view at both group and individual farm level. Key risks identified included:

| Impact Area  | Risk Identified                                                                                 | Baseline Practice                                                    |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Soil         | Soil compaction (High), fertility loss (Medium-High), erosion (Medium)                          | 87% grow overwinter cover crops; 85% apply organic manures           |
| Water        | Nutrient leaching (High), groundwater depletion (Medium-High), pesticide leaching (Medium-High) | 92% have a water risk map; 82% have tramlines across the contour     |
| Biodiversity | Crop diversity loss (Medium-High), habitat loss (Medium)                                        | 34% average non-cultivated land for biodiversity; 80% have IPM plans |
| Climate      | Air pollution and N-related emissions (Medium-High)                                             | GHG emissions tracked across spring and winter barley, 2022-2024     |

These findings were fed back to the Grower Group committee, made up of representatives from Crisp Malt, the merchants and farmers, to validate priorities and inform target-setting.



# Step 2

## Outcome Selection

Based on the findings from the Context Analysis, all four Regenerating Together impact areas (soil health, biodiversity, water and climate) were prioritised, reflecting the breadth of risks and the group's ambition to build whole-system resilience. Four Regenerating Together outcomes and their associated indicators were prioritised, as shown in Table 2.

| IMPACT AREA                                             | OUTCOMES                            | INDICATORS                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | Increased soil health and fertility | <div>Soil organic matter</div> <div>Soil cover</div> <div>Water holding capacity</div> <div>Water infiltration</div> |
| <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | Increased nutrient use efficiency   | <div>N use efficiency</div> <div>P use efficiency</div> <div>K use efficiency</div>                                  |
| <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | Enhanced water source stewardship   | <div>Crop production water use</div> <div>Water quality</div>                                                        |
| <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | Reduced greenhouse gas emissions    | <div>CO2 eq footprint</div>                                                                                          |

Table 2: Prioritised Regenerating Together outcomes and indicators

# Step 3

## Practice Adoption

Going forward, Crisp Malt plans to create sub-groups to drive farm-level action tailored to individual contexts, recognising that what works on one farm may not work on another.

Before designing the continuous improvement plan, Crisp Malt prioritised understanding what farmers were already doing. The Year 1 survey revealed the group is already engaged in a wide range of regenerative practices:

- 87% grow overwinter cover crops; average cover crop mix of 6.4 plant species across 5.8 plant families
- 67% incorporate livestock to graze overwinter cover crops
- 85% apply organic manures in soil management
- 44% do not use any insecticides on their crops
- Over 50% use precision technology in pesticide application





# Learning takeaways from the Field

One farm visit illustrated how these practices come together. In December 2025, SAI Platform visited Row Hill Farm and met Tom Green, a member of the ABC Grower Group, who walked us through the context analysis findings before heading out to the fields.

Cover cropping sits at the heart of Tom's approach. His fields carry a diverse mix of species including vetch, buckwheat, phacelia, linseed, sunflowers, clovers, beans, peas and radishes. Tom is clear that diversity is key: multi-species mixes provide weed suppression and improved soil structure that is not achieved with a single-species cover crop. Proximity to the coast means cover crops cannot rely on frost kill, so Tom uses an herbicide to terminate them ahead of drilling. He is keen to move towards using livestock to graze off the crops instead, and plans on exploring arrangements with neighbouring sheep farmers.

Direct drilling is central to how Tom manages his freely draining loamy and sandy soils, which the context analysis identified as being at higher risk of erosion. By drilling directly into existing cover crops rather than ploughing, Tom has significantly reduced that risk. He had used some form of min-till for many years before making the full shift to direct drilling, which has also brought meaningful savings on fuel costs. Keeping living roots in the ground year-round has improved both water infiltration and soil compaction across the farm.

*"By using both the FSA and RT framework verification approaches across different parts of our supply chains, we are better equipped to meet the expectations of different customers, while maintaining a clear and credible pathway."*

*"Our experience with SAI Platform's Regenerating Together framework has been positive. It has provided a practical, outcomes-focused structure that complements our Field Forward initiative. Importantly, the RT framework is not prescriptive in terms of the practices farmers must adopt. Instead, it empowers farmers to make decisions that are right for their individual operations. This places farmer decision-making firmly at the centre, ensuring approaches are context-specific and tailored to each farm's unique conditions. By allowing flexible adoption and recognising where each farmer is already on their sustainable farming journey, the RT framework supports continuous, practical progress. It ensures sustainability is both achievable and meaningful, while respecting the knowledge, experience, and priorities of the farmers we work with."*

- Ellie Wood, Sustainability Manager, Crisp Malt







Nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) - the ratio of total nitrogen input to output - is a key climate metric for the group. Analysis shows that the rate of nitrogen application and resulting yield are the primary drivers of NUE, with a target range of 70-90% for optimum efficiency. Higher NUE correlates directly with lower emissions intensity per tonne of barley, a tangible link between agronomic efficiency and climate outcomes.

## Step 4 Monitoring and Assessing Progress

Progress will be monitored annually through surveys and workshops, tracking the same farms year-on-year to build a genuine picture of change over time. Data is managed through the Map of Ag dashboard, enabling performance tracking at both group and individual farm level.

Third-party verification under the RT is planned for 2026.

### MERCHANT PERSPECTIVES

*"We are proud to be part of the Field Forward initiative, ensuring reliable, local supply of quality grain to meet the growing demand for traceable and environmentally responsible products."*

- Tom Rivett, H. Banham Ltd

*"A key aspect of Field Forward's impact has been collaboration between the malting and farming industry. This partnership is driving innovation and accountability across the industry."*

- Matthew Adams, Managing Director, Adams & Howling

### SCALING FIELD FORWARD

Following the East Anglian pilot, Crisp Malt will next implement Field Forward with its Scottish Grower Group (68 farms) and its Polish Grower Group (750 farms), extending the outcome-led, farmer-centred approach to every corner of its supply chain.





## KEY INSIGHT

# Two Schemes, One Commitment

The FSA and the RT framework fulfil different but complementary roles within Crisp Malt's sustainability strategy. The FSA provides a credible and benchmarked picture of where the Polish supply chain stands across all three pillars of sustainable agriculture, and a roadmap to improved performance, that is communicable to customers and stakeholders. The RT framework provides the structured process through which Crisp Malt and its UK growers are building a focused roadmap for regenerative transition, grounded in local context, driven by farmer priorities and measured outcomes.

What both approaches share is a foundation: globally applicable, adaptable, focused on continuous improvement, farmer engagement, and the rigour of third-party verification. SAI Platform has designed its schemes and frameworks to be flexible enough to reflect the realities of different production systems, enabling them to integrate with existing grower relationships rather than sit alongside them as an external requirement. Crisp Malt's experience demonstrates what that can look like in practice: a programme that growers and merchants have made their own, where sustainability is not a label but a direction of travel.

As Field Forward expands across Crisp Malt's supply chains, both schemes will continue to play their respective roles, one showing where farmers are, the other helping define where they are going.

*"Adopting SAI Platform's FSA and RT solutions will ensure a quantifiable and verified way of building supply chain resilience, focusing on all areas that impact the total farming system, soil health, water, biodiversity and climate."*

- Crisp Malt





Grateful to Crisp Malt for its valuable insights and collaboration on this case study. We look forward to sharing more stories of sustainable, regenerative agriculture worldwide. If you're using our Farm Sustainability Assessment or Regenerating Together framework and wish to highlight your journey, please get in touch.



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