



**Regenerating  
Together  
Programme**

BY SAI PLATFORM

# **A Global Framework for Regenerative Agriculture**

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Narrative 1.1  
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# Background

The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform ([SAI Platform](#)) is leading a global transition towards regenerative agriculture. Together with a diverse network of stakeholders including farmers, civil society, academics, and some of the world's largest food and agriculture companies, SAI Platform has developed an aligned approach to regenerative agriculture. The result is the [Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture](#), first introduced in September 2023. The purpose of the framework is to provide corporations in the food and beverage industry with an industry-aligned set of principles to join the movement towards regenerative agriculture. With the supporting guidance and protocols, the framework should enable them to support their farmers and suppliers in adopting regenerative agriculture practices. Since its release, the framework has evolved through ongoing consultations, field testing and input from SAI Platform members, farmers and the [Regenerating Together External Advisory Board](#), ensuring it remains farmer-centric and science-based. The results of these consultations are captured in the hereby presented, updated version of the framework.

Agriculture today faces significant challenges. As global demand for agricultural products continues to rise, maintaining productivity has become increasingly difficult due to environmental stress, rising input costs, and stricter regulations. Regenerative agriculture has emerged as a promising solution to protecting and improving environmental outcomes. At the same time, it has the potential to strengthen farmer and value chain resiliency and boost long-term productivity. Despite its potential, the adoption of regenerative agriculture remains limited, partly due to the absence of a unified definition of the concept and its outcomes. This lack of clarity has made it difficult to assess its impact and design programmes that support and incentivise its implementation at farm level.

SAI Platform's Regenerating Together framework addresses this by defining the concept and providing a practical approach for transitioning towards regenerative agriculture. With the backing of SAI Platform members, it establishes universally relevant impact areas and outlines outcomes and indicators. Therein, it provides guidance to develop a roadmap for the context-specific



adoption of regenerative farming practices to improve ecosystem functions and regenerate agricultural production systems while improving the quality of farmers' livelihoods. An understanding of the local context and farmers' needs is essential to successfully implement regenerative agriculture. Accordingly, the framework provides flexibility to accommodate diverse farming systems globally, enabling context-specific action to address locally relevant issues.

To define the objectives and guiding principles of the Regenerating Together framework, multiple rounds of consultations with members and stakeholders were conducted alongside the review of existing regenerative agriculture programmes, which are described in more detail in the

Regenerating Together method paper (to be published soon [here](#)). While the framework provides a strong foundation for engaging in regenerative agriculture, ongoing collaboration and refinement are needed to address evolving challenges as it is implemented across diverse contexts. SAI Platform commits to further research and stakeholder engagement to continuously improve the framework and promote the transition towards regenerative agriculture globally. With the release of key supporting documents—including the Framework Implementation Guide, assurance protocol, and Quantification Guide—in January 2025, SAI Platform commits to actively engage with farmers, members, verification bodies, and other stakeholders to pilot these resources. This will enable ongoing refinement and strengthen the value of the framework.








# Framework Implementation

SAI Platform’s Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture is a flexible and adaptable toolset that allows farms to work individually or together as implementation groups to develop and implement continuous improvement plans to transition towards regenerative agriculture.

The framework centres on the environmental impact areas of soil health, water, biodiversity, and climate, along with the socio-economic area of farmer livelihoods (Table 1). Whereas the hereby presented version 1.1 of the framework focuses on environmental impact areas, it recognises that the socioeconomic viability of farmers, as well as animal welfare

in livestock systems, are critical prerequisites to a regenerative farming system. SAI Platform and its membership commit to addressing them in future iterations of the framework. In the interim, the emphasis is placed on the importance of socio-economic considerations in the broader definition of regenerative agriculture (Box 1).

Impact areas are broad environmental or social domains, in which regenerative agriculture seeks to create positive change. These areas represent key aspects of ecosystem health and sustainability that are directly affected by agricultural practices.

IMPACT AREAS	QUALITIES
 <b>Soil Health</b>	Enhance soil structure, fertility, and biological activity, promote nutrient cycling, water retention, and carbon sequestration, leading to resilient and productive ecosystems.
 <b>Water</b>	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.
 <b>Biodiversity</b>	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.
 <b>Climate</b>	Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sequestration, while enabling farms to adapt to climate change, supporting resilience in farming systems and communities.
 <b>Farmer Livelihoods</b>	<i>Promote the socio-economic well-being of farmers by enhancing productivity, supporting farm profitability and ensuring income stability. This also includes ensuring fair labour conditions, access to essential services, and fostering resilience against economic and environmental shocks.</i>

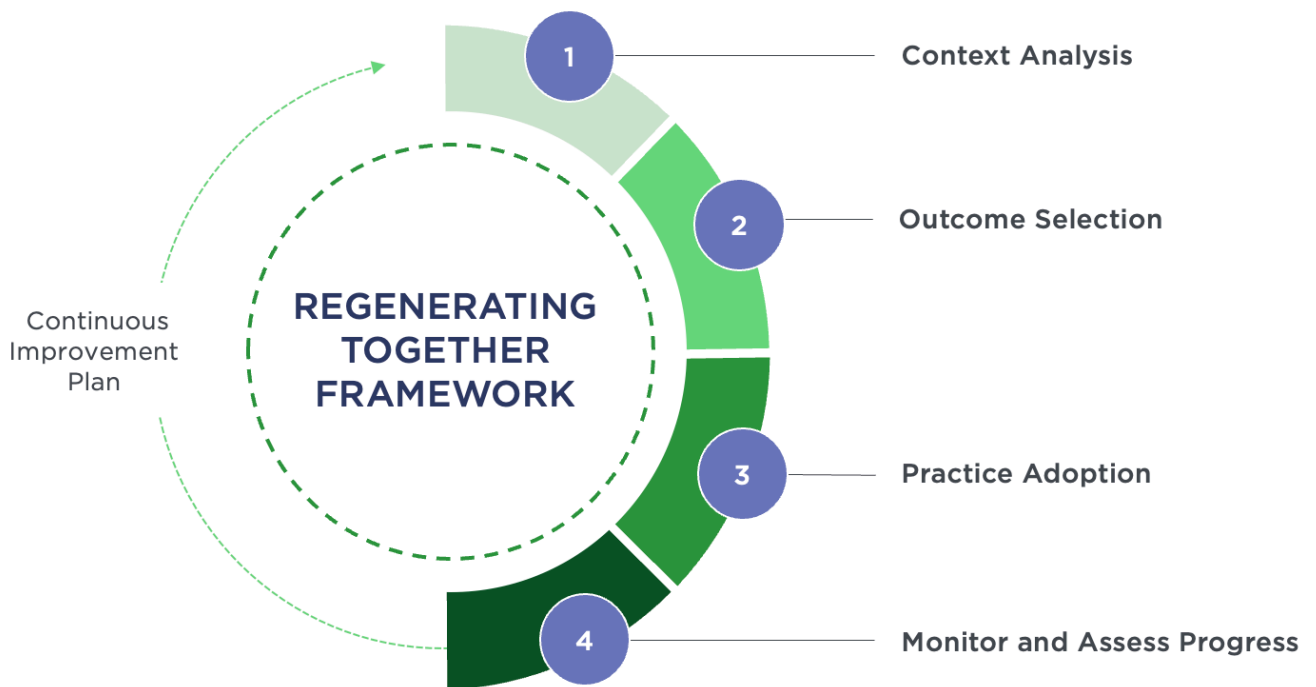
**Table 1:** The qualities of the impact areas of SAI Platform’s Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture.

**Box 1:** The definition of regenerative agriculture according to SAI Platform's Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture.

**Regenerative agriculture** is an outcome-based farming approach that protects and improves soil health, biodiversity, climate, and water resources while supporting farmer livelihoods.

The framework consists of a four-step process, designed to make it both globally applicable and adaptable to local conditions:

- 1 **Context analysis** to identify key material criteria in terms of predominant environment, inherent soils, and production systems.
- 2 **Outcome selection** to prioritise regenerative agriculture outcomes, based on the outputs of the context analysis.
- 3 **Practice adoption** by selecting appropriate practices to achieve improved performance against the prioritised outcomes.
- 4 **Monitor and assess progress** by developing and actioning locally applicable continuous improvement plans (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** The four-step process to implement SAI Platform's Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture.

# Implementation Groups

Given the broad scope and far-reaching impact of regenerative agriculture, it is recommended to implement the framework primarily through implementation groups. Working in groups is essential for scaling regenerative agriculture practices across landscapes and markets. Based on insights from SAI Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA), there are significant advantages to farmer collaboration across groups, such as peer learning, experimentation with diverse approaches, and jointly engaging in outcome monitoring and verification. Furthermore, group collaboration facilitates access to the technical expertise, knowledge, and financial support, crucial for the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices.

Collaboration between implementation groups and their trusted advisers is also strongly encouraged. This will strengthen the four steps of the framework, particularly to develop a shared understanding of risks and opportunities across the landscape, which serves as the foundation for the group's co-created continuous improvement plan (CIP). By working together, the risk of imposing arbitrary outcomes and indicators on farmers is minimised, promoting greater adoption of regenerative agriculture practices, which benefit both the natural environment and the farmer's socioeconomic well-being.



# Regenerating Together's Four-Step Process

## 1 Context Analysis

Agriculture is highly dependent on the context, shaped by agroecological and socio-economic factors such as climate, soil types, market access, infrastructure, and local knowledge and customs. This step of the framework helps farms gain an understanding of their environmental context at both farm and landscape levels, identifying key inherent environmental risks associated with their specific farm or production system. The context analysis acts as a key step to establish a shared understanding and trust between the participating stakeholders, building the foundations for the co-creation of a suitable roadmap. These risks are grouped into two categories: (1) production risks derived from environmental factors, such as weather patterns or water availability, and (2) environmental risks resulting from human activities in the landscape, such as biodiversity loss or excessive water extraction.

IMPACT AREA	MATERIAL CRITERIA
	● ● ● ● ● Soil Erosion
	● ● ● ● ● Soil Fertility Loss
	● ● ● ● ● Soil Salinity
	● ● ● ● ● Soil Compaction
	● ● ● ● ● Groundwater Depletion
	● ● ● ● ● Surface Water Depletion
	● ● ● ● ● Crop Diversity Loss
	● ● ● ● ● Habitat Loss
	● ● ● ● ● Pesticide Leaching
	● ● ● ● ● Nutrient Leaching
	● ● ● ● ● Air Pollution
	● ● ● ● ● Non-Renewable Energy Use

The context analysis consists of 12 materiality criteria across the four environmental impact areas of the framework (Figure 2). These criteria are scored on a scale of 1 to 3 based on predefined evaluation metrics, integrated into a questionnaire. The scoring should consider the inherent risks in the ecological environment and should not take existing mitigations into account. It is important to underline that the purpose of this context analysis is to create a relative – and not an absolute – scoring of material criteria. The scoring process is intentionally subjective, serving as a foundation for constructive engagement between farms and their advisors. However, the users of the framework need to substantiate the prioritisation of material criteria by providing evidence for their relevance in a production system.

**Figure 2:** Context analysis with material risk criteria against the four environmental impact areas.





## 2 Outcome Selection

Regenerative agriculture targets a wide range of outcomes, but their relevance varies depending on the specific context. Building on the findings from the context analysis, this step includes the selection and prioritisation of environmental outcomes most relevant to the specific farming context, based on the matrix shown in Table 2.

**Outcomes** are environmental improvements that result from the implementation of regenerative agricultural practices. As previously mentioned, version 1.1 of the framework focuses on environmental outcomes and indicators, with socio-economic outcomes to be developed in a future iteration. These outcomes serve as benchmarks for success in transitioning to regenerative practices.

**Indicators** are used to track and assess

progress towards achieving outcomes. They provide approaches to generate data points that can be regularly monitored to quantify the effectiveness of regenerative practices. For each indicator, SAI Platform provides guidance for data collection and reporting progress in the transition to regenerative agriculture.

The proposed list of outcomes and indicators has been refined since the first version of the framework based on multiple rounds of consultation with farmers, subject matter experts from SAI Platform member working groups, and SAI Platform's Regenerating Together Advisory Board (Figure 3). Resultingly, framework v1.1 provides more flexibility to select appropriate indicators, to avoid increasing the data collection burden and associated costs for farmers and other stakeholders.

IMPACT AREA	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS
● ● ● ●	Increase soil health and fertility	Water infiltration Soil organic carbon content Aggregate stability Area of soil cover Water Holding Capacity
● ● ● ●	Increase nutrient use efficiency	N use efficiency P use efficiency K use efficiency
● ● ● ●	Optimise crop protection	Integrated Pest Management Environmental Impact Quotient
● ● ● ●	Increase water use efficiency	Volume of irrigated water
● ● ● ●	Enhance on-farm habitat provision	Area of on-farm habitat
● ● ● ●	Increase cultivated crop and pasture diversity	Number of species cultivated
● ● ● ●	Improve manure management	Ammonia emissions Methane emissions
● ● ● ●	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> eq footprint Deforestation Free Feed

**Figure 3:** Regenerative agriculture outcomes and indicators to guide the collection and reporting of data to report on progress in transitioning to regenerative agriculture.

Material Criteria	REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE OUTCOME							
	Increase soil health and fertility	Increase nutrient use efficiency	Optimise crop protection	Increase water use efficiency	Enhance on-farm habitat provision	Increase cultivated crop and pasture diversity	Improve manure management	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
Soil Erosion	++				+			
Soil Fertility Loss	++	+					++	
Soil Salinity	++	+						
Soil Compaction	++							
Groundwater depletion	+			++				
Surface water depletion	+			++				
Crop diversity loss			+		+	++		
Habitat Loss					++			
Pesticide leaching			++			+		
Nutrient leaching	+	++					++	+
Air Pollution							++	++
Non-renewable energy use								++

**Table 2:** Correlation indication matrix for the links between material criteria and outcomes to guide prioritisation of outcomes to report progress against in a farming system. The matrix was built in a way that each outcome is strongly connected to at least one material criterion (++) . Weaker correlations (+) will be highlighted by the framework to be considered in addition to the outcomes that have a strong connection to material criteria.

### 3 Practice Adoption

Based on the outcomes prioritised, the third step emphasises selecting locally relevant and context-appropriate on-farm actions. For farms working as a group, this can include a variety of actions suited to farms in different contexts, soil types, or levels of maturity. Rather than imposing specific practices, the framework empowers farms and their trusted advisors to select the practices that will lead to the improved performance of prioritised outcomes.

Increasing evidence shows that certain practices directly contribute to the improvement of regenerative agriculture outcomes. A common example is the implementation of soil conservation measures to prevent erosion in sloped areas. SAI Platform has partnered with the National Institute of Agricultural Botany

to better understand and map the causal relations between the practices and outcomes included in the Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture. Based on this extensive literature review, the framework offers suggestions to users, highlighting practices likely to improve outcomes. An overview of the work completed to date is featured in Table 3. It is important to note that the content of Table 3 represents a generic list of practices and their expected contribution to regenerative agriculture outcomes. The list of practices will continue to grow, and their connection to outcomes will be strengthened based on growing scientific and on-farm evidence. The table can be used to identify and suggest practices to implement but should be further validated in terms of applicability in the local context.

Practices	REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE OUTCOME							
	Increase soil health and fertility	Increase nutrient use efficiency	Optimise crop protection	Increase water use efficiency	Enhance on-farm habitat provision	Increase cultivated crop and pasture diversity	Improve manure management	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
Minimise soil disturbance	+++	~/+	-	++	++			+
Controlled traffic farming	+++	++	++	+				+
Cover crops	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mulching/soil residue cover	++	+	+	++	+	+		-
Diversified crop rotation	+	++	+	++	+			+
Protection of on-farm habitat	++			+	++			++
Agroforestry and silvopasture	+	-	-	+	+	+		-
Hedgerows and green buffers	++	+	-	+	++			++
Riparian buffers				++	+		+	+
Integrated grazing management	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Manure management	++	+	+	+	+			-
Integrated nutrient management	+	+		++	+		++	++
Integrated pest management	+		+	+	+	+		+
Irrigation management	++	++	+	++	+			++
Feed sources from sustainable sources	+	+		+	+		+	+
Herd/flock management	+	+		-	++	++	+	+

**Table 3:** Correlation indication matrix for the effect strength links between practices and the SAI Platform regenerative agriculture outcomes: High positive (+++), Moderate positive (++), Low positive (+), Inconclusive (~), Low negative (-) and empty cells indicate that there were no indications of a connection in the literature.

## 4 Monitor and Assess Progress

Ongoing evaluation of progress towards outcomes is crucial to accurately monitor the long-term impact of regenerative agriculture and ensure that the intended environmental and socioeconomic benefits are realised over time. This includes setting baselines and monitoring progress over time, captured in a CIP, which also describes how improvement against the prioritised outcomes will be achieved, and how the regenerative practices will be implemented.

In this step, the farm or implementation group first selects an indicator to measure their progress against, for each of the prioritised outcomes. Figure 4 shows the current list of indicators included within the framework. This list will expand as the science and practice of performance measurement in agricultural contexts develops, and as insights are gained from the implementation of the framework in different contexts.

Next, a strategy for collecting data for each selected indicator is required. To support farms and implementation groups in collecting good-quality data, a set of principles for good data has been developed, alongside technical guidance for data collection and reporting for each indicator. This approach ensures an accurate and credible assessment of performance that is comparable over time and supported by science.

The data collection strategy can then be deployed to quantify the baselines for prioritised outcomes and subsequently monitor performance over time. The information gathered should be used to evaluate progress. The CIP should be leveraged to identify where new practices or interventions may be necessary to achieve the desired improvements against the prioritised outcomes.

# Framework Implementation Process

The overview of the implementation process of SAI Platform's Global Framework for Regenerative Agriculture is shown in Figure 4 below. It highlights the process flow from left to right, where the assessment of 12 material criteria guides the prioritisation of eight regenerative agriculture outcomes. Based on the prioritisation of outcomes, implementation groups and their group managers select appropriate practices to be

implemented and indicators to be monitored to assess and report on improvement. Neither the list of practices nor indicators is exhaustive and will continue to grow based on growing scientific and on-farm evidence. Evidence should be provided for practices and indicators demonstrating they are appropriate for achieving and assessing progress on prioritised outcomes.



1. MATERIAL CRITERIA	2. OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS		3. PRACTICES
● ● ● ● ● Soil Erosion	● ● ● ● ● Increase soil health and fertility	Water infiltration   Soil organic carbon content	Minimise soil disturbance
● ● ● ● ● Soil Fertility Loss	● ● ● ● ● Increase nutrient use efficiency	Aggregate stability   Area of soil cover   Water Holding Capacity	Controlled traffic farming
● ● ● ● ● Soil Salinity	● ● ● ● ● Optimise crop protection	N use efficiency   P use efficiency	Cover crops
● ● ● ● ● Soil Compaction	● ● ● ● ● Increase water use efficiency	K use efficiency	Mulching / crop residue cover
● ● ● ● ● Groundwater Depletion	● ● ● ● ● Enhance on-farm habitat provision	Integrated Pest Management	Diversified crop rotation
● ● ● ● ● Surface Water Depletion	● ● ● ● ● Increase cultivated crop and pasture diversity	Environmental Impact Quotient	Protection of on-farm habitat
● ● ● ● ● Crop Diversity Loss	● ● ● ● ● Improve manure management	Volume of irrigated water	Agroforestry and silvopasture
● ● ● ● ● Habitat Loss	● ● ● ● ● Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Area of on-farm habitat	Hedgerows and green buffers
● ● ● ● ● Pesticide Leaching		Number of species cultivated	Riparian buffers
● ● ● ● ● Nutrient Leaching		Ammonia emissions	Integrated grazing management
● ● ● ● ● Air Pollution		Methane emissions	Manure management
● ● ● ● ● Non-Renewable Energy Use		CO <sub>2</sub> eq footprint	Integrated nutrient management
		Deforestation Free Feed	Integrated pest management
			Irrigation management
			Herd/flock management
			Feed from sustain. sources

**Figure 4:** An overview of SAI Platform's Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture with material criteria, impact areas, outcomes, indicators, and practices to improve performance on outcomes.

# Regenerating Together Performance Levels

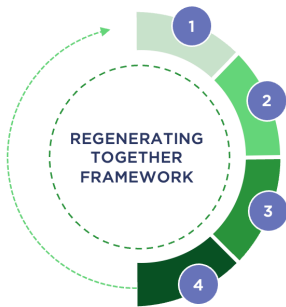
Regenerating Together performance levels have been developed with the aim to acknowledge and reward farms that have engaged in their journey towards regenerative agriculture. The performance levels serve as the basis for incentive mechanisms and market access. The Regenerating Together framework v1.1 defines four performance levels – on-boarding, engaging, advancing and leading in regenerative agriculture - to capture distinct levels of farmer engagement and progress towards outcomes (Table 4). The ambition is for these levels to accommodate different realities across farming systems worldwide. For example, access to data, resources, and incentives to shift towards regenerative agriculture can vary significantly depending on location and value chain.

To qualify for the on-boarding level, the context analysis has been completed for the group. Two outcomes were selected across at least two impact areas. This level cannot be claimed as a regenerative agriculture status but for internal purposes only to communicate the commitment to transition. In addition to the requirements of the on-boarding level, the engaging level requires baselines to be quantified for each of the selected indicator(s) for each prioritised outcome. A continuous improvement plan (CIP) setting specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) targets is set and identifying farm practices and interventions to address the prioritised outcomes is in place. Taking their lead from the CIP, each farm has identified at least two practices to focus on to achieve the prioritised outcomes based on their context and level of maturity. Farms have begun to implement

at least two prioritised practices. Once the engaging level is met, performance against selected outcomes has been quantified over time to qualify for the advancing level. With continuous improvement as a core component of regenerative agriculture, we encourage groups to go beyond to meet the leading level. Additional outcomes and practices are included, covering all four environmental impact areas. A minimum of four practices are implemented. Performance against selected outcomes has been quantified over time.

As an outcome-based framework, the emphasis is on farm or implementation group's improvement relative to the prioritised regenerative agriculture outcomes over time in relation to the context of their farming operation (including soil types, climate, production system, geography, and agroecology). However, measuring regenerative agriculture outcomes directly is not always feasible. It can be resource-intensive and improvements may take time to manifest or are influenced by external factors beyond a farmer's control, such as weather conditions. This poses a challenge for monitoring progress over time, especially when rewarding implementation groups for their efforts. As a result, the focus of the framework is not on showing immediate improvement in outcomes, but rather on monitoring progress, learning from the results, and reviewing the CIP based on the results.





	On-Boarding	Engaging	Advancing	Leading
1 Context Analysis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.1 Outcome Selected	Min 2 Outcomes across 2 Impact Areas	Min 2 Outcomes across 2 Impact Areas	Min 2 Outcomes across 2 Impact Areas	Min 4 Outcomes across 4 Impact Areas
2.2 Outcome Baseline and CIP	/	Yes	Yes	Yes
3 Practice Adoption	/	Min 2 Practices	Min 2 Practices	Min 4 Practices
4 Outcome Progress	/	/	Yes	Yes

**Table 4:** Regenerating Together Performance Levels, including their requirements, against SAI Platform’s Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture.

## Making Regenerating Together Claims

Verified claims form the cornerstone of most incentive programmes for promoting sustainable agriculture. SAI Platform has developed an assurance protocol to enable farms or farm groups to make verified Regenerating Together claims in

the marketplace following a successful third-party verification from an approved verification body. This resource will be available for piloting with SAI Platform members and nominated verification bodies from January 2025.



# Framework Components

This narrative describes the Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture. To support the implementation and roll-out of the framework's four steps across farms and supply chains and to enable verified claims against progress, several supporting resources are being developed. These include:



**Assessment and Reporting Tool**, which enables a structured process for data collection and analysis, enabling members to assess whether a farm or implementation group aligns with SAI Platform's performance levels.



**Framework Implementation Guide**, which outlines the minimum requirements for implementing the Regenerating Together framework ensuring it is implemented effectively, consistently, and accurately, so that any resulting performance claims are reliable.



**Quantification Guidance**, which guides selecting credible outcome quantification approaches, setting baselines and quantifying frequency against the Regenerating Together outcomes and indicators.



**Assurance Protocol**, which provides guidance and requirements to auditors for performing a Regenerating Together process-based verification audit on farms or with implementation groups.



**Benchmarking Protocol**, which provides reference points for external regenerative agriculture schemes to ensure a consistent approach to benchmarking against the Regenerating Together framework.

These resources will be available on the [Regenerating Together Resource Centre](#) in early 2025 for piloting across SAI Platform's membership and key stakeholders. The resource centre acts as a portal to share and signpost resources, such as the Regenerating Together Transition Support Guide, member case studies and other key learnings. Ongoing collaboration with members and key stakeholders facilitates the continuous sharing of best practices, expert knowledge and insights.

# Outlook

The Regenerating Together global framework for regenerative agriculture represents a crucial step in defining regenerative agriculture for the food and beverage industry. This establishes a standardised framework to accelerate the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices and scale the associated environmental benefits for society. The goal is to spark meaningful dialogue on what regenerative agriculture involves and the outcomes expected from farms and supply chains during the transition. By offering a common framework, the intention is to equip decision-makers with a unified set of principles and steps that can be tailored to various contexts and needs.

Several SAI Platform members and partners have already committed to piloting this framework with their suppliers, covering a wide range of agricultural products. These pilots span various farming systems —from smallholder farms in South Asia and Africa to large-scale commodity farming in Europe, North America, and Latin America. Insights from farmers and supply chain partners involved in these projects will be gathered to continuously improve the framework and fine-tune the resources needed for its successful implementation. Additionally, these projects will help us better understand how transitioning to regenerative agriculture affects farmers' livelihoods.

It is understood that the food and beverage industry is only one part of the larger agricultural value chain. The goal, therefore, is to co-create a shared vision for the potential of regenerative agriculture. Instead of prescribing a one-size-fits-all approach, this framework invites stakeholders to convene and shape the future of regenerative agriculture collaboratively. A shift to regenerative agriculture is urgently needed, and this framework is a step toward making that shift a reality. Ongoing collaboration with farmers, academics, industry leaders, and other key players will be essential in collectively catalysing the transition.





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To get more information about SAI Platform's Regenerating Together programme, visit our website: [saiplatform.org/regenerative-agriculture-programme/](https://saiplatform.org/regenerative-agriculture-programme/)



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